

## **CHAPTER II**

### **The Earthquake July - December 1867**

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

**Departure of Fr. de Cuers for Roquefavour**

**Defection of Sisters from Nemours**

**Encounter with Bishop Angebault re:**

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

**Bankruptcy of Le Clere Co.**

**Search for new location in Paris**

**Expansion in Brussels**

**The Spiritual Director**

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

**1981**

**CO 1980**

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

(V 61/76)

*Angers, July 1, 1867*

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I received your registered letter. I will fulfill your intentions<sup>1</sup> but you gave too much, especially now when you have so many expenses.

I came here to visit our two houses. The Sisters' house is going well. The Sisters of Nemours<sup>2</sup> are nearly all sick because of the humidity of the house, which became dangerous after the flood. These dear Sisters are better.

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

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

Please don't tell anyone about my family visit, so that we might have some quiet.<sup>3</sup> From your house I will visit Lantigni, but I don't want them<sup>4</sup> to know about my arrival at your house.

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

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, Superior

**1982**

**CO 1981**

**TO MME. BLANCHE CHANUET (NEE DE COUCHIES)**

(VII 2/3)

*Angers, July 1, 1867*

Dear Lady in our Lord,

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

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<sup>1</sup> Mass stipends for her husband.

<sup>2</sup> Who had been in Nemours.

<sup>3</sup> Without uninvited visitors.

<sup>4</sup> Srs. Benoite and Philomene, now at Lantigni.

<sup>5</sup> Her recently deceased husband.

<sup>6</sup> Her husband.

<sup>7</sup> Her mother-in-law.

*The Earthquake*

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

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

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

Eymard

**1983**

**CO 1982**

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

(V 62/76)

*Adveniat Regnum Tuum*

*Paris, July 4, 1867*

Madame,

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

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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

**1984**

**CO 1983**

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**

(VI 8/10 III 145)

*Paris, July 6, 1867*

Very dear sisters,

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

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

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

## *The Earthquake*

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

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

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

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

Many blessings, dear sisters & daughters in our Lord,

Eymard

**1985**

**CO 1984**

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

*Lantignie via Beaujeu (Rhône), July 7, 1867*

Dear Brother,

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

Reach an understanding with Fr. Vignier<sup>8</sup> about Thursday, the day of preaching. I will not be back. I will probably not arrive until the end of the week. Since I am so close to Lyons, I will go there for a visit.

May God bless you all, and you in particular.

Eymard

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<sup>8</sup> Perhaps: Fr. Viguier.

**TO EDMEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND**  
(IV 3/4)

*Adveniat Regnum Tuum*<sup>9</sup>

*Lyons, July 12, 1867*

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I bless you in his divine charity,  
Eymard, Superior

Here is my new address: 112 Boulevard Montparnasse, Paris

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<sup>9</sup> Thy Kingdom Come.

**1987**

**CO 1986**

**TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS**

(I46/54)

A.R.T.<sup>10</sup>

*Paris, July 14, 1867*

Dear Father,

I leave it to you to make your plans for the trip to Angers.<sup>11</sup>

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

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

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

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

Eymard, S.<sup>12</sup>

**1988**

**CO 1987**

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

(II 365/395 VI 2)

*Paris, July 18, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord Jesus Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>10</sup> *Adveniat Regnum Tuum: Thy Kingdom Come.*

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

<sup>12</sup> Abbreviation for Superior.

*The Earthquake*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now, listen well to me: give yourselves over to episcopal authority .... I would always be in an unfavorable<sup>13</sup> position. You need the Bishop more than me. You must put yourself into his hands; that is the wise and prudent way.

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

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

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

Eymard

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

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<sup>13</sup> Literally: false.

**1989**

**CO 1988**

**To Fr. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS**  
(I 47/54)

A.R.T.

*Paris, July 20, 1867*

Dear Father,

I leave it to your judgment to choose the time for your trip to Angers. Surely your two families<sup>14</sup> and many friends will be greatly pleased. I also want you to see the plan and the realization of our church in Angers.

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

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

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

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

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

Believe me in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,  
Eymard, Superior

**1990**

**CO 1989**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 366/395 VI 2)

*Paris, July 21, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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<sup>14</sup> The Fathers and the Servants.

## *The Earthquake*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eymard

# 1991

CO 1990

**TO EDMOND TENAILLON (FR. E. TENAILLON SSS)**

(III 3/3)

*Paris, July 21, 1867*

Dear Friends,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>15</sup> Possibly a practice of his.

## *The Earthquake*

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

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

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

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

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

While waiting for you, dear friends,

I am all yours,  
Eymard, Sup.<sup>18</sup>

## 1992

## CO 1992

**TO MISS ANN DE MEEUS**  
(U2 RE<sup>19</sup> VI 22)

*Adveniat Regnum Tuum*

*112 Blvd Montparnasse, Paris, July 22, 1867*

Very Reverend Mother,

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

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

Believe me ever in our Lord,

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

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<sup>16</sup> The outside seat near the driver.

<sup>17</sup> Parents of the Tenailon brothers.

<sup>18</sup> Abbreviation for Superior.

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

**1993**

**CO 1991**

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

*Paris, July 22, 1867*

Madame in our Lord,

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

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

We are praying for your relative and all your intentions.

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

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

All yours,  
Eymard

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

**1994**

**CO 1993**

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

*A.R.T.*

*Brussels, July 27, 1867*

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours,  
Eymard, S.

**1995**

**CO 1994**

**TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD**

(V 43/52)

A.R.T.

*Brussels, July 27, 1867*

Miss Stephanie

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I bless you, dear daughter, in our Lord.

Eymard, S.

**1996**

**CO 1995**

**TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES**

(VI4/7)

Your Eminence,

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

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

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

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<sup>20</sup> Perhaps Sr. Benoite during her visit with the Gourds.

*The Earthquake*

Brussels

July 27, 1867

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

**CO 1996**

**TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)**

(V 12/14)

*Paris, August 1, 1867*

Your Excellency,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>21</sup> Transfer of the Church of the Society from one part of the city to another.

**1998**

**CO 1997**

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

*Paris, August 2, 1867*

Very dear sisters,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your brother,  
Eymard, Sup.

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
La Mure (Isere)

**1999**

**CO 1998**

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

*Paris, August 3, 1867*

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

Your letters really please me.

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

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

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<sup>22</sup> Perhaps a desire to return to the convent of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

*The Earthquake*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A childlike will;

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

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

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

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

Examen on your duties, that's all.

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

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard, S.

**2000**

**CO 2000**

**TO MISS EMILIEENNE TAMISIER<sup>24</sup>**  
(VII 1/9)

A.R.T.

*Paris, August 4, 1867*

Dear sister in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard, S.

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<sup>24</sup> At Tours.

**2001**

**CO 1999**

**TO SRS. EUPHROSIE, LOUISE & MARCELLE RAVANAT**  
(III 1/1)

A.R.T.

*Paris, August 4, 1867*

Dear sisters in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

Therefore I bless you, and ask our Lord to keep you, and to make you ever happy in his holy service.

Eymard

P.S. I am sending you your father's purse with 360 francs in gold, and also two billfolds and a book.

When I go to Saint Maurice, I will gather up his books and pious objects. I don't know what he had, but I will keep it to give you at the first opportunity.

I understand that it is useless to travel to La Mure, since Sr. Louise is still a minor. I will take care of your errand for papa Ferrat. - He was also of the opinion that this trip is not necessary, and that letter from La Mure had indicated disrespect for Sr. Louise's position as a minor.

To dear Sr. Marcelle of the Blessed Sacrament, Angers

**2002**

**CO 2001**

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

(V 65/76)

A.R.T.

*Paris, August 5, 1867*

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I am sending you Sr. Benoit's letter. I wrote to tell her that she must return her<sup>25</sup> to her parents. I will write to her again [to tell her] that it would be better not to continue to take responsibility for her. Poor Sr. Benoit is forgetting that since she owns nothing, she cannot impose sacrifices on others.

If you want to approach the Ursuline Sisters at Thoissey, that would be a real charity, but warn them about the child's faults, and if they don't want her, we will leave it at that. Also, please give the address of Sr. Benoit to the Ladies at Macon, in order that they themselves may explain the child's faults.

I think that it is better to delay Miss Stephanie's visit to your niece. Take the time you need at the springs and surrender the rest to divine Providence. There are so many troubles in this world! We must pass through it all as through a cloud, without letting it stop us.

Let us see God and his divine goodness in all things. Let us adore the motives of his divine Providence, which are ever wise and gracious.

I bless you both very paternally in our Lord.

Eymard, S.

**2003**

**CO 2002**

**TO MME. EMILIE TAMISIER<sup>26</sup>**

(VII 2/9)

*Paris, August 5, 1867*

Dear sister,

I give you permission to see His Excellency, the Archbishop, and to speak to him heart to heart about your vocation. He is a saint and a scholar - two great qualities for good counsel.

I bless you in our Lord,  
Eymard

Aug. 6 - Father de Cuers and three companions go to Roquefavour.

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<sup>25</sup> The child Marie-Therese, her niece.

<sup>26</sup> at Tours.

<i>August 7-14 - Retreat to SSS religious (men), Paris.</i>	
<i>Aug 7</i>	<i>1st Conference: Purpose of the retreat - Reflection on one's state of conscience - service of God - spirit of adoration.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference: Benefits of the Religious Life.</i>
	<i>3rd Conference: The Eucharistic Vocation.</i>
<i>Aug 8</i>	<i>1st Conference: Conditions for admission to the Society.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference: Sin, the sovereign evil toward God, toward Jesus Christ.</i>
<i>Aug 9</i>	<i>1st Conference: Effects of venial sin.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference: Our Lord's Expiation of Sin.</i>
	<i>3rd Conference: Hell.</i>
<i>Aug 10</i>	<i>1st Conference: The mercy of Jesus.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference: The Family of the Blessed Sacrament.</i>
	<i>3rd Conference: Love, the principle of the Spiritual Combat.</i>
<i>Aug 11</i>	<i>1st Conference: Mortification of one's senses.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference: Spirit of Penance.</i>
	<i>3rd Conference: The Gift of Self.</i>
<i>Aug 12</i>	<i>1st Conference: All must be well done.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference: The Rule, source of Holiness.</i>
	<i>3rd Conference: Prayer, our means of Holiness.</i>
<i>Aug 13</i>	<i>1st Conference: Fraternal charity.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference: Simplicity.</i>
	<i>3rd Conference: The seriousness of Life.</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>Fruit and Resolutions of the Retreat. Closing.</i>

**2004**

**CO 2003**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(13/20)

*Paris, August 7, 1867*

Dear Father,

I am sending you Fr. Anatole. He will help you to teach the two brothers. Give him two half-hours of Adoration, at 11:00 and at 3:30, or another hour. We are beginning our retreat today at 9:30 until the feast of the Assumption.

I learned that the Bishop said to the Augustinian Sisters: "Those Gentlemen persist in their desire to establish themselves at the Cloisters, while the Allard house is vacant and is offered to them as a gift, etc., etc. Well! I will be opposed to it. All the upper clergy agree with me. They are doing good work up there: God wants them there. They will not transfer, even if I have to dismiss them."

Fr. Carri wrote to tell me that. If that is how things are, it's a real difficulty. If we are sent away the Master will be humiliated. We must avoid that humiliation for his sake, and then, one of two things: either we leave first (but then we would still have to sell that land, and how could we withdraw without great losses!) or thoroughly examine the question of the Dautre. If they are serious, what guarantees do we have of the help they promise? If we were purely and simply given the Allard house, which would seem [like a] serious [offer] to me, we would study the rest. You are there, dear Father, see what it is like to deal with an authority which allowed us to move forward, have the theater demolished, lose half the value of the land, and then abandon us because a few people complained.

*The Earthquake*

However, in order not to show bad will on our part, study things in depth.

I am told that not a single stone has yet been laid on the foundation. Does God want to leave us at the Dautre? Place us at the Cloisters? Withdraw us from Angers? “*Loquere Domine, quia audit servus tuus*” [Speak Lord, your servant is listening]. Let’s pray to know his holy will and have strength to do it. Test the shifting ground.

Believe me, dear Father,

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, p.<sup>27</sup>

G.S.J.<sup>28</sup>

**2005**

**CO 2004**

**TO MISS ANN DE MEEUS**  
(U 3<sup>29</sup> RE VI 22)

A.R.T.

*Paris, August 10, 1867*

Very dear and esteemed Mother,

Thank you for your kind letter, and for telling me about the arrival of Msgr. Chaillot. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing him in Paris when he returns.

His surprise will be brief when he learns that I am not the Superior of the Ladies of Angers; the Bishop of Angers is the one who has final and direct [authority] to name a diocesan priest as their ecclesiastical superior. I gave them to him unconditionally three years ago. The care of our religious is surely enough for me. I know that there was question of a foundation for them in Belgium. The Bishop of Angers is studying whether he should accept it for them or not. He does not strike me as being very pressed to do so, and whatever be the outcome, dear Mother, that would never weaken our union with you in the service of our common Master. You know how much good I hope for you in our Lord.

Believe me ever,

Dear and very esteemed Mother,  
All your,  
Eymard

<i>Aug 8</i> <i>Public Conference: The Eucharist, our All.</i>
<i>Aug 13</i> <i>Public Conference: The Assumption.</i>

<sup>27</sup> Abbreviation for Priest.

<sup>28</sup> Abbreviation for: *Gloire soit a Jesus*: Glory be to Jesus.

<sup>29</sup> Original in the Archives of the Religious of the Eucharist, Belgium. (F.E. Stalmans SSS 1994)

**2006**

**CO 2005**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I 4/20)

*Paris, August 17, 1867*

Very dear Father,

The Bishop wrote to me, saying that he was waiting for me in order to treat serious matters. I think it has to do with the proposal for a foundation in Brussels. However, if it concerns our foundation, and the Diocesan administration should be against us, after having been favorable, or at least consenting, that will settle everything. What! Is that the outcome we should have expected toward us from his Eminence! In the presence of this difficulty, which hurts deeply, consider whether we should impose such great sacrifices upon ourselves.

I am willing to go to Angers when you write to tell me that the Bishop will receive us, and also after you have looked into the matter to see how serious these verbal promises may be. Please, definitely consult Fr. Carri about this and find out what guarantees they are providing. I was given two names: Mr. Dulavoire and another.

I beg you, dear Father, get to the bottom of the matter. I'm fully aware that Angers doesn't owe us anything, but they don't have the right to accuse us, and especially to say that we are ambitious, that we look down on the poor, as if we had not tried to stay among them! So write to tell me when you think it is the right time for me to go.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, p.

P.S. Congratulations to our two new and old professed. My affection for Brother Ren has certainly grown through this situation which was decisive for him.

**2007**

**CO 2006**

**TO SR. CAMILLE DU SS (MME. CHANUET, NEE CROZET)**  
(III 3/3 VI 17)

*Paris, August 21, 1867*

Very dear Mother and sister in our Lord,

I wanted to come with your dear son who is [also] ours and very dear, because it would be a great comfort to me to come see you, to bless you and pray over you. You are ever present to me in the presence of our Lord, I never cease praying to him for you. Dear Sr. Camille, surrender to his love for you; it is great and all merciful. Everything he has done through your lifetime, especially in recent years, certainly gives you the most consoling and constant proof of his love.

Good sister, struggle against the fears which are afflicting you, by holy surrender into the hands of the mercy of Jesus, your good Master.

You are his servant, you have given him everything, you are entirely his. He has accepted you into his service and has even crucified you with him. How would you not rest in his arms like a beloved child! You will go to heaven, good Sister Camille. As for me, I only ask that you work a while longer. However, it is more perfect to say: "May your kingdom come, may your will be done."

*The Earthquake*

Father<sup>30</sup> is leaving. I only have time to bless you and say that I am,  
Dear mother, sister and daughter in our Lord,

All yours in O.L.,  
Eymard, S.

Aug 24 Public conference: *The Mystery of Faith.*

**2008**

**CO 2007**

**TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS**  
(I 27/29 VI 2)

*Paris, Saturday, August 24, 1867*

Very dear Father,

We all said Holy Mass this morning for the repose of the soul of your dear, devout mother, our good and beloved sister in our Lord. That is the best way of showing her our love, and [telling] you how we share your grief.

I offered to God all the merits of the Society for eight days for this dear mother and daughter in our Lord. I was hoping to have the consolation of seeing her again, but it wasn't God's will. We will see her again in heaven. Do what seems fitting, dear Father, then come back to us.

Please share with your whole family my very deep and prayerful sympathy in our common loss and also all our hope and trust in God's goodness.

All yours,  
Eymard

**2009**

**CO 2008**

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

*Paris, Aug. 25, 1867*

Dear Mme. Blanche,

I rejoiced greatly in our Lord and in our Lady of Deliverance, [when I learned] about your healing. I celebrated Mass in thanksgiving and we join in your novena. This favor tells you very eloquently that God loves you and that his Holy Mother holds you with special tenderness. Therefore, continue to trust in their goodness.

Therefore, we hope to have the consolation to see you soon in Paris when you return. We must now admire the goodness of divine Providence leading you to S. Briec via Bayeux - that is because Our Lady of Deliverance was waiting for you at Luc. May she be praised forever!

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<sup>30</sup> Her son, Fr. Michel Chanuet.

*The Earthquake*

Our Lord has just called good Sr. Camille, your dear mother to himself. Do not let this death afflict you too deeply, because it is the death of the Just; she went to Heaven to continue the adoration of earth. She suffered a great deal. It is finished now, now is her time of joy - Life is but the seed of heavenly glory.

In one year God has harvested from among, you three fields filled with a beautiful harvest. You will replace them, dear Lady. God has tilled your field with so much love! He planted so many good graces in it. Let them flower in blessed virtues!

Goodbye

**2010**

**CO 2009**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I5/20)

*Paris, August 26, 1867*

Very dear Father,

I still cannot come to Angers. Fr. Chanuet has just lost his dear mother; he must be replaced. I am waiting for him.

If God wants us at the Doure, I want it as much as you do, dear Father; not because of what the Bishop was quoted as saying, because he would be misjudging us and the Society would be humiliated, but because of the dedication of these good Christians. After all, how could we refuse without incurring blame, after what we said, you and I? If they take us literally, we are somehow bound.

So then, I will go to Angers at the first opportunity. I am waiting for Fr. Chanuet; so examine everything, and let's pray.

All yours,  
Eymard

**2011**

**CO 2011**

**TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)**  
(IV 72/75)

A.R.T.

*Paris, August 27, 1867*

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

It has been a long time since you've given me any news about yourself. In a sense I am happy about it; it proves that you are fine, that your soul is well fed, that it is progressing on its true path.

You understood me well. Your summary of my advice is very precise. However, let me come back on it.

1<sup>st</sup> Principle:

Fidelity in fulfilling one's rule of life is the primary virtue, we must come back to it constantly! A schedule is a requirement of health.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Spiritual health.

## *The Earthquake*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Principle:

Let your fidelity consist first in fulfilling the external practices of your rule well, that is, in accomplishing them at their appointed time and place, in keeping with their accompanying circumstances; that's what the sacrifice of virtue consists of. What is more, they should be done according to the rules which their nature requires; in a word, as a moral action with its ordinary attributes. Their perfection consists in this. Therefore, when you have done your meditation following the prescribed rules, your reading in a determined author during the required time, with ordinary attention, so as to benefit from it at that moment, you will have done a very good reading.

Leave the spiritual success to God as well as the sentiments of grace to be received. You are only bound to sow, plant and water. To say is otherwise: God is asking you to give it your care; the success depends on him.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Principle:

In your prayers, aspire to nourish yourself upon God rather than to purify yourself, or humble yourself. In order to do this, nourish your soul with the truth personified in God's divine goodness towards you, with his tenderness, his personal love. This is the secret of true prayer; to discover God's actions and plans in his love for us! Then the soul is astonished, relieved and cries out, "How good you are, oh my God! What can I do for you? What could please you?" That is the flame which rises from the hearth.

But to attain such a living prayer, we must strive very hard to forget ourselves, to avoid seeking ourselves in any way in prayer. We must especially simplify the work of our mind by a simple and calm view of God's truths. The secret of this simple view is to see things at first glance, under the aspect of God's goodness for us, the reason for this grace, what it cost our Lord, its actuality and permanence for us.

When the soul has the joy of finding this good side, prayer becomes more like a delightful contemplation, where the hour passes quickly. Oh! Dear daughter, how often I wish and desire that you may taste God in this way! It lasts a long time; it is my rock of St. Romans.

But I see that I have strayed from my first thought which was to recapitulate your letter. I will leave it at that, convinced that you might prefer to read me than to reread yourself.

Believe what I say, accomplish acts of zeal only through duty, but aspire to the interior life by the attraction of divine love.

We are getting older and we still have a long way to go. We should take the shortest way, the way of love which gives everything without self-seeking.

I have often thought about my visit in Lyons. Sometimes you found that I was more a friend than a father. The joy of seeing you after so long made me think I was in my family; and then, my heart had been suffering so much lately, that it blossomed out when it encountered its eldest daughter.

I saw dear Miss Gerin. She is truly everything you had told me. It was like seeing you, since she is your friend.

Goodbye dear Madame, sister and daughter in our Lord, don't delay too long before giving me news about yourself.

I would really like to know where to find Mme. Nugues.

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

All yours,  
Eymard, S.

**2012**

**CO 2013**

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)**  
(V 66/76)

*Paris, August 27, 1867*

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

We must always adore our good Master's plan of mercy and love, and see in this temporary separation the growth of his glory in our neighbor.

Your soul was longing to live at the feet of God,<sup>32</sup> and see how he is giving you each a mission. But, dear daughter, you know that the holy Will of the God of Providence is the best and surest rule for our life.

However, you must often go to be with your dear daughter, for you are two beings in one.

Take care of your temporal affairs with trust in the light and strength of the moment, but without mental stress and especially without too much fatigue, doing only what your strength allows and prudence indicates.

In the morning, feed your soul with our Lord for the day.

When in church, remember that you are only a servant adorer of the Blessed Sacrament. Consequently, don't worry too much about your responsibilities, or about yourself. Pure love forgets itself and glorifies the goodness and tenderness of God in himself and in us.

Your letters console me greatly, but I don't want them to tire you by losing time meant for your rest.

Goodbye dear daughter and sister in our Lord. I bless you in your holy vocation.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, S.S.<sup>33</sup>

P.S. Thank you for the wine. Everything arrived safely.  
Madame Gourd

**2013**

**CO 2014**

**TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD**  
(V 44/52)

*Paris, August 27, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

You are now at Thorins, to teach your nieces and have your nieces as companions. You must tell yourself: God wants it so.

Charity will determine the external [details] of your life. It is the virtue of the present moment. See how our good Master knows how to place us on the path of self-denial.

You could have hoped to live calmly and in solitude close to your dear mother, but see how our Lord is separating you and is surrounding you with noisy activity. May he be praised! The more you expend yourself exteriorly, the more you must cover and fill yourself interiorly with Jesus.

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<sup>32</sup> After the death of Mr. Gourd, both she and her daughter had planned to join the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

<sup>33</sup> Abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

*The Earthquake*

Take my word for it, when you are with our Lord, don't allow yourself to think of others, busy yourself with our Lord, with our Lord alone. Say little about yourself to Jesus, much about Jesus to yourself, for yourself. In real love, we need to forget ourselves, achieve a life of union in our Lord by deep awareness of the heart. That is not tiring and can harmonize with everything else.

Always maintain control over your external situation in order to guide it with the fine and straightforward<sup>34</sup> helm of the holy Will of God at each moment.

I bless you, dear daughter in our Lord,

Eymard, S.

**2014**

**CO 1010**

**TO MME. LEPAGE**

(IV 19/26)

*Paris, 112 Blvd. Montparnasse, August 27, 1867*

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for the letter you sent after your return.

I am happy about your good dispositions, your present state, especially your desire to follow your schedule faithfully. You do well.

A rule of life is like a physical diet. You must be faithful to it, because your soul will always be happy when it is well fed with God. It is only in prayer that you will find that delightful peace, calm and rest which is often more tangible than in holy Communion.

In prayer God feeds us; in holy Communion we often feed God with the bread of [our] suffering and the laborious fruit of [our] virtues: that is why we often suffer after holy Communion.

When you are joyful, meditative, one with God, feed your prayer with gratitude, and enjoy God and his goodness. When dryness comes, draw water from the well, water with hope, and if you are experiencing any suffering of soul, let that suffering be the subject of your prayer in order to supernaturalize it, or eliminate it if it springs from disappointments and turmoil.

I'm very happy about the good faithful affection which welcomed you when you arrived. Keep it alive, as you do. There is greater peace and benefit in doing so.

I hope that your civil proceedings are over and won. How sad it is to always be at war! that is how things are in this world.

I've just indulged your crosses and given them to good Fr. Garnier.

I count on your prayers, just as mine are also guaranteed for you and your dear beloved friend.

I bless you both,  
All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

P.S. Why did you send me stamps? Don't you want to owe me anything? or perhaps, not to forget anything!

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<sup>34</sup> Algernate translation: fine direct helm.

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN  
(IV 14/19)

Paris, August 27, 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,<sup>35</sup>

Here I am, always behind as usual. Don't imitate me. We have finished our long retreat. I went to Belgium, then I forgot your address. Finally, here I come to pay my debt. It may be like mustard after the meal is over, as the proverb says to those who are late.

After all, we need to know that when we receive a great grace of interior renewal, everything seems easy and pleasant at first, because we are under that gentle and pleasant impact of grace. This is followed by a time of trial. That is the great shock. Either we do too much at the beginning, or not enough. If we do too much, we become discouraged at the first infidelity. That is the fruit of pride. We were counting too much on ourselves. If we don't do enough, we feel bitter reproach, not from our conscience, but from the devil, to tell us that everything is already lost, that we are already unfaithful.

- But, you will say, I received Communion, as I had promised you, and I did what you told me, or at least what I could. - If you have done all that you could, everything is fine in God's sight.

- But I am not God!... That's good... You would think that you were a saint!

In the winter, we hardly manage to get warm while working. You are in the winter now.<sup>36</sup> So you must work, but not to the point of perspiration... That's always dangerous, because there is too much effort.

Remember that, in God's service, we need fidelity and generosity, but not strength. God is the strength!

- But you weren't able to pray as you wanted to, peacefully and alone. - That's unfortunate, because you weren't able to begin and finish your prayer well. However, try to attain a peaceful and tranquil meditation, in order to enjoy God in yourself.

A great rule of holiness is to know how to find time for one's soul. The devil makes us waste it. Prayer! Prayer with God and with yourself: that is the first law.

The second law: generosity in fulfilling the holy Will of God over us through self-denial, through love of duty - which comes back to pure love - to do things in order to please God.

Do you want to be transformed interiorly and quickly in God? - and consequently, exteriorly [as well], since the flame comes out of the hearth? Be mistress of yourself: command your old self with authority, and dominate it in order to live by the spirit of our Lord.

I won't discuss what was troubling and worrying you so... Can one become so upset!

Remember this rule forever: when anxiety follows an action, it's a temptation. - When it comes during an action, if the action is good in itself, or if it was begun with a good intention, it must be continued in spite of the agitation. - If the worry comes first, we must either suspend the action, or form a good principle for ourselves, based on duty or obedience or a virtue, etc..., and proceed.

That's enough; I will run out of paper and I wanted to tell you how comforted I was to see your good mother again, whom I consider as my family, with her dear daughter.

I was happy to meet that lovely young woman. Thank you for it.

I am counting on having news from you soon. Your letters are destroyed. No one reads mine.

I bless you in our Lord. Have confidence and courage!

Eymard

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<sup>35</sup> This letter was not copied on an autograph by Fr. Eymard, but on a copy done by Mme. Giraud-Jordan.

<sup>36</sup> Spiritual winter.

**2016**

**CO 2015**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I 6/20)

A.R.T.

*Paris, August 28, 1867*

Very dear Father,

I see that Fr. Chanuet isn't coming yet. You would do well to let Fr. Carri come to Paris, if you don't need him. I think that Fr. Leroyer's presence could make up for his absence, which won't be long.<sup>37</sup>

Discuss the problems about the Cloisters and the Doutré with good Fr. Leroyer. You have no idea how much I am suffering over this about-face by the Bishop, as well as about our sensitive situation regarding the proposals of the Doutré. To bury 200,000 francs in the Cloisters, with an administration which is giving us so little encouragement, and to desire to do good there in spite of them, is a terrible position to be in. I am waiting for Fr. Chanuet's return in order to come see you. I think it may be on Sunday. The Bishop is expecting me, but I don't have a free moment with the novitiate and the house of Paris on my hands. I am one with you in your suffering, dear Father, and in your sincere desire for the glory of God. We will always be in complete agreement on such beautiful and holy ground.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2017**

**CO 2016**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**  
(V 43/52)

*Adveniat Regnum Tuum*

*Paris, August 28, 1867*

Madame in our Lord,<sup>38</sup>

I have owed you an answer for such a long time! I was hoping to come and reply [in person] in Angers. I will come next Sunday, God willing. I would need to come right away; I am waiting for a letter from Angers to leave sooner.

There are great difficulties in Angers about our new house at St. Martin's Cloister. They reneged on their promise at the Chancery. People who live at the Doutré are doing everything they can to keep adoration; in that, they are praiseworthy. - But we are in a delicate position.

It's enough to make us leave Angers and accept Arras right away, where they would give us a church, a house and a garden, and where the Bishop would be happy to welcome us. But how can we leave Angers, the cross and suffering?... That is what I must resolve during my next trip.

You are fortunate in the countryside, with your divine Guest, with the calm and solitude of adoration, the spontaneity of the grace and love of our Lord! May God increase it in you, and may you find joy in it.

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<sup>37</sup> Probably referring to the absence of Fr. Chanuet.

<sup>38</sup> Taken from a copy, not the original.

*The Earthquake*

Enjoy God, your graces, your Tabernacle, your good Master. To enjoy him means to desire Him alone; to enjoy him means to live through Him and for Him, at his feet, on his Heart, in his divine Person.

At his feet, listen to him like Mary: it is the bread of life and knowledge. It is the banquet of the soul which comforts you in every way. It is the prayer of silence, of a glance, of the happiness of being under the influence of the divine Sun - on his Heart in holy Communion, or when your heart suffers, or when your soul is sad. When Jesus seems dead, his Heart does not die, his blood was still warm even after his death. - In his divine Person: Jesus said, "Whoever eats me abides in me, and I abide in him."

A beautiful and divine sharing of life! To dwell with Jesus, in Jesus, that is to be his servant adorer.

I am running out of paper....

I leave you to our Lord.

<i>Aug. 29 Public conference: The Beheading of John the Baptist.</i>
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**2018**

**CO 2017**

**TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET**  
(VII 12/15)

*Paris, Aug. 29, 1867*

Dear Mr. Amedee,

After much thought, I advise you to keep preciously the religious habit of your holy devout mother. You had them for her burial. You buried her in others; therefore, they are yours. The purpose has been fulfilled. Your devotion determined the means.

I am sending you a little [?]<sup>39</sup> received this morning, which I opened by mistake. I did not read it.

I hope that everything will go well with your sisters-in-law, in fraternal understanding.<sup>40</sup> It is right that you should be informed about the difficulties and problems of the inheritance and also of the family's affection.

I hope to see you again soon. I am making your novena. My fond respects to your dear wife.

Believe me in our Lord, all yours,  
Eymard, S.

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<sup>39</sup> Illegible.

<sup>40</sup> Settlement for Mme. de Couchie's inheritance.

**2019**

**CO 2018**

**To Fr. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I7/20)

*Paris, August 30, 1867*

Very dear Father,

I will be there tomorrow night, Saturday at 5:30.

We will see His Eminence on Sunday. I told Fr. Carri how sorry I was to know that public opinion made him favor the Dautre, contrary to his Superior. He told me that he had done nothing against it. I told him that God blesses only order and obedience.

Fr. Chanuet arrived this morning. Therefore, I will be with you tomorrow night.

Believe me, very dear Father, in our Lord,

All yours,  
Eymard

**2020**

**CO 2019**

*To Mme. Antoinette De Grandville (Nee Du Cornulier)*  
(IV 97/104)

*Paris, August 30, 1867*

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

I am leaving for Angers tomorrow, Saturday morning. I'll stay only a few days. I would really like to receive news about you (rue Lyonnaise, 9). If I had half a day to myself, I would like to pay you and your kind sister a quick visit in Nantes.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, S.

**2021**

**CO 2200**

**To MISS EMILIEENNE TAMISIER<sup>41</sup>**  
(VII 9/9)

I am going to Angers. I will try to see you on my way back next Wednesday or Thursday. God wanted this sacrifice.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> at Tours.

<sup>42</sup> This note was written on the reverse side of a business card.

**2022**

**CO 2020**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 368/395 VI 2)

*Angers, Sunday, September, 1867<sup>43</sup>*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I've just seen the Bishop. His Excellency will be there<sup>44</sup> at 1:30 tomorrow. I will arrive around 1:00 p.m.

The three of us will discuss the major issues which the Bishop mentioned to me, and your note.

The first thing is to accept a Superior named by the Bishop. His Excellency holds to it. Otherwise he would leave you on your own, and we don't want such a withdrawal.<sup>45</sup>

We spoke about Brussels. I explained the material situation to him. It is fine. However, there is a condition which I didn't have time to mention to His Excellency, that His Eminence the Cardinal of Malines would like us to assign Belgian members there by preference. He is even setting this as a condition for the acceptance of the foundation. You'll have to study that attentively.

The Bishop spoke to me about the sisters who haven't returned. I saw Sr. Benoitte when she came back from Lantigni. She stayed only an hour and a half in Paris. She was very swollen and very tired.

You may know that Sr. Benoitte went to Lantigni and that I didn't see her, nor did I know about her departure. However, she was very helpful to poor Sr. Camille, who found it so difficult to accept death.

I won't be able to come say holy Mass for you, as I must stay here to make a report for the Bishop and bring it to him immediately.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2023**

**CO 2021**

**TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)**  
(V 7/14)

*Angers, September 2, 1867*

Your Excellency,<sup>46</sup>

“Fr. Eymard communicates the steps taken to remain at Doutré: the purchase of the Aubert Theater, the work already completed, the impossibility of giving up the project which is underway.”

Fr. Audibert, the Superior of our house in Angers, informed me about the difficulties which have arisen against the foundation of our house and chapel and St. Martin's cloister. I have come to study this on location and to make a final decision. Therefore, I dare, with all simplicity and

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<sup>43</sup> September 1<sup>st</sup>. (Troussier)

<sup>44</sup> at the convent.

<sup>45</sup> of support.

<sup>46</sup> Handwritten note on the above letter, by Bishop Angebault:

“Fr. Eymard communicates the steps taken to remain at Doutré: the purchase of the Aubert Theater, the work already completed, the impossibility of giving up the project which is underway.”

## *The Earthquake*

confidence, present to Your Eminence the situation of the matter and wait for a decision which we will receive with respect.

The devout inhabitants of the Doutre regret the loss of the chapel of Adoration as a result of our change of location, and, with this spiritual desire, they collected a tax and we are told they collected the amount of 15,000 Francs (which, however, is not guaranteed, since no one visited the Superior of the house about it; therefore, these matters are hearsay). But, I suppose that they did succeed in collecting 15,000 Francs. That is beautiful on their part, and we are profoundly touched and would like to respond to their desires by staying at the Doutre. What makes us grieve even more is the thought that we would be contradicting the wishes of Your Excellency and that of your esteemed Vicar Generals who are always so kind toward us.

But, what can we reasonably do? Ought we, to remain at the Doutre, impose such great sacrifices on ourselves? And if they were asked of us, should we take such a great responsibility toward Society? In fact, what is at stake is nothing less than the loss of at least 60,000 Francs, since we already have spent the amount of 100,000 Francs and more, that is:

purchase of the Aubert House	75,000 Francs
purchase of the house at the cul-de-sac	12,000 Francs
expenses already incurred	10,000 Francs
total:	97,000 Francs

The contracts have been signed with the contractors. They have ordered the materials, so we cannot rescind our commitments without providing a large indemnity.

Well, in view of this amount exceeding 100,000 Francs, with a house being donated to us in exchange, a deficit of 60,000 Francs would be left.

And would the Allard House which is being offered really be given? And if it is given to us without being fully paid, doesn't our position become extremely ambiguous? And how could we urge the payment of this collective debt, once we would be established in the building? Doesn't prudence indicate that we should even refuse what is being offered to us?

Add to that, Excellency, that the foundations of the chapel are almost finished, and the materials are on location. And then, the considerable losses incurred were we to sell a piece of land which has lost half its value by the destruction of the theater and the house at the cul-de-sac.

To mention nothing of the humiliation which would be ours in giving up what has been begun, and I dare say, of what was done following the general permission given by diocesan authority to look for a proper locale in the center of the city. - We had taken active and positive steps for the Church of St. Martin, for the cloister of Abraham. When nothing came of it, while keeping authority informed, with pressure from the Carmelites on the other hand to withdraw from the precarious situation which we were told in writing was an inconvenience to them, and Mr. Allard absolutely refusing to surrender his building, we then purchased the Aubert theater, and informed the diocesan authority immediately.

Please God that things should not be at this point! The Society would not need to impose a sacrifice of at least 160,000 Francs upon itself, nor the grief of contradicting the opinion and desires of authority. We would have preferred to withdraw.

However, although the losses would be considerable, if Your Excellency judges that we cannot stay there, we will stop the work and withdraw as best we can from this painful situation. I hope that we will know how to obey, we have already done so.

So I will wait for a reply from Your Excellency in order to take the necessary steps before leaving for Paris, because it is difficult for everyone to stay in such a tense situation.

Please receive my expression of most profound respect and deepest gratitude; it is my honor to be, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and obedient servant,  
Eymard, Sup. Soc. S.S.<sup>47 48</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> Superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

**2024**

**CO 2022**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 369/395 VI 2)

*(Tuesday, September, 1867)*<sup>49</sup>

Dear daughter,

I cannot come to say holy Mass for you tomorrow. I am suffering a little from a dull intestinal pain. I'll try to get there before the time set by His Excellency.

The Bishop has just left here. He is fully dedicated to you and your Community. We must thank God for that.

Don't offer the cincture now. It isn't time to do so.

All yours,  
Eymard

P.S. - I'll tell you everything that the Bishop told me.

**2025**

**CO 2023**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 370/395 VI 2)

*[Angers, September, 1867]*<sup>50</sup>

Dear daughter,

The wind and the weather tire me out. I wanted to leave tonight but I don't dare to do so.

I'll leave tomorrow at 9:00. Send me your monstrance.

I'll try to send you the confessional by having it dismantled.

I think it would be well to copy the Bishop's letter except for the part that is personal to you. It would please Fr. Bompois.

I bless you. Pray for the sisters who are outside. Storm heaven.

All yours,  
Eymard

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<sup>48</sup> "Moved by this noble plea, Bishop Angebault changed his decision and went personally to the chaplain's quarters at Carmel to notify Fr. Eymard, who was ill, to give him his total consent for the project underway at St. Martin's Cloister. As a proof of his unconditional trust in him, he promised to come personally to bless the cornerstone." From *Pierre Julien Eymard*, by Fr. Andre Guitton SSS.

<sup>49</sup> Probably September 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Troussier.)

<sup>50</sup> Probably September 4. (Troussier.)

**2026**

**CO 2024**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**  
(VII 13/20)

*Paris, September 11, 1867<sup>51</sup>*

I am writing to thank you for the favor you obtained for me on the Marseilles railroad. I would be amazed by your success if I didn't know how dedicated you are. I decided to go spend Sunday, the feast of Our Lady of La Salette, with you. I will leave late Saturday night for Richebourg. Do not disturb yourself. I will certainly know how to find you.

May I ask you to present my respectful regards to Madame your mother whom I will be happy to meet?

My faithful regards to Mr. Paul.<sup>52</sup>

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2027**

**CO 2025**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 371/395 VI 2)

*A.R.T.*

*Paris, September 12, 1867<sup>53</sup>*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm sending you the person who was recommended by the nephew of the Cardinal of Lyons and by Mr. Toccanier, the Cur d'Ars, my friend. She seems very fine to me. I heard that several Communities wanted her. I'm very happy that she should be with the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament: it might open the doors for Lyons.

I'll write to our sisters from Luc, I've just come from St. Maurice. We must really pray, this is the decisive moment.

I only have time to bless you and say that I am, in our Lord,

All yours,  
Eymard

P.S. - My sister is still asking about her belongings. I imagine that you were kind enough to have them sent to her.

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<sup>51</sup> Excerpt from a letter.

<sup>52</sup> Later Fr. Paul Marechal.

<sup>53</sup> Archives of the Servants.

**2028**

**CO 2026**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**  
(VII 14/20)

*Paris, September 14, 1867*

<sup>54</sup>Impossible to go to Richebourg on September 22. I will have an ordination on that Saturday and the next day a Mass for our new priest. I must assist him. To show you my good will, I will see you tomorrow, Sunday. I will leave here at 6:55. I will arrive there around 9 a.m. - My respectful regards to your whole family.

All yours,  
Eymard

**2029**

**CO 2027**

**TO MISS EMILIEENNE TAMISIER<sup>55</sup>**  
(VII 3/9)

*A.R.T.*

*Paris, September, 1867*

Dear sister in our Lord,

In order to fulfill my promise to the Bishop of Angers that I would write you his decision, I am writing to beg you to weigh it carefully before God.

As the Bishop desires that the Sisters who have not returned to Angers should return as soon as possible, he held a Council Meeting of the House and declared that he is giving to the absent Sisters only three weeks to return and place themselves under obedience. After that delay they would be considered as no longer wanting to be part of the Society of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. That is the order which has been given and I am transmitting it to you, dear Sister. With all my heart, I desire that you should follow your vocation without letting any human or personal motive stop you. God is the one you want, Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament whom you serve and want to serve.

Human beings pass and God remains. I beg and beseech you, dear Sister, not to say anything against the Mother of Angers and her house. I see a great danger and a great evil in that. You would hurt me deeply if you did it. As the Archbishop is already upset and has even judged her severely I beg you, leave it at that.

I bless you in our Lord,  
Eymard

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<sup>54</sup> Excerpt from a letter.

<sup>55</sup> at Tours.

**2030**

**CO 2028**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I8/20)

A.R.T.

*Paris, September 16, 1867<sup>56</sup>*

Dear Father,

Fr. Carri is leaving again for Angers. He was careful and prudent.

Fr. Leroyer told me about your sadness and fears regarding the Loriol debt. Let us put our trust in God. We have what we need to pay it, except that we cannot withdraw our funds yet. If you haven't given the small amount I brought you, try to do so right away; otherwise you will have to pay interest on the interest, and also because money is unproductive in a drawer.

The house of Angers is a heavy burden, it's true; but how can we turn back? We all believed God wanted it. Let us have trust and confidence.

Goodbye, dear and good Father; they<sup>57</sup> are leaving now.

All yours,  
Eymard

**2031**

**CO 2029**

**TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)**  
(VI8/12)<sup>58</sup>

*Paris, September 16, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am not free these days, - today I am preparing the letter for our candidates for ordination.

Wait a little before you come; I shall write to you as soon as I am freer - shortly, I hope.

Thank you, Sr. Philomene, for your letter - written with your heart and simplicity.

All this means that the situation is difficult and requires light and strength from on high.

Pray hard - I bless you.  
Eymard

P.S. If I could come to see you, it would be less tiring for you.

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<sup>56</sup> Published as Sept. 11. However, on that date he was not in Paris. Listed as Sept. 16 by Fr. Garreau.

<sup>57</sup> Unclear: they or we.

<sup>58</sup> This letter is in the Oratory of St. Peter Julian, at the SSS Generalate of the Fathers in Rome.

**2032**

**CO 2030**

**TO MISS CLARISSE DE THOMAZ DE BOSSIERE**

(V 1/2)

*Paris, September 18, 1867*

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I am sending you what I had promised; I do so in gratitude and with the hope that you will kindly pray for me, as I like to do for you. Your zeal and devotedness for the glory of our Lord in his divine Sacrament establish a eucharistic relationship between you and us. We are working in harmony for the same Master. I hope that our Lord will bless all your desires, dear Mademoiselle. There is nothing you can do that would be more pleasing to God the Father than to glorify his divine Son, and to have him glorified until the end of the world.

We are happy to work with you. Your thoughts are ours. I don't know what God wants from us at this moment. - His Excellency, who is so wise and devout, will tell us.

I can certainly foresee many obstacles and difficulties on the part of Miss de Meeus! But if God wants it, we want it with our whole heart, with all its difficult consequences which will no longer be so for us.

Very dear Mademoiselle in our Lord, please accept all my faithful sentiments of devotion,

Your very humble servant,  
Eymard, Superior

Miss de Thomaz de Bossiere  
20, rue Royale  
Brussels (Belgium)

**2033**

**CO 2031**

**TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES**

(VI 5/8)

Your Eminence,

The request for the religious Sisters of Angers made by Miss Thomaz de Bossiere has been postponed for a considerable amount of time because of commitments undertaken by the Ladies. This excellent foundress, who is very upset by these unexpected difficulties and had already had her house adapted for religious use, is asking whether we could not go there ourselves, if Your Eminence agrees to it. She told us that the district near the railroad in the Leopold area has no church or chapel, that religion suffers from this, and that many people were missing Mass on Sundays because they had to go too far; and that she would undertake to have a chapel built, adequate for these districts, etc...

Before replying to this suggestion, Your Eminence, I am submitting it to your Wisdom; [I am] quite prepared to welcome it, and we would devote ourselves to it with all our strength, if it has your blessing.

I think that our departure from the Salazar Church will not cause any great reaction in that district, where our ministry bears so little fruit, as it already has so many means of spiritual help.

The work of Miss de Meeus will not be disadvantaged by this either, since we are not personally helpful to it.

*The Earthquake*

It is true that we are there to honor the fact of the miracle, which would not stop with our departure since the Ladies are founded for that local purpose - and as for ourselves, we would have the consolation of a more apostolic adoration in an entirely new district.

I submit all these reflections to your esteemed and holy consideration, Your Eminence. We shall always be happy to be where Your Eminence blesses us and looks on us as his children.

It is with the most filial veneration in our Lord, that I dare say that I am,

Your Eminence's humble and devoted son,  
Eymard  
Superior of the Congregation  
of the Blessed Sacrament

112 Boulevard Montparnasse  
Paris, September 18, 1867

<i>Sept 19 Public Conference: Communion, Remedy for our Sadness.</i>
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**2034**

**CO 2032**

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

(V 67/76)

A.R.T.

*Paris, September 27, 1867*

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I am really praying for your dear mother, for you, and your dear daughter. I feel that you are following the law of charity and self-denial, and that after receiving your measure of grace and strength in the morning, you need to devote yourself all day, you to your good mother, and Miss Stephanie to her family.

Be content with the morning, and when you can make a brief visit to the good Master in the evening, to rest at his feet, do so.

Your nephew's offer is truly Providential. You do well to accept it and follow his advice, which seems very wise to me.

I am convinced that it isn't urgent to share yet.

Be simple with your little family established at Thorins. Tell Miss Stephanie not to worry about guardianship, nor even about the possibility of doing better. She should count on the teacher and be content with an ordinary life to a great extent.

You would do well if you could help your niece, at least this year, for the board and room of her little boys. It is in God's order of things to begin with one's own.

It is a good thing that Sr. Benoite's sister will take over the responsibility for poor Therese! I praise God for it. It is one less major responsibility, and also a matter of safety.

Keep your soul ever in God's hands, dear daughter. Recommend all your affairs to Him and follow the path of divine Providence every day and every moment.

You know how much joy your letters give me, but I would be upset if they tire you out.

In October, I hope to go to Marseilles and I will try to see you on the way.

I bless you and your dear daughter.

Eymard

**2035**

**CO 2033**

**TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS**  
(I48/54)

A.R.T.

*Paris, October 2, 1867*

Dear Father,

Thank you for the letter you wrote when you arrived. I thank our good Master that you found everything well. That proves the good spirit of your house and how our Lord is protecting it in spite of its trials.

Thank you for the monstrance you sent us for St. Maurice. It will be a great help to them.

I cannot promise to give you a priest during Fr. O'Kelly's absence. I don't have any, except novices.

This is what I plan to do: have Fr. O'Kelly wait for my visit to Marseilles, probably in November. If Fr. Augonnet makes his vows at the end of October, change him, since he wants it so! I pity him for wanting a change so badly; he may very well regret it some day. So then, I will send him to Brussels, where there are several from Angers. Fr. Champion likes him; God grant that he may be happier there.

Dear Father, continue to work for the greater glory of God; be like a hearth which spreads the Eucharistic fire everywhere. Believe in your grace and mission; it is faith which brings about the works of God.

I do recommend myself to your prayers. Next week, I expect to go for my retreat at St. Maurice. To give to others, we must be full of God.

Goodbye, dear Father, all the Fathers and Brothers thank you for remembering them.

All yours,  
Eymard, Superior

**2036**

**CO 2034**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I9/20)

*Paris, October 2, 1867*

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your two letters. I wanted to answer right away, then I was carried away by a thousand and one other things.

It will be difficult for me to immediately withdraw the sum of 15,000 francs which are with Mr. Lorient. It is true that we have them [also] with Mr. Le Cle. I am pressing them to pay me, and these good gentlemen are in such straits that I cannot have anything at the moment: the bookshop has no business. I will try to find it elsewhere.

I really hope we will succeed. I was telling good Fr. Champion: we will have trouble withdrawing our money. If necessary, we have our bonds on the Pontifical Loan.

Be strong, dear Father; you are doing a great and beautiful work. The struggle has been quite hard, but Heaven has been on our side.

*The Earthquake*

Our intentions were right. We were forced by circumstances; we couldn't do otherwise. Put pressure on Mr. Dussouchay<sup>59</sup> so that the walls might be as high as possible before the cold sets in. I would really appreciate it if you would excuse me from going for the blessing of the cornerstone. I've had such a bad cold recently that I'm afraid of the trip. Then I would like to make a good retreat at St. Maurice: it has been so long since I have been able to recollect myself! I feel a great need to do so, I am like parched land.

I don't know whether Sr. Benoitte will go to Angers. I am urging her to do so with all my strength, even commanding her to do so. Right now she is ill at Miss Thomas' house. Poor Sister, she would be so well in Angers! It is a terrible situation and a great temptation, I have no more influence upon her. I believe that Sr. Philomene, who is now freed from her vows,<sup>60</sup> doesn't want to return to Angers. She is due to arrive in Pairs tomorrow. She is in Nemours to get her things.

Believe me, dear Father, in our Lord,

All and always yours,  
Eymard, S.S.S.

**2037**

**CO 2035**

**TO MISS EMILIENCE TAMISIER<sup>61</sup>**  
(VII 4/9)

*Paris, October 2, 1867*

Dear Sister in our Lord,

You may receive Communion. You may keep your vows of poverty and obedience or ask for dispensation from the head Vicar General. Besides, they are only temporary and will soon expire.

Your letter tells me your final decision. Peace is better than war. If, however, you could decide to be in Angers like the others from Nemours, it would mean continuing your vocation as an adorer: human beings pass, the Work will remain. That is what I am telling Sr. Philomene.

I summarize my thought as follows:

I do not want to make a foundation. I urge you to return to Angers if you can be content with Adoration and a life of death [to self].

You would be even better there than in the world. If you don't have the courage to do it, it is better to terminate. However, I can tell you the grief I feel to see you who are so devoted to the Blessed Sacrament, remain outside. - Sr. Philomene does not want to return. Sister B[enoite], I believe, cannot reconcile herself to it, in spite of my strongest words. - She has been here for a few days.

I bless you, dear daughter, and I pray for you in this solemn moment, in order that you may fulfill the Holy Will of God in its entirety.

Eymard

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<sup>59</sup> The curator for the new church in Angers.

<sup>60</sup> She had had temporary vows.

<sup>61</sup> at Tours.

**2038**

**CO 2036**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 372/395 VI 2)

*Paris, October 4, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord,<sup>62</sup>

The question of Brussels is over; the hoped for foundation cannot take place. The Foundress is withdrawing her promise because the Ladies of Adoration, our neighbors, made strong objections and obliged us to refuse any competitive situation.

I cannot get anywhere with Sr. Benoite. I tried every means: reason, piety, vows, even an order, it is all useless. I had two long talks with her, but without success. I think she is sick today as a result.

Sr. Philomene is absent taking care of her business. She will return tomorrow. However, I believe she has made up her mind not to return. She told me so formally.

Alas! I still had hope, but today I don't have any more hope. I'm crushed. What will become of Sr. Benoite? She said she would go to the Reparatrix Sisters as a boarder. - But your financial resources? - Nothing stops her.

Therefore, I'll send your belongings from Nemours<sup>63</sup> as soon as they take what belongs to them. I expect to send them to you via railroad.

Today I began the novena for your sister Jenny. I'm sorry that you sent me so many stipends. I'll apply the surplus to the Nemours' expenses.

Don't forget Miss Sterlingue at the end of the month. She would take you to court. You know that I must also reimburse Miss Sterlingue 25,000 francs to pay for the deed of the notary from Nemours.

If Mr. Chanuet sends what his mother willed, I want to take the 7,400 francs from that amount to repay the loan of a friend.

Believe me, in our Lord, dear daughter,

Devotedly yours,  
Eymard

**2039**

**CO 2037**

**TO MISS ANTONIA BOST**  
(IV 24/28)

*Paris, October 5, 1867*

I am praying and I will pray a great deal for your intentions which I make my own.

I assure you that I carry you daily to the holy Altar. You are so near and so dear to me in our Lord!

Tomorrow I will hurry to write to Miss Nelly and to your dear friend as soon as I receive her letter.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

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<sup>62</sup> Copied from a manuscript of Mother Marguerite, not the original.

<sup>63</sup> They had left some things behind in the hope of a new foundation.

**TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN**  
(IV 15/19)

*Paris, Holy Rosary 1867*

Very dear Madame in our Lord,<sup>64</sup>

My thoughts followed you all during your spiritual pilgrimage and I joined my prayers and wishes to yours. You must have been very happy with your whole family.

So you have weaned your dear little one. You did well: it will only make him stronger.

I rejoice with you that you are with your dear mother and for being the only daughter of such a wise and devout mother. You must continue to love her as you did at fifteen.

Now about you.

May God protect and increase your growing fervor and recollection: two great gifts of divine love. The first makes us serve God well: it is the activity of love. The second fills us with the strength necessary to work: it's the bread of life and understanding. The second always leads to the first but not the first to the second. - Since recollection cannot be your duty of state, since you must belong to your neighbor more than to yourself, you must make your meditation the principal practice of recollection, where you find your strength and make your spiritual provision for the day. I'm very happy to see that you have been faithful. Meditation should be the last exercise you give up!

It's quite certain that your rising cannot be so regulated that you are always faithful to the same hour. The rule for you is that when you are free, you must be virtuous. Remember that the sacrifice of rising is always new: we never get used to it. God allows it so.

When it gets to be 10:00 at night, and you haven't done your ordinary exercises of piety, you must put them aside, except night prayer and a little examen.

How I wish I could see you be as energetic for good, calm (you are) and strong as your mother, with the wisdom of prudent virtue! It will come and it is coming every day. The *Imitation* says that we must work daily for strength over ourselves. It is the true sign of progress...

Good St. Anne! Do love her: she is the mother of mothers. Everything works out well and benefits those who love God.

All I hope for you is to enjoy the goodness and beauty of God in prayer. I cannot formulate a more beautiful wish for you. In the world people ordinarily love God only when they feel happy in his service. In fact, God only attaches us to himself by his gentle gifts of love. The heart lives by comparisons and gives itself to what it knows and enjoys the most.

See dear daughter, I am doing a little as you do, I am long. This is to reward you for having done so yourself.

I bless you in our Lord, you, your dear mother, your child, your husband, and all your loved ones.

Eymard

P.S. I hope to go to Marseilles toward the end of the month. If I can greet you all in passing, it will be a joy for me.

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<sup>64</sup> This letter was not copied on an original by Fr. Eymard, but on a handwritten copy of Mme. Giraud-Jordan.

**2041**

**CO 2038**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 373/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

*Paris, October 7, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I received your two letters. I am begging our good Master to heal you, because there is too much work still to be done! Oh! how I do implore him, so that heartaches and frustrations won't leave you so upset! You need strength, and especially that God should prepare you for these hard times. It's too late when we have been stuck by the blow.

I haven't given in on anything. I want them to return to Angers; however, I haven't gained anything, or very little; it's true that they are tired. Again yesterday, I told her formally to go to Angers; I've decided to be silent. So I don't think we should count either on Sr. Benoite or Sr. Philomene. I've said everything I can, presented it from every angle; it's their business.

The possibility of [a foundation in] Brussels is closed. The Ladies presented a Roman Prelate toward whom we have debts of gratitude. They would have presented their opposition to His Excellency at Malines. The Superior General [of the sisters] came here to tell me, that if you came to Brussels, their Congregation would be lost. Hearing all that, I said: No, we don't want war, but charity.

So goodness is always attacked, crucified, as it was at the beginning. We shall see later.

I bless you sincerely in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2042**

**CO 2039**

**TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE**  
(IV 98/104)

*Paris, October 7, 1867*

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Don't feel so sorry you didn't receive me in Nantes: the good Lord did not will it, so I'll try, on another trip, to repay you for it. The law of duty passes ahead of the comfort of counseling.

What you tell me about your dear sister, her increasing weakness, your fear of losing her, of seeing this beautiful flower culled by Heaven, would all grieve me for your sake if I didn't hope that God would leave her with you a while longer. She isn't losing anything by staying a little while longer with us. So, you should pray and I will pray with you, that God may delay his call. I must admit that it would be a great misfortune for you, because your sister is so kind and your soul gains so much just by living with her.

You tell me that you are dragging yourself in God's service.

It is better to drag oneself than to let oneself fall to the ground. Continue to go to Holy Communion: that is your life and only virtue. I say "only" because it is Jesus forming himself in you. Consider Holy Communion as a pure gift from God's merciful goodness, an invitation to his table of grace, because you are poor, weak and ill. So, you should go joyfully.

*The Earthquake*

Don't speak about responsibilities in relation to our Lord, but about thanksgiving, that's better. Begin with this principle: the poorer I am, the more I need God.

How happy you would make me if you followed this advice!

"I see that you are discouraged, sad, a bit impatient toward everything. You go to duty through duty, to the state of grace because of your conscience. - Oh, how I would like to see all these storms far from you! All this self-blame over with! All this weakness turned to strength! How can you come to that? Jesus is good, gentle, gracious. He loves me. He wants me to belong to him, - but through trust, in the holy poverty of love."

I only have time to say that I am

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2043**

**CO 2041**

**TO MISS EMILIENCE TAMISIER<sup>65</sup>**  
(VII 5/9)

*Paris, October 7, 1867*

Dear Sister in our Lord,

I have nothing more to say to you about the decision to be made. But I can see that your heart is suffering too much toward the Superior and that you do not respect her, and that you are even tempted to grief. That [in itself] would be enough to tell you: either control it or don't return.

I am suffering a great deal to see you outside and far from a vocation that is so holy in itself. I am advising your sisters here to put aside all feelings that are too personal and to see only the adorable Host; but once that is done, I cannot do violence to anyone's conscience.

I can see that these Ladies will still not return.<sup>66</sup>

You yourself should not continue to be undecided. Either settle down in Tours or elsewhere, but settle the matter. Do you still have the same frame of mind against Mother Guillot? See whether you have the courage to put everything behind you and return to your place. If not, well! say no. You are not bound by perpetual vows.

I leave you and bless you always in whatever state of mind, and I am and I will be, in our Lord.

All yours,  
Eymard

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<sup>65</sup> at Tours.

<sup>66</sup> Srs. Benoite and Philomene.

**2044**

**CO 2042**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I 10/20)

*Paris, October 9, 1867*

Very dear Father,

I still haven't thanked you for your shipment of candles, they burn perfectly; Mr. Dagnaire found the real secret. I am returning the seal to Brother Frederic which I had given to Fr. Chanuet. It will be with the things he is due to send you.

I am actively searching for the money. I understand clearly that we must pay that account as soon as possible. It would already be done if Mr. Le Clre had been able to reimburse us.

I'm writing to the Bishop; he was hoping to this very day that we would win the two sisters; I can see that it is useless. The need for religious life and for Exposition will be more powerful than I; at least that is my hope.

One of these days I will send the mold for the hosts to the Mother Prioress of Vannes. I will write to dear Mother Raphael, as soon as it is on its way.

I believe that the poor girl from Lyons will find it difficult to adjust to community life. She is a good person, but she needs to forget herself.

I have many fond greetings to convey to you from Mr. & Mme. Liautaud of Toulon, on Bourbon Street. They came to see me yesterday and eagerly asked me for news about you and showed real interest. The Dalacas continue to have marital problems.

Toward the end of the month I will have to go to Marseilles about the Compassion and Gurin affairs,<sup>67</sup> and also to visit the house.<sup>68</sup> I will write to tell you more definitely when it will be finalized.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2045**

**CO 2045**

**TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)**  
(V 13/14)

*Paris, October 10, 1867*

Your Excellency,

I am writing to give Your Excellency a report on the steps which I was to take for the projected foundation in Brussels, and with the Sisters who did not return to the Motherhouse of Angers.

The foundation of the Sisters in Brussels must necessarily be postponed, because of difficulties which have arisen and were occasioned by a Community of Women adorers in Brussels. This obliged the foundress<sup>69</sup> to postpone her spiritual plans.

The Sisters who did not return, without formally refusing to return to Community, pretexted

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<sup>67</sup> Loans to be re-imbursed.

<sup>68</sup> The SSS Community.

<sup>69</sup> Miss Thomaz de Bossiere.

*The Earthquake*

that they could not do so now: Sister Benoite because of her illness, Sister Philomene because of her business matters relating to the sharing of her inheritance with her sisters. At this time they<sup>70</sup> are with their married sister at Lantigne (Lyons). It is all equivalent to a departure. In truth, Sister Philomena was without vows.<sup>71</sup> That leaves Sister Emilienne, at Tours (16 Rue St. Martha). I asked for her formal reply and notified her, like the other two, about the decision of the council. If she has not replied to Mother Superior, her abstention must suppose a refusal. However, I am writing to her for the last time in this same mail.<sup>72</sup> At least these women will not be able to complain that they were not warned and challenged. I sincerely pity them, for they are good and have fine qualities.

Your Excellency, allow me to thank you for the fatherly heart you have shown toward us and these good women whom your charity has kindly adopted. It's a debt which we will maintain until our last breath, for it is consoling and worthy of respect.

Please accept our best wishes full of the deepest respect and filial affection, and Your Excellency, I am pleased to say that I am,

Your very humble and obedient servant and son in Jesus Christ,  
Eymard, Sup. Cgnis S.S.S.<sup>73</sup>

**2046**

**CO 2043**

**TO MISS ANTONIA BOST**  
(IV 25/28)

*Paris, October 10, 1867*

Very dear Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I have replied. I hope that my letter will satisfy your hopes and mine.<sup>74</sup>

We must join prayer to it, to water the tree and make it blossom.

I am praying very much for this intention.

I believe that your dear brother would be happy and become even better...

This union, which comes from Heaven, can only open his heart to God and help him relive his early religious feelings.

Be careful, dear daughter, you must not make yourself sick over it. Let us hope in God and in the prayers of your good parents in Heaven.

Goodbye, dear daughter. You know how I am all yours in our Lord.

Eymard

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<sup>70</sup> Sr. Benoite and Sr. Philomene, or Sr. Philomene and her sister religious?

<sup>71</sup> As a temporary professed sister, her vows had expired.

<sup>72</sup> We do not have that letter unless it is the letter of Oct. 14.

<sup>73</sup> Abbreviation for Superior of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (Latin).

<sup>74</sup> An effort to bring her brother back to the practice of the faith.

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 374/395 VI 2)

*Paris*<sup>75</sup>

Dear daughter in our Lord,<sup>76</sup>

Sr. Benoitte and Sr. Philomene left this morning for Lantigni via Beaujeu, Rhne. Sr. Benoitte needs to take a purge and Sr. Philomene is ill.

I'm brokenhearted because they didn't choose to return to Angers. Other than forcing them like children, I haven't omitted anything. My only regret is the outcome of this mission from the Bishop and the House Council which I had taken on myself.

I expect that Sr. Emilienne will stay in Tours. However, in her last letter, she seemed to cling to her vocation. No doubt she was influenced by example [of the others].

Thank you for the offer to take whatever might be useful to us.<sup>77</sup> I prefer to send you everything, except for the scales which had been bought, but not paid by Nemours, as well as a little case of jam, which was broken on the train.

I'm keeping the monstrance I had given. It is partly broken, it would only break completely.

I'll keep a prie-Dieu for you as a model, because they are well made. Therefore, I'll send your chairs, the prie-Dieu, the cases of dishes, and whatever is left that belongs to the Community.

I'll write to Mme. Aubry for the box of sacred vessels which I'll send to you by the safest way, as well as the vestment. These ladies wanted it. I said no, that I would return it to the Mother-House.

I forgot the records and the bills: at the first opportunity, I'll ask Sr. Philomene for them. They may be with the sacred vessels.

I'll rent a wagon on the train: it will cost less.

Please ask the ladies yourself for their habit. I don't have the courage to do so.

Poor sisters! They are now on the outside, while their sisters, and you, you are inside, sheltered from the world, from its spiritual weakness and poverty. I sincerely pity them and find them most unfortunate. This morning they broke my heart, they were sobbing.

I can only pray for them. Will they return to Paris, be boarders at the Reparation, or get a rent somewhere near us? I don't know. Alas! Must we witness such an ending! May God be glorified by everything!

I am in our Lord, dear daughter,

Respectfully and devotedly yours,  
Eymard

P.S. I wrote to the Bishop.

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<sup>75</sup> Probably October 10, 1867. Troussier.

<sup>76</sup> Letter copied from a manuscript of Mother Marguerite, not the original.

<sup>77</sup> From among the belongings of the Servants which were still in Nemours.

2048

CO 2044

**TO MME. LEPAGE**  
(IV 20/26)

A.R.T.

*Paris, October 10, 1867*

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

I wrote to Miss Martin in the same mail. I am really praying for this marriage. I am sure that Mr. Claudius will honor it: he has such a fine heart and a religious background. In any case, I am taking the responsibility for the religious aspect. I will be happy to go and perform this wedding if I can.

I heard through Fr. Garnier that your court case hasn't been won yet. I hope it will be.

Yes, yes, dear daughter, you have the best part, protect it carefully. It is the royalty of the love of Jesus Christ. Adorn these royal virtues daily by your fidelity, especially by the joy of serving God.

Struggle against sadness, which I call physical,<sup>78</sup> and the temptation contrary to trust and holy surrender.

The good Lord loves you very much, I assure you. You also love him, you want only Him, I am sure of it.

Do meditate on the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, not as a model of expiation and penance, but rather, as a proof of his love for you and for us all. In order to remove the bitterness and horrors of the cross which are intertwined with this life, Jesus in his love made this cross blossom with the flowers of Paradise.

I do bless you, dear daughter.

I will be even happier than you to see the dear house of Toulouse once again.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

2049

CO 2047

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 375/395 VI 2)

*Paris, October 11, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

It seems to me that we had really put your accounts in order. The Bishop likes details: show him your journal with the monthly balance.... His Excellency is skilled in accounting. Let him make his remarks and put them into practice, that's all.

You must resign yourself to receive a Superior from him since he holds to it. In any case, following what was settled in Council, a Superior cannot change nor add anything important.

The accounts from Nemours are settled. The house of Angers only has the Sterlingue debt. The debt from the contract will be eliminated by Sr. Camille's gift.

I believe that Sr. Benoit will be asking you for all the clothing she brought. Have them ready.

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<sup>78</sup> literally: organic.

*The Earthquake*

Make your adorations well, and our Lord will favor you ... [*two and a half lines erased*], for if Jesus is well served, he will serve you in the same way.

I bless you all in our Lord, dear daughter.

Eymard

**2050**

**CO 2048**

**TO MISS PHILOMENE DE COUCHIES (SR. PHILOMENE DU SS)**

(VI 7/7)

[*October 12, 1867*]

Dear daughter in our Lord,<sup>79</sup>

Mme. Aubry has been to see me. You must write and tell her to send the chests belonging to the sisters as well as those she has in storage, to Angers - also the cash box of the household accounts. The Bishop wishes to see them.

As for the chest with the sacred vessels, Mme. Aubry will send it to me here, and I will take out your ciborium. -

Do this as soon as you can. Mme. Aubry will be in Nemours on Monday evening.

I have just had a letter from the Bishop of Angers who considers you to have given your resignations - you, Sr. Benoite and Sr. Emilienne - because, since you did not reply at the appointed time, it is assumed that you have given up and withdrawn.

I am praying for you, dear daughters - it is all I can do at the moment.

May God be blessed for everything, but I need to shut my eyes and let myself be led like a blind man.

I bless you and Sister Benoite. You must have great need of rest, quiet, and prayer.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

**2051**

**CO 2049**

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

(IV 73/75)

A.R.T.

*Paris, October 14, 1867*

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

Yes, I did receive your 8 page letter, and I thought, what a conversion! She has learned how to speak a little and share about her spiritual life and feelings. If your last letter had been like the first, I would have concluded that the roots were becoming stronger. Nevertheless I do thank you for it, you did say enough.

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<sup>79</sup> Letter addressed to Sr. Philomene (?) This text is added to a letter of 12 lines, signed: T. THOMAS. The only date given is Saturday. By comparing its contents with those of the letters addressed to Bishop Angebault on October 10 and 15, 1867, and the letter of September 15 to Miss Tamisier, the Saturday in question must be October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1867. (Fr. Garreau)

## *The Earthquake*

Do allow me, not so much to praise you to your dear daughter, but to tell her the things I do. I do know there is a reason why saints are declared only in Heaven. You are striving to become one: the tree is blossoming under the beautiful sunshine of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the news that interests me. I will pray for Miss Agarithe whom I respect a great deal, she is so good and noble! I would like to see her live more closely with our Lord.

Yes, I bless this dear child of the 16<sup>th</sup>, and his whole family.

Oh! My soul is very sad when I see Christian Princes fold their arms and watch Garibaldi against Pius IX.<sup>80</sup> It takes all my Christian charity not to be overcome with fear that the same will happen to them [other princes]; as if the child doesn't always suffer the same consequences: an eye for an eye!

God is slow to waken from sleep in the shaken capsizing boat. He is allowing the enemies to advance. Will he let them enter into the Holy City? Will he let them profane his temple? Chase his Vicar and kill his ministers? It's possible, almost probable, some say that it's certain. This comedy comes from personalities who mock the on-lookers and victims. May God send us a Judas Maccabeus.

You know that there are 6,000,000 free masons in Europe; 16,000 in France. All the opponents of the Pope in Italy are carbonaro. This represents a large number of daggers ready to fight unto death! Where are we headed? To the society of the Antichrist; his armies are getting ready. [Now] a word about you.

You give me the greatest pleasure when you tell me: With the grace of God I will remain faithful. - Yes, we must remain faithful; there are enough defections. It's time to gather strongly together around Jesus our Master. Dear daughter, try to come closer to Him, and to remain in his service. Strength is the soldier's virtue; love is that of the child; pure dedication that of the apostle and religious. Have these three virtues; let them be your Trinity of life. Strength issues from Love; so then, love well. Love issues from the heart of prayer. First be a disciple of prayer, I mean a prayer which is your own: affectionate, recollected, inward, which enjoys God, feeds on God and always aspires toward the mystery of the truth, of the goodness of the love of God. Because a flame which comes to a halt either dies down or loses its light; it comes to nothing, it either goes out or turns to smoke. There is only one thing I would like to see in you - the desire, the hunger, the happiness of prayer in our Lord! That would be a beautiful hearth. Well, until our stomach gets used to food, digests it, or feels hungry, it is sick. So then, speak to me about your prayer, about the formation of the soul by grace, by God himself. That would please me the most.

I will go to Marseilles toward the end of the month. Will you still be at Calet? It might be only at the beginning of November. But if I am coming to see you, it will have to be on the way down because on the way back I am always rushed.

They are asking me to give a 7-day retreat on the way to the adorers at Tarare. I wish I had the time and strength to give it, because there are beautiful souls there. When will I give one in Lyons, where [devotion to] the Most Blessed Sacrament could be strengthened among the devout?

I leave you, or rather I am, in our Lord,

All and ever yours,  
Eymard, S.

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<sup>80</sup> In 1862 and again in 1867, Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882) participated in assaults against Rome and the Papal States, which failed due to the opposition of other civil rulers. Father Eymard, who was totally devoted to the Holy See, saw these events as a great evil. Shortly after Eymard's own death, however, Italy became a unified nation and the Papal States ceased to exist. (Fr. Joseph Roy SSS)

2052

CO 2050

TO MISS EMILIEENNE TAMISIER  
(VII 6/9)

Paris, October 14, 1867

Dear daughter,

Two days ago I received a letter from the Bishop of Angers, a letter by which he considers that you have resigned from the House, since you did not reply to the delay he had granted, the same for your two sisters - it had to be expected. - Nothing can be done except to wait for a better time or another grace.

I urge you not to make any effort to [see] the Bishop of Angers, you would not be well-received, he is hurt by your silence.

Our two sisters are at Lantigni via Beaujeu (Rhône); your letter was forwarded to them. I am extremely sad because of all this. However, peace on the outside is better than war inside.

What you can still do is request your belongings from Angers. Unless, rising above everything, you want to go and live there at the cost of all the sacrifices.

Surely, although the Bishop wrote that he considered you as having resigned, if you knocked at the door, the Blessed Sacrament will open its sanctuary to you.

I bless you, dear daughter, and I do pray for you.

Eymard

2053

CO 2052

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (*Mother Marguerite du SS*)  
(II 367/395 VI 2)

Paris, October 15, 1867<sup>81</sup>

Dear daughter in our Lord,

1. I'm writing to the Bishop to say that you no longer owe anything on Nemours, except a few hundred francs to pay for moving and repairs, not beyond four or five hundred francs.

2. That we returned to Angers the things that Angers had sent to Nemours, except the chairs, the prie-Dieu, a few cases which are still here, but which I will send later.

3. That Fr. Chanuet, in memory of<sup>82</sup> his mother, a religious, gave 24,000 francs for the repairs and furnishings. The cost of the second deed of withdrawal, 7,400 francs, is paid for by the sons of Sr. Camille.

I concluded that the house of Angers has no debts for the foundation of Nemours.

I didn't mention Miss Sterlingue's 20,000 francs: that didn't regard Nemours ... [*ten and a half lines erased*].

I [made] the Bishop aware that I had proposed to sell the large objects which were left behind to avoid another 150-200 francs for shipment. However, for fear of losing too much on them, I would ship them to Angers.

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<sup>81</sup> Published as Aug. 15. However, the content indicates Oct. (Garreau).

<sup>82</sup> literally: in consideration of.

*The Earthquake*

I won't be able to do so for another three or four days, because it is difficult to get moving vans at this time. Finally, it's all coming to an end.

I would really like to find something so you can pay that troubled Sterlingue.

Enough for now. The Office bell is ringing.

I bless you, and beg our Lord to help and comfort you.

Eymard

**2054**

**CO 2053**

*To Mlles. Marianne Eymard and Nanette Bernard*

(III 140/145 VI 10)

*Paris, Boulevard Montparnasse, October 15, 1867, 112*

Very dear sisters,

You have been expecting me every evening, and you haven't seen me yet. That is because I have so many things to do at this time that it's impossible for me to leave. However, I am thinking of going to Marseilles around All Saint's Day and I'll take a day or two to visit you briefly in passing. I won't be able to stop for long because of the many retreats I have to give.

Be at peace about your so-called debt to Angers; it has been paid for generously and they would owe me much more. You must be in great straits, dear sisters. That trip must have put you short.

In my letter I am sending you a note for one hundred francs to help with your supplies for the winter.

I am well. The good Lord is very kind. With all I have to do, I can still fulfill my night adorations without fatigue.

The good Master continues to bless us more than we deserve. I don't count the small rocks on our path, the small crosses of the journey. That is all nothing. It is even necessary, because we would forget heaven if we didn't have a few trials on earth.

I bless you, dear sisters, and I give you every day to our dear Master so that he may keep you, make you holy and happy.

Your brother,  
Eymard, Sup.

**2055**

**CO 2051**

**TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)**

(V 14/14)

*Paris, October 15, 1867*

Your Excellency,

This is to give Your Excellency the information you desire about the personnel and the temporal situation of Nemours.

For the personnel:

## *The Earthquake*

My last letter, which crossed the one I received from Your Excellency, informed you about the decision of Sister Benoite and Sister Philomene not to return to Angers; the silence from Tours indicates the same reply.

Temporalities:

The house of Nemours which had been ceded by Miss Sterlingue by a common deed of sale to four of our Sisters from Angers was returned to her by an outright sale, in order to avoid court proceedings on her part, for she was so wicked as to say that the house had been acquired by the improper solicitation of a legacy and she was trying to create a scandal. Her cession of the building had certainly not been for free, since she had her apartment and income of 5,000 Francs, which, according to her, was to be given for her board and room as she wanted to be a member of the Community.

The house of Angers paid the expense for the first deed: 7,300 Francs; the Chanuet family paid the expense of the second: 7,400 Francs. The house of Angers did not give any furniture to Nemours; everything was bought there. Fr. Chanuet, in memory of the religious vocation of his mother, Sister Camille, had advanced a rather large amount to pay for the repairs and furniture of Nemours, 24,000 Francs. This dear Father wrote to tell the Mother Superior of Angers that he was surrendering it to the Society of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

We are the ones who ordered the beds, the furniture for each cell and who purchased all the dishes. These Ladies brought only their personal belongings from Angers, the linen for the community, mattresses and blankets, and vestments for worship. Well, that was all returned to them.

There are still chairs here, prie-dieus, all the dishes, and a few cases of little value. The order has been given to return it all to Angers (although we could have some rights to them, since we paid for them ourselves).

To avoid heavy expenses, I had proposed to sell the larger objects in Paris, which are not very useful for the house of Angers. On the other hand, we might lose by selling them here.

In short, the house of Angers no longer owes anything on the foundation of Nemours, except a few hundred francs for moving and small repairs on the ceded building.

I don't have the exact amount yet, I know that it will not be more than 400 or 500 Francs - I am waiting for the bill and I will pay it.

This, Your Excellency, is the precise situation of financial and personnel matters at Nemours. We preferred to make a sacrifice rather than let scandal break out over this matter. Everyone knows Miss Sterlingue. The notary told me that she is capable of anything.

Your Excellency, the choice which your paternal heart has made of Father Grolleau<sup>83</sup> can only be excellent. What pleases me most is that he will remain close to Your Excellency. I can therefore only thank you for it and beg you to name him as soon as possible.

It is with the most profound respect that I am, Your Excellency,

Your very humble servant and devoted son in our Lord,  
Eymard, Superior

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<sup>83</sup> To be the ecclesiastical Superior of the Servants in Angers.

**2056**

**CO 2054**

**TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES**  
(VI 6/7)

*Paris, 112 Boulevard Montparnasse, October 15, 1867*

Eminence,

Miss Thomaz wrote to me this morning to say that she had had the pleasure of submitting to you the idea of setting up a second residence for religious of our Congregation in the house she was to give the Adorers of Angers. In this way we could continue the bit of good we are doing at the Salazar Church, and also devote ourselves to doing more in the isolated district which has been proposed to us. We will be happy to favor this project, Your Eminence, if it has your approval. We would establish the scholasticate there, and supply the main house of Salazar with good Belgian candidates, if God sends us some. It's always difficult to leave one's country.

I kiss your Roman Purple with veneration, and am always happy to call myself,  
Your Eminence's most humble and devoted servant and son in Jesus Christ,

Eymard  
Sup. Cgnis SSS.

**2057**

**CO 2055**

**TO MME. VAN HINSBERG**  
(VII 1/1)

*Paris, October 15, 1867*

Dear Mme. Van Hinsberg,

I wanted to write to you via your husband, but there was not enough time. I am taking advantage of it today.

We were pleased to have dear Mr. Van Hinsberg with us. It seemed to me that his presence included his entire dear family, which I love and esteem very much, and for which I pray as for my own; - and you are my family, since you are all members of the Aggregation!

I do thank you, dear Madame, for having written to me about the success of your dear Ernest, and for having expressed such faithful and devoted sentiments. It pleased me greatly and I wanted to reply immediately, but time was lacking. I hope that Ernest, your dear son, will work hard, because it often happens that by missing a single class everything is lost. I know that your dear daughters are studious and responsible. I praise God for it.

Dear Mother, please keep me in your prayers and thoughts in the sight of God. It means a lot to me and

Believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours and your family,  
Eymard, Superior

*Oct. 17 Conference to the SSS Religious (Paris): Necessity and nature of priestly holiness.  
The excellence of priestly dignity.*

**2058**

**CO 2056**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**  
(VII 15/20)

*Paris, October 17, 1867*

Madame in our Lord,<sup>84</sup>

I waited for you all day. I thought I had seen you leave during the Office. I went after you but didn't see you again. I did not know that you were there that evening. - How sorry I am! because I also had so many things to tell you! We must believe that God wanted this sacrifice which cost me as much as it did you.

If I could be in Paris for All Saints, I would be happy to go to your Richebourg as you wish. I will know later, because I am expected in many places.

Whatever happens, I will go to see you, if not at this time, then at another. - Your soul is dearer to me than others. - I do pray for you, for your dear Mother and your dear Paul.

Believe me in our Lord,

All yours,  
Eymard

*Oct. 18 Conference to the SSS Religious (Paris):  
1st Conference: Holiness (cont.); scope.  
2nd Conference: Source of Holiness; Purity.  
Oct. 19 The Religious Vocation.*

**2059**

**CO 2057**

**TO FR. X.**<sup>85 86</sup>

*Paris, October 19, 1867*

My dear Colleague,

I am very pleased to know that Mr. Anatole Jerome, in minor orders, is giving himself heart and soul to your fine Work for First Communions. I trust that you will be satisfied with having chosen him. You will find him to be a simple, docile person, willing, hard-working and devout.

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<sup>84</sup> Excerpt from a letter.

<sup>85</sup> Concerning Mr. Anatole Jerome, Schol. SSS

<sup>86</sup> Perhaps to Fr. Chevrier?

*The Earthquake*

You will be completing his theological studies. He has completed one year of Theology.

It is hard for him to leave us. We loved him very much, but everyone has his own place in the Church, and Mr. Anatole needs an active life; he has to use his energy.

Please accept, dear colleague, the religious and devoted sentiments of your most humble servant,

Eymard, Sup.

**2060**

**CO 2058**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 376/395 VI 2)

*112, Boulevard Montparnasse, Paris, October 21, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Today we are sending via railroad the rest of the furnishings from Nemours. We rented a wagon, for better terms. I hope you'll receive everything in good condition.

Fr. Baudin wrote to me that the large table in the linen room was left in Nemours: it would be too awkward and heavy.

I'm pleased that the Bishop was satisfied with my answer. It was precise.

The question of Sr. Benoite's deed on the house shouldn't worry you. The heirs have no rights to it, since it belongs to the last survivor.

I'll see what the Bishop will write to me. His opinion shows his sympathetic interest and affection for your house.

I received and am keeping in reserve what you sent me, because I asked for all the small accounts that are left in Nemours.

I am asking our good Master to heal you and sustain you in his service. You are too afraid of people: if God is for you, who will be against you?

I'm sending you the canteen of La Salette water which my sister sent me, I took some.

My sister tells me that she is missing 6 bed sheets. Were they perhaps stolen on the way? Look [and see] whether you might find them.

I'm writing to Sr. Emilienne to ask for her things. Her address is: 14 Quai St. Symphorien at Tours. It might save time to send them to her as her hesitation to return shows me that she thinks or is afraid that she will not be able to stay.

I bless you in our Lord, dear daughter.

Eymard

2061

CO 2059

**TO MISS EMILIEENNE TAMISIER**<sup>87</sup>  
(VII 7/9)

*Paris, 112 Bd Montparnasse, October 22, 1867*

Dear Sister in our Lord,

I received your last letter; ask Angers to send your belongings. Today, I have just sent the rest of the furnishings from Nemours. The house is now buried and it's over. Alas! How sad to see this outcome! May God be praised! At least you did spend some beautiful and happy days there! They will count in God's sight.

Get yourself organized at Tours to pick up whatever [pieces] your situation will allow of your religious life. Make your hour of Adoration every day, recite the Divine Office for the love of God, forget all those who made you suffer. You belong to God and are an Adorer of the Blessed Sacrament until death, such a treasure makes us wealthy.

I bless you, my daughter, in Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Eymard

P.S. We are going to send you what we have here via railroad. First, I will wait until they send whatever you may still have at Nemours. - I am writing to Sr. Philomene about it.

2062

CO 2060

**TO FR. BOONE S.J.**  
(U 1/1)

*Paris, October 24, 1867*

Very respected and dear Father,

I am writing to you personally to tell you the news of a little foundation which we will make in Brussels, not in conflict with the one we have on rue Salazar, but rather to support it.

When the Lady who wanted to provide for a foundation of religious sisters who are cloistered adorers saw that the matter was becoming difficult, she offered us her property on condition of having a house of adoration there in that sector which is without any chapel. After studying the project, we referred it to His Eminence. Our thought is to place the scholasticate there to favor religious vocations for adoration in Belgium, as we can see that Belgian subjects do not like to leave their country. With this means more accessible to them, they may more easily come to try out this beautiful and holy vocation.

His Eminence was pleased to approve our project and so we will carry it out as soon as possible. Father Champion, who is here in Paris with us at this time, has received the order from us to prepare everything.

We surely did not expect this new house, but since Miss de Meeus and Msgr. Chaillot expressed their regrets to us that the Sisters from Angers should be established in Brussels, and this

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<sup>87</sup> at Tours.

*The Earthquake*

request being taken into consideration, it seems that Divine Providence has in a totally unexpected manner put us in their place and will thus enable us to do some good in that area which has no [spiritual] help whatsoever.

I am recommending this little foundation to your good prayers, dear Father Boone. This is the daughter of the mother whom you invited with so much insistence for the glory of God.

Believe me in our Lord, dear and respected Father,

Your respectful and devoted Servant,  
Eymard

*Oct. 23 - Blessing of the house of Roquefavour by Father de Cuers.*

**2063**

**CO 2061**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**

(11/20)

*Paris, October 25, 1867*

Dear Father,

I am looking for some money. I was counting on the men at Le Clère. I can see that we cannot count on it in any way, at least for the moment, although they are very honest. Business went so badly for them this year.

I will try to withdraw a few of our bonds from the Pontifical loan.

Surely, I suffered as you did, and perhaps more than anyone did about the decision taken by the Ladies not to return to Angers. I did all that I could: promises, threats, etc.; nothing could make them decide [to return].

I understand their fears a little. They knew about the letters which the Bishop had written against their return, the feelings expressed several times by His Eminence. They didn't have the courage to overcome this fear and this sorrow.

I expect to go to Marseilles toward the middle of November, and to Brussels around the 8th, to handle the contract with the foundress about the little house to be opened. We expect to establish a small scholasticate there and so favor Belgian vocations, if there are any.

May God always bless your work, dear Father: to build a church is to buy a place in Heaven, how much more so, a church of Exposition. It will be a beautiful throne.

Believe me ever in our Lord,  
All yours,  
Eymard, p.<sup>88</sup>

P.S. You did well to give Mr. Dussouchay that small amount. Pressure him for the work.

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<sup>88</sup> Abbreviation for priest.

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 377/395 VI 2)

*Paris, October 25, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

You must have received the rest of the furniture from Nemours. Everything was arranged carefully here. I hope that everything reached you in good condition.

At the first favorable opportunity, I'll send you the chalice and ciborium, as well as the records. I have them here.

Brother Frederic didn't send the vestment for fear it would be ruined. We still need to have Nemours send the altar frontals embroidered by the sisters. I'll have them put everything together.

If you prefer, let Miss Sterlingue be paid by our lawyer, Mr. Chauveau, 84 rue de Rivoli. Were she to cause some difficulty, he could deal with it quickly. You need to send me all the receipts you have from Miss Sterlingue to see whether there might be a way to reduce the 20,000 francs. I submit that for your consideration.

Fr. Champion was here yesterday, he is gone now. He is asking for the white marble altar stone.

I'll try to have the little monstrance of Nemours fixed. I would like to give it to him for his new house. You probably have the little wooden crown.

Please send it all to me via railway express around the beginning of November only, between the second and the fifth.

The Bishop sent me the summary of your accounts: there is a surplus of 1,646 francs. His Excellency seems satisfied and is very interested in you. He wrote me the following words:

"Please remove this difficulty: Sr. Benoite is one of the four subscribers on whom the acquisition of the house of Angers was based. Sister contributed only her name and didn't give any money. She is too delicate to keep rights which she cannot carry out, since she is no longer part of the Congregation. Therefore please ask her for a suitable document of renunciation ... [2 lines erased].

I announced the nomination of Fr. Grolleau as Superior."

As a result of the Bishop's letter, I wrote to Sr. Benoite and I copied His Excellency's words ... [2 lines erased].

May God draw his glory from everything, and may we learn from it.

I am in our good Master, dear daughter.

Eymard

**2065**

**CO 2063**

**TO MISS ANTONIA BOST**  
(IV 26/28)

*Miss Antonia*

*Paris, October 25, 1867*

Dear daughter,

Don't thank me so profusely. I don't deserve it. What a heart you have!

I understand your joy: I share it, I bless it.<sup>89</sup> God is really the one who did everything. Now only the great action remains to be done. I am writing to your dear brother today.

I will do all that I can possibly do for the 6th; but at this time I am torn between Brussels and Marseilles. Two days more or two days less. Friendship also requires some sacrifices.

I do bless you in our Lord,

Eymard

**2066**

**CO 2066**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**  
(VII 16/20)

*Paris, October 25, 1867*

Dear Lady,<sup>90</sup>

It's my intention to come to see you next Sunday to make up for your unproductive visit. - I expect to leave tomorrow night at 4:35 and arrive there around 6:20. But if I fail tomorrow, I will leave Sunday morning at 6:55. However, I must add: God willing.

My respectful regards to Madame your Mother.

Eymard

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<sup>89</sup> Efforts to bring her brother back to the faith.

<sup>90</sup> Excerpt from a letter.

**2067**

**CO 2064**

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

*Paris, October 25, 1867*

Dear Brother,

I read your letter with great interest, especially the fine feelings you express about your vocation, and the dangers which can attack the most firm and holy of them.

You are right, dear brother: we must be wary of ourselves, distrust our own ideas, especially those which are too self-centered; a religious is like a soldier enlisted under the flag, and at the service of God by obedience.

God has made you triumph over this dangerous temptation, which assailed and subjected your poor brother - he wanted something other than the Blessed Sacrament? Alas, what an illusion!

This Most Blessed Sacrament is yours - you are bound to its service by perpetual chains of love - remain ever faithful to it.

I have nothing to tell you about Sr Benoite, except that her illness may have largely influenced her decision, and I hope she will return someday, God willing.

Well, dear brother Marie, don't worry about others. Be like the Angels in Heaven - attentive to God alone and to his service - be happy.

I bless you warmly in our good Master and pray that he may unite you closely to himself.

All yours,  
Eymard

**2068**

**CO 2067**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 378/395 VI 2)

*Paris<sup>91</sup>, October 29, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I received your registered letter. I'll use the 500 francs for interest as indicated, and if we can obtain a rebate on the issue date, we will certainly do so.

I'll try to withdraw the letters, but we don't have the right to them. They were filed with the notary and left to his discretion. He promised to keep them. I have already written to Miss S. to ask her to return them; I didn't receive any answer. I'll see whether our lawyer can do it, he may have better success. We will threaten if necessary, but we are dealing with a most unusual person who is capable of anything.

I've just received a letter from Sr. B. who is still at Lantigni and says that she is very unhappy. She wants to go to Angers. No doubt it would be to reproach and correct you. I replied that I don't have any light on that subject, but that I don't see any good coming from it. Will she go to see you? It's quite possible. If so, do as God inspires you. Oh! what if our Lord kept her at the foot of his throne in Angers! If he would speak a word to her, that would overcome all her resistance and blindness!

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<sup>91</sup> On the original it was written: Lyons, but had been corrected.

*The Earthquake*

I cannot be consoled when I see her so far away from her grace and her center. I can't understand it at all. I keep silence, because I cannot perceive her interior state clearly, nor God's will upon her. Some things are beyond me, which I cannot reconcile, or explain, which seem to me to go beyond natural powers. I am silent and I wait.

Fr. Champion has requested his missal again.

I'll try to have repairs done to the monstrance I had given to Nemours and is broken into 5 or 6 pieces. I'll give it to him with a covering that I had also given.

Thank you, dear daughter, for your offers. We will manage well in Brussels: it's a very small house.

Wait before sending me your money and receipts. I must see our lawyer first, and then I'll write to tell you what has to be done for Sr. Ben. and her document for Angers: there is nothing to worry about, precisely because of the signature.

I am more than surprised about Sr. Benoit's savings. Did she foresee what would happen? ...  
[3 lines erased].

There is no need for you to write to Sr. B. Wait for her and pray very much for her.

I must go to Brussels on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and to Marseilles around the 20<sup>th</sup>.

I'm praying for you all, and bless you all in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. -Close the matter with that poor girl from Lyons, if she is still undecided. Unfortunately it is difficult to deny oneself at an advanced age, or after an independent life!

**2069**

**CO 2068**

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

(V 68/76)

*Boulevard Montparnasse, Paris, October 29, 1867, 112,*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I have just received your letter and I thank you for it. It had been so long since I had received anything from you!

I really thank divine Providence which has given you the means to help Angers. It's a real charity, because it was in need.

I thank our good Master even more for the healing of your dear, kind mother. I was really worried because of her late years. So now she is well, thanks to the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I am not going to Marseilles yet. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, I must be in Brussels to open a little house of adoration for us on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

I will stay there a few days. Then, toward the 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, I will pass through Lyons. I will write about it to the Thorins a few days in advance, for you are my Bethany, I cannot leave you.

I do not condemn Sr. B., for she is an exception, a personality, so much beyond any experience, any rule, that I no longer dare to judge her severely. She is also unhappy. But this poor daughter has made such a rule of following what she wants, has seen or hopes to see, that she does not know how nor is she able to obey. It is impossible to persuade her; it's beyond my understanding. Along with that, there are some things that are so strange and so extraordinary, so beyond and above the human mind, that one is left very impressed! Oh! Dear daughter, blind, simple and faith-filled obedience is worth much more! The beaten path, the common way, are worth much more. I know that God is the one who gives his graces, gives each one her place in his service; but, it is very dangerous to live alone and to lead oneself through the oceans of diverse personal ideas.

*The Earthquake*

Always be humble, simple, obedient, trusting, and fully given to the holy grace of your vocation.

It is a family feast for me to think that I will see you for a few hours.

In the grace and glory of our Lord, I bless you both very paternally in our Lord.

Eymard, Superior

**2070**

**CO 2069**

**TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS**

(U<sup>92</sup> 4 VI 22)

*Paris, October 29, 1867*

Very Reverend Mother,

I wanted to write to you via Father Champion. I only had time to write to Rev. Father Boone about our accepting the foundation offered to the Ladies of Angers. Before accepting, we submitted this offer to His Eminence, as well as our desire to place the Scholasticate there in order to favor the vocation of Belgian candidates. His Eminence received this idea with pleasure. Its purpose, at least I hope, is to give birth to some vocations in that country which is both so Catholic and so sterile for us, and to increase our numbers.<sup>93</sup>

I must go to Brussels shortly for that purpose and I will have the honor of discussing it more at length with you. Very Reverend Mother, it is with religious devotedness that I am in our Lord,

Your respected and devoted servant,  
Eymard, Sup. Congr. SSS<sup>94</sup>

**2071**

**CO 2070**

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

(II 379/395 VI 2)

*Paris, November 3, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Send me:

1. All your Sterlingue receipts
2. Your 20,000 francs. You can get a note at the Angers bank for the Paris bank
3. A letter to Mr. Chauveau, the Paris lawyer, written as follows:

“Sir,

“It’s my pleasure to send you the power of attorney to deal with my affairs relating to Miss Sterlingue, in Nemours. Please do all you can, using the law, if necessary, to withdraw my letters

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<sup>92</sup> Original in the Archives of the Religious of the Eucharist in Belgium.

<sup>93</sup> Literally: strength.

<sup>94</sup> Superior of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

*The Earthquake*

deposited with Mr. Saunier, a notary in Nemours, and return Miss Sterlingue's to her.

"I believe I have the right to claim them, because, contrary to stipulations, she kept a copy through her representative, Mr. Spinay. I have proof that Mr. Spinay showed them to several persons who told me so, personally.

"Respectfully yours...."

I'm waiting for your letter in order to handle all this before the 7<sup>th</sup>.

May God draw us away from this path of misery. I bless you.

All yours,  
Eymard

**2072**

**CO 2071**

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

*(II 380/395 VI 2)*

*112, Boulevard Montparnasse, Paris, November 4, 1867*

Dear daughter,

If Sr. B. goes to Angers, receive her in the house. I thought that the sight of the Blessed Sacrament would overcome her. However I told her that if she was going there to scold you, she should stay where she is.

She has letters ... [*4 lines erased*].

If she ever dared use them, I would be there to answer about it.

Oh! what foolishness, acts of imprudence, and illusions!

Did we deserve to go through that!

Finally, it is a closed question with me. I hope that it will be a good lesson. Sr. Benoit like the others will have helped to bring me out of a childish simplicity and unquestioning trust.

I sent you a dispatch asking you to send me the letter in which I was asking you to advance 6,000 francs to Miss Sterlingue. I wanted to see whether we might recover something.

I saw the lawyer. He will do all he can to obtain the letters.

Pray very much for that; they should be withdrawn.

I bless you,  
Eymard

[4 lines erased]

**2073**

**CO 2072**

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

(II 381/395 VI 2)

*Paris, November 6, 1867*

Dear daughter,

I received everything. It is being taken care of, but what will we gain? Nothing much. At least we will have done everything possible. I'm leaving to spend three days at Rennes.

All yours,  
Eymard

When I return, I'll write to Fr. Grolleau.

*Nov. 6, 7, 8 - To Rennes, possibly for an Adoration Retreat.*

**2074**

**CO 2073**

**TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE**

(IV 99/104)

*Paris, November 10, 1867*

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

Finally, I received news from you! Thank you for writing. I was beginning to worry. Last Saturday, I almost had the opportunity to go surprise you. I was at Rennes on Friday. I had decided to pass through Redon and to go spend the night at Nantes, when I felt weak because of some sort of flu. I hurried to take the coach for Paris. I am better now, however, and I found your letter when I arrived.

You accuse yourself very forcefully of laziness: it's possible; of not being sufficiently generous in those things that God is asking of you: it's probable. Suppose even that it is certain. Good Fr. Rich doesn't challenge you very much. To sum it up, it seems that you aren't very satisfied with yourself. Is that also true of the good Lord? It's possible. Then what should you do?

From now until Christmas, sacrifice those things which are unnecessary or useless for your personal use or suitable to your situation. - Then you will find peace with yourself.

Our good Master has been asking you that for such a long time, that you will do it for his divine Christmas gift! Do even more on the day of your monthly retreat: examine what personal objects you have which might be superfluous, then write to tell me and we will see together what could be done that would be either good or better. Especially dear daughter, you must get out of this continual state of self-blame from your conscience. There may be a great deal of temptation in it. Well! We will have to see to it in reality.

Find peace, then devotion in your prayer and finally union with our Lord, but a union of life and thought.

I am very happy about the slightly reassuring news regarding your dear sister. Your letter had made me fear her possible departure for our heavenly Home.

Yes, I will ask the good Lord again to leave her with you. Be very faithful to your prayers, to holy recollection and to the presence of God!

*The Earthquake*

At the end of the week I must go to Brussels for 4 or 5 days. Then around the 25<sup>th</sup>, to Marseilles for about 2 weeks. I don't know when I'll go to Angers, perhaps sooner than I expect. I will be going to Brussels to raise one more little throne for our Lord.

I bless you dear daughter. In the divine charity of our Lord,

I am always and ever yours,  
Eymard, Superior

**2075**

**CO 2074**

**TO FR. PAUL MARIE MARECHAL, SSS**  
(VI 2/3)

*Paris, November 10, 1867*

Dear Friend,

I was due to leave for Brussels yesterday. Urgent business kept me back and obliged me to stay here until next Friday. So I am available to accompany you to St Maurice.

I shall visit your dear mother to comfort her shortly after your departure.

Accomplish well this supreme sacrifice of Abraham, dear friend - we make it but once in a lifetime. It is the supreme act of the love of God. It has the value of a baptism and a martyr's victory. Besides, God rewards a hundredfold whatever we leave for his sake.

Believe me, in our Lord, dear friend,

All yours,  
Eymard

**2076**

**CO 2075**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**  
(V 44/52)

*Paris, November 11, 1867*

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to thank you for your letter, I was expecting it. I praise God for your divine ownership of a Tabernacle. You are the most fortunate of secular Catholics. You have everything that one could have which is heavenly and divine in this world, together with everything necessary to enjoy it: the peace of the country, solitude from the world, domestic independence, the ability to go - when you will and as often as you will - to visit our Lord in person. Then also, holy Mass daily, loving devotion, and Jesus, your eucharistic center, your grace, your law, your consolation, your world in this world. What more could you have and desire?

So, have a great love for your house of l'Isle, that Bethany of our Lord, the permanent Cenacle of his eucharistic life!

I find that you are very fortunate: at least, no one disturbs you when you are at the feet of Jesus! Oh! Remain there as he wants you to be, in the way he lets you be, as he makes you be. Our state of soul is its thought, prayer, and natural love. We must be ourselves in God's sight. - God changes the seasons to vary the work, the fruit of the earth. Well, our soul is the soil of grace.

*The Earthquake*

Apply yourself to achieve a stable spirit of divine love in your various duties, actions, and interior states.

The nature of the sun doesn't change because the clouds veil it in passing.

I beg you, never hold on to black clouds. These black clouds can only harm you; because they are black they are bad and come from the devil. Oh! You are so sensitive! It takes so little to disturb your soul!

I understand that we can't always experience the joy of Heaven, but you can always dwell in our Lord's obedience and wait patiently for the return of the sun which will not delay ... (five lines erased).

I will leave for Brussels (2 bis rue des Douze-Apotres) on Saturday. Sunday, we will raise up a second throne for our Lord at 8:00 a.m. Unite yourself to us; I will place you at his feet as an adorer.

I expect to be back in Paris on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup>, and leave to go to Marseilles the following week for 2 weeks (7, rue Nau). I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

**2077**

**CO 2077**

**TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES**  
(VI7/7)

*Paris, November 12, 1867*

Your Eminence,

I cannot bless God and Your Eminence enough for the new house of adoration we are to open in Brussels. I hope it will bear some fruit of salvation in these new districts. I have heard by letter that the Pastor there is most happy about it, and that the people in these districts are delighted to see this chapel open.

Next Sunday [Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>], Your Eminence, we wish to bless the house and begin adoration in this new chapel. I shall go there myself.

In submitting this small foundation to Your Eminence's approval we have been counting on the favors granted for the first: the faculty of Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and daily Benediction.

We are happy to be yours, Your Eminence; our whole desire is to make ourselves useful, and thus manifest our deep gratitude for your kindness to us.

It is with the deepest veneration and gratitude that I dare say that I am,

Your Eminence's most humble and devoted servant,  
Eymard,  
Superior of the Congregation  
of the Blessed Sacrament

**2078**

**CO 2076**

**TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS**  
(I 49/54)

*Paris, November 12, 1867*

Dear Father,

Next Sunday, we will be opening a second house of adoration in Brussels. It will be the beginning of a Scholasticate.

The excellent foundress is giving us a beautiful house and a magnificent garden in the new quarter, called Leopold, where there are no convents, nor churches.

His Eminence accepts the foundation with pleasure. It may become the principal one, for it is better to be in our own home. If ever the Ladies of Adoration of Sols Street wanted us elsewhere, we wouldn't be homeless.

This matter is entirely providential. We are going because the Ladies of Angers could not go.

Dear Father, I still can't specify the date of my trip to Marseilles. It will be when I return from Brussels.

Pray very much for us. I will aim to send you someone, but look for someone for next Sunday's Mass.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2079**

**CO 2078**

**TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN**  
(IV 16/19)

*Paris, November 14, 1867*

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I will go to Lyons only in about 12 days, if I stop on the way; or in about three weeks, if it were only when I return from the south. You can be sure that you still have the priority when I pass.

I read your short letter attentively. You are acquiring the quality or the fault of your dear mother: to say a great deal in a few words.

1. Don't be troubled by your distractions of mind and life when you first reached Calet. It's not surprising. You were in a hot-house at St. Romans, and now you are exposed to all the winds. However, you must become acclimatized to your new and usual position in life. You must find God in your varied activities: how can this be done? By frequent aspirations, by frequently renewing the offering of your intentions during your actions. The essential thing that nothing can replace is to get a supply of strength and recollection for the whole day during your morning prayer. That is the first and absolute condition of your spiritual, even natural life, because God has willed that the spiritual life complete and help you succeed in your exterior life and duties as head of the house.

That is not a reason to pity you because your kindness depends on living more abundantly in God: fortunate necessity!

As much as possible, give the best of yourself to your prayers when you are alert and renewed by grace.

*The Earthquake*

It would be good to vary your subjects of prayer in order to avoid distaste for a never-changing diet. I would like to see you vary according to the liturgical seasons.

During Advent, meditate on the preparation for the feast of Christmas, and after Christmas on the feasts that follow. During Lent, on the Passion. You have “*L’Horloge de la Passion*” by St. Alphonsus Liguori; marvelous “Meditations on the Passion” by F. Alleaume, Jesuit; “*Pensees et Affections sur la Passion*”, in three volumes, at Widow Rusand, rue Cassette.

Here is another plan.

On Sundays, meditate on Heaven: Chapter 47, 48 49 of the *Imitation*.

On Monday, on the law of the love of God: you will love the Lord your God with all your mind and with all your heart, with all your senses, through all your works. That is the Law! To consider the graces of love we receive, the proofs of God’s love for us, our promises of love; and lastly, our infidelity, our negligence. That would be the starting point for the week.

On Tuesday, on the interior life, which consists in:

1. observing one’s insights and stirrings of grace;
2. adoring our Lord by all our faculties;
3. praising, loving and embracing the holy Will of God upon you as you do or will know it.

On Wednesday, the external life, modeled on the Holy Family of Nazareth in one’s duties, external contacts, in zeal.

On Thursday, on the Eucharist.

On Friday, on the Passion.

On Saturday, on the Blessed Virgin.

Be attentive to relate these subjects to the holy Communion which is to follow, and which must be the center, inspiration and the end of the whole spiritual life.

Always be gracious and pleasant within, holy and dignified externally, virtuous for yourself and tender for God: these are your four cardinal virtues.

I will stop now and I’m going to celebrate Mass. I bless you both: father and mother, and dear little Gerard.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, P.S.<sup>95</sup>

**2080**

**CO 2079**

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)**  
(V 69/76)

*Paris, November 14, 1867*

Dear daughters in our Lord,

I didn’t travel to Belgium. I will go only on Saturday; I will stay about a week. I am going to raise a new throne for our Master. Pray that it may be solid and fruitful.

Therefore, I will not be able to go to Marseilles for another 12 days. In any case, I will write to tell you, for you are my true eucharistic family, and I owe myself to you first of all, happy if I could help your dear souls.

Now that you have to attend to everything, you must budget your time, in order that God may always have his. Then, your various external duties must have theirs, according to their order and importance.

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<sup>95</sup> Abbreviation for Priest of the Society.

*The Earthquake*

Also watch over your health, for it is necessary to be able to deal with our duties without fatigue, especially when they are so numerous.

Dear daughters, I leave you to our good and mutual Master in whom I am always happy to be,

All yours,  
Eymard, SS<sup>96</sup>

P.S. I just received your letter and I reopened mine to tell you not to change anything in your way of praying privately with private intentions.

Following the schedule, pray and act interiorly as if you didn't have distractions or scattered thoughts, even when this manner of praying would seem to feed them or give them birth, because it's better. Do not fight your distractions directly, even during the essential parts of holy Mass. Be satisfied to renew your attention at that time. The most you can do is to humble yourself about it in passing.

*Nov 16-21 - To Brussels for the inauguration.*

*Nov 17 - At 8 o'clock Father opened the second house of Brussels which was to be the beginning of a Scholasticate.*

**2081**

**CO 2080**

**TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS**  
(U<sup>97</sup> 5 VI 22)

*Brussels, November 21, 1867*

Very Esteemed Mother,

I was hoping to come see you, but I could not. I would have been very happy to see Rev. Father Boone, and to assure him that this new foundation is more for the good of the first one than against it. His lack of response to my letter announcing it would have hurt me if I was not aware of his many occupations. I would also have hoped to hear a word springing from your love for our little Society. God desired this sacrifice from me. However, I cannot be silent about the satisfaction which I felt when I learned that, dear Rev. Mother, you had suppressed the collection and the subscriptions for the chairs.

As for the work of Madame your Aunt, we can only praise it, but not take responsibility for it. However, if there were need only to substitute for someone, we would always be happy to render service. You can surely have Fr. P... say the Mass without, however, promising that this Mass would be said at the altar of exposition. For you know the rules, and I do not like to favor a devotion which would take away from a point of canon law. I have given orders to carry out what should have been done for the foundations and Masses.

Please accept my feelings of respect in our Lord, Very Reverend Mother,

From your very humble,  
Eymard, Sup. Congr. SSS

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<sup>96</sup> Abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

<sup>97</sup> Original in the Archives of the Religious of the Eucharist in Belgium. (Fr. E. Stalmans SSS Belgium 1994)

**TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS**  
(150/54)

A.R.T.

*Paris, November 28, 1867*

Very dear Father,

It is impossible for me to go to Marseilles at this time, in spite of my great desire. In sixteen days we will have a large First Communion and perhaps an ordination on the 21<sup>st</sup>. What is holding me back the most is the proposal to buy ourselves a house. The house in question must be sold by December 11. If we could buy it, it would suit us very well. It is on Grenelle Street, at St. Germain's, facing La Fontaine's, with 1750 meters of land. We are not at ease here, and we would never do anything worthwhile: our chapel is too small, and we cannot enlarge it. These, dear Father, are the three major events which are keeping me here. They are too important for me to leave [now]. But when February comes, I will be happy to come see you.

I see that you are overworked. So, even though we can manage with five, I will try to bring you someone. We must pray to our Good Master to choose a few adorers in that locality. Provence is so poor in vocations!

I was greatly edified and consoled in Brussels. On November 17<sup>th</sup> we placed our Lord on this new little throne, in the midst of a large gathering, which was devout and enthusiastic: the Ixelles sector is very pious, and welcomed us joyfully.

On the 21<sup>st</sup>, we had the profession of Frs. Cardot and Crepon, of Brothers Francois and Vincent. The Pastor of the Parish attended and had dinner with us. He is a holy priest.

Five religious are with Fr. Champion in the new house: that is, Fr. O'Kelly, Brothers Francois, Theodore and Vincent. In the house at the Twelve Apostles,<sup>98</sup> we have Fr. Crepon, Superior, Fr. Cardot and three new brothers from the country.

Fr. Augonnet left us during my absence. He is the one I wanted to send to Marseilles to replace Fr. O'Kelly, but he felt that his health wasn't strong enough, and he withdrew.

There are a few new vocations which are being tested.

See you soon, dear Father, for I really want to see you and your whole household.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, S.

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<sup>98</sup> rue des Douze-Apotres, Brussels

**2083**

**CO 2082**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**  
(VII 17/20)

*Paris, November 28, 1867*

Madame in our Lord,<sup>99</sup>

Monday I accompanied Brother Paul<sup>100</sup> to St. Maurice, I settled him in his cell and I left him happy and generous. When we parted I promised him I would bring you there some day. You will see this delightful place. Your dear son was very generous. His will is such that he is apt to become a great saint. I admired his love for duty, the life of the law - just like the others. With such principles one can go far and fly high. - You will not lose your dear Paul, dear Madame. I am keeping him for you with God, and he will be even more of a son and more helpful.

I would like to come see you and your fine mother on Sunday. I will arrive toward Saturday evening as formerly. So then, unless I write you to the contrary, I will leave Saturday night.

I would like to see you before my trip to Marseilles. I was due to leave tomorrow, but I have so much business that I am putting it off till later.

There are three major affairs which are holding me back: the purchase of a house on December 11th; the first Communion of our workers on the 15<sup>th</sup>; then, the ordination on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Pray for all these things, please. Please remember me to your good, dear mother and to your dear children who, I know, are with you at this time.

Believe me in our Lord,

Dear Madame,  
All yours,  
Eymard S.G.<sup>101</sup>

**2084**

**CO 2083**

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

*Paris, November 29, 1867*

My dear friend and brother,

I am returning Piny's book for you to copy. While writing, correct what is out-dated in the style. It can no longer be found. Don't tire yourself over it, just give it your free time. I will not go to Marseilles before Christmas.

I wrote to your dear mother last night. I shall go to see her on Saturday evening and Sunday; I shall go to give her good news about you.

Dear friend, find God in the calm and peace of solitude. It is easier to find him there. Enjoy God in his goodness to you and follow the path of his divine Providence which has so sweetly and powerfully led you to where you are now.

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<sup>99</sup> Excerpt from a letter.

<sup>100</sup> her son.

<sup>101</sup> Abbreviation for Superior General.

*The Earthquake*

Reflect diligently on our Lord in his divine Sacrament and you will be as happy as one can be on this road to Heaven.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear friend and brother,

All yours,  
Eymard

**2085**

**CO 2084**

**TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE**  
(IV 100/104)

*Paris, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1867*

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I read your retreat letter carefully. I am answering it with simplicity as usual.

1. God loves you with a very special and merciful love. He is giving you many graces. He wants you to belong totally to him, but his love is frustrated by the fact that you see your weakness too clearly, know it too well, and keep it ever present. This chills and troubles your heart; it can't be otherwise. Since your poor soul is almost always blaming itself or at fault, you must change your way. The path you are following is too thorny and doesn't help you move forward. I accept your words that you are falling off, but it isn't effective to stop on the slope, to despair, or slip.

Believe me: forget yourself more with God, look more closely at the details of his goodness, of his divine Providence in action. Let his love be your point of departure; its greatness is seen in proportion to our unworthiness. God loves us though we are poor and unfaithful and so deserves our gratitude all the more: that is the means that would help you to get up and find courage. Do this without delay and try to forget yourself. You will see your faults better in God's mercy than in yourself.

Find recollection not in yourself, nor in your actions, but in this divine goodness. Then heaven will seem purer and the sun more life-giving. You don't savor God sufficiently in himself.

2. Well then, keep your 100 sets of sheets and your other pieces of furniture and personal items. Especially, don't neglect your personal attire: have more rather than less, because at your age a person would tend to be negligent and neglectful. Please don't give up what you have, take good care of it. However, it seems to me that you have enough clothing and that it would be well to limit yourself to that. As for books, especially old ones and also new ones, I would urge you to acquire some rather than deprive yourself. They will always be fine furnishings for you and for others.

I haven't gone to Marseilles yet. I expect to go after the Christmas holidays. I would really like to go to Angers and Nantes, but Heaven's wind isn't yet blowing in that direction.

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

All yours,  
Eymard, S

**2086**

**CO 2085**

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)**  
(V 70/76)

*Paris, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1867*

Dear daughters in our Lord,

I am still in Paris in the midst of a thousand and one things to do. I don't expect to go to Marseilles until the beginning of January. I will let you know in advance.

I am praying for you and I so much want to see you. Our good Master will give me this pleasure shortly.

In the meantime, I visit you in our Lord, in whom you both are ever present to me.

You are all his, as he is all yours. Do what he says and what pleases him. Let his gentle and holy Will lead you. Consider the necessities of your position and life as the present law of his divine Will. The demands of your duties and the propriety of your situation are the marks of his holy Will.

A soul that belongs to God finds its whole life in these two laws: God wills it or God does not will it.

The perfection of love consists entirely in doing each thing as God wills it and in God's spirit.

The best grace is the grace of our interior state, which then becomes our form and law of action.

Always consult it carefully.

Dear daughters, I leave you to our Lord, whom I will consecrate and offer to his heavenly Father. You will have a generous share in it.

I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard

**2087**

**CO 2087**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**  
(V 45/52)

*Paris, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1867*

Madame in our Lord,

On this beautiful day I want to write you a few lines. I read your last letter carefully, and I see that your soul is a little sad, and sometimes barren in the presence of our Lord. That is our situation in this poor life of exile and weakness. We must expect it, the Heavenly sun doesn't always shine on it, but there is always enough light to see and follow the narrow path which is ever widening for a faithful soul.

What is more, you are walking in our Lord's company. You dwell with him, how fortunate you are! - Jesus Savior is working at your salvation with you. This Jesus, the future Judge you fear so much, of whom you are so afraid, is nevertheless working with you and shares your life and actions. Therefore, he will judge himself when he judges you. Then, he will be kind, so kind. So don't make him out to be nasty or severe. You wouldn't dare to do that to a friendly and faithful heart.

I would be pleased if you would use the thorns and storms of the journey to find our Lord better still. We enjoy the fire when we return from a cold place; we love our good Master even more when we have experienced one that isn't as good.

*The Earthquake*

It's better for us if the path to the promised land isn't too beautiful or too lovely; we would become attached to the desert and to the path.

Our Lord loves you too much to let you be happy without him and outside of him.

Your life would be too secular if you found life too pleasant. Let our Lord act and follow him with love and gratitude for everything.

Next Sunday, 38 young workers will make their First Communion at the 8:00 Mass. If only you were here! Poor children! Poor of everything and in everything, except in the goodness of God. Their clothing is ready. God will pay for them, because we don't have anything left.

Isn't it on Septuagesima Sunday that the sermon will be given at St. Clotilda's? Our collectors will not all be there; think about calling on yours.

I will leave you to go sing holy Mass and I will pray for you, for your husband and your good little Charlotte. Is she forgetting the stole for her vestment which I am still happy about, because it comes from her?

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

*Dec. 12 Public conference: Jesus Christ our Model in the Blessed Sacrament.*

**2088**

**CO 2088**

**TO CARDINAL ALESSANDRO BARNABO, PREFECT OF PROPAGANDA**  
(VI4/4)

*Paris, 112 Boulevard Montparnasse, December 22, 1867*

Your Eminence,

I have the honor to send to Your Eminence, following the order received from you in your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> of the current month, the two Rescripts from the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda. The first was asked of me by a Nuncio of His Holiness to whom I had rendered some services to help him in his difficult mission in 1848. This Rescript concerns the sick and infirm. - The difficulty they experience in reciting 20 Our Fathers, 20 Hail Marys and 20 Glory Be's - the normal conditions - was reduced to a shorter prayer which I would determine in each case. I did no more than follow what had been determined by Mgr Douarne, Vicar Apostolic of New Caledonia, who had a similar Rescript.

I have often complained of certain false certificates containing incorrect conditions, and I correct them whenever they occur.

I know that this favor from the Holy See has awakened some reactions. Your Eminence is Judge of that. You will keep or return these two Rescripts to me if you consider it wise. God preserve me from trying to do a good thing which was not according to the spirit and devotion of the Gift, which was made to me by His Holiness at your request.

It is with the deepest respect that I kiss the hem of your sacred Purple and call myself in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Your Eminence's most humble and obedient servant,  
Pierre Eymard  
Sup. Cong. SS. St.<sup>102</sup>

<sup>102</sup> Abbreviation for Superior of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

**2089**

**CO 2096**

**TO REV. FR. JEAN-CLAUDE COLIN, S.M.**  
(VI 6/6)<sup>103</sup>

[Paris], December 26, 1867

I call upon you an outpouring of graces and merits for the intention you expressed, and I do so with joy, for I come from that beautiful and beloved Society of Mary. I am and will be part of it until my death. I have a burning desire to see the Father Founder once again.

**2090**

**CO 2089**

**TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS**  
(I 51/54)

Paris, December 26, 1867

Dear Father,

I kept waiting to specify my departure date for Marseilles before answering you. I have been so busy with matters at hand: the house, the ordination, the First Communion, the novitiate, that I couldn't settle on it. However, I hope to be in Marseilles on the holy day of the Epiphany. At least, that's my wish.

I have nothing definite to say about this property. However, I am more inclined to the negative, given the bankruptcy of Le Clere which puts us in a difficult situation. Angers will cost us a great deal, and Paris has nothing, for we did not get the house I had spoken to you about, on Grenelle Street, at St. Germain. It's a good thing because given this loss, we would have really been in a difficult position. God does for the best. If those gentlemen want to wait for my arrival, we will study it again. Otherwise, we must wait.

You can send Brother Francois when you see that his substitute is capable and stable. However, since it is only a few days, it's better to wait.

Here is a thought I want to share with you. If I gave you Fr. Billon, at least for a short time, while he was there he could put his interests in order and sell his house. We would miss him here, because he is doing much good, and he is an excellent religious, but he is also your protege. Tell me how you feel about this.

Brother Jules is too new for a change, since he still needs to study a little.

Dear Father, receive my most eucharistic wishes<sup>104</sup> for you, who are so dedicated, so zealous in your holy vocation, and for your dear Brothers.

*Adveniat regnum eucharisticum*;<sup>105</sup> that is all we hope for. May heaven grant us to see it grow in our Society.

<sup>103</sup> At the end of 1867, Father Colin was to put the last touches of his "Constitutions"; he asked Father Eymard to pray for that intention. The above is his reply.

<sup>104</sup> Wishes for the New Year.

<sup>105</sup> May your eucharistic kingdom come.

I remain very united to you in our Lord.

Very dear Father, all yours,  
Eymard

**2091**

**CO 2090**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 382/395 VI 2)

*Paris, December 26, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm writing to thank you for your spiritual gifts and your kind wishes for me.<sup>106</sup> I return them with my whole soul, and ask our Lord to comfort you for so many trials, relieve you from so many sufferings, and give you joy and happiness in his holy service.

You have suffered very much this year, poor daughter! It was enough to kill someone, if God's grace were not greater than the cross!

God has drawn his glory from it all, and you will have gained much merit for Heaven. However, don't let the cross drag you down, you must be stronger than the cross. - You must especially bear it as the sowing of God's glory. So, rise up, renew your courage and strength. I ask this from our Lord for you and your daughters.

I didn't write to you because I hardly have the strength to do so; I was afraid of the consequences of having strained myself, and I couldn't write very much. Today I feel better; I was afraid of a hernia but the doctor said no.

I didn't give Mr. False the 600 francs, that's all I can remember. It will then be necessary to terminate with him; I'm returning his letter to you. There is no use in making objections. He could cause you difficulties, especially by an absolute claim.

What did I do with that amount? - I don't remember: at the time of Nemours, everything was being swallowed up.

That affair isn't over yet. You cannot believe what trouble it is causing us.

I sent our lawyer to Nemours to settle everything with the notary and that wretched woman. Even though she had been informed by the notary, she wouldn't come to receive her money. However, now we only have to be still. The bill is settled with her notary.

We had to reimburse Miss Sterlingue the 25,000 francs invested with Mr. Le Clere for her Masses. We had to get a loan for that. It was impossible to retreat, because she wouldn't sign the deed without it.

Alas! Poor woman, she really victimized us and took what was not hers. May God forgive her, as I forgive her and ask her salvation from God!

I saw Mr. Le Clere. Since your loan was in shared partnership for liturgy, you didn't go bankrupt as we did. We had 67,000 francs there on which we were counting. May God be praised! Nothing can be done at this point. I'll keep you informed.

I must still go to Marseilles. I expect to do so toward the beginning of January.

Send whatever you can of the things Sr. Philomene is requesting. I understand her request for the jewels, but the rest is really not worth it.

I'm maintaining silence with everyone. I know that Sr. B. is not very well, but as you know that is her condition.

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<sup>106</sup> New Year's wishes.

*The Earthquake*

My compassion for them may be greater than their suffering.  
I bless you, dear daughter, and beg you to pray for me. I need it.

Eymard, Sup.

**2092**

**CO 2091**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**

(I 12/20)

*Paris, December 26, 1867*

Very dear Father,

I am very grateful for your kind letters. They always do my heart so much good, because they come from the heart of a friend and of an old friend, and a great love for the Society which inspires them, and, most of all, the love of our good Master. Thank you, dear Father, for your wishes;<sup>107</sup> I know how genuine and devoted they are. May God repay you a hundredfold, he will repay you for them. He must pay my debts, which are always so great.

Yours is the first mission in the Society to build the first model church. You have endured long and difficult struggles for it. The victory is yours, and you will be praised for it until the end, as long as there is a stone left.

I was busy with ordinations, it is true, then a numerous first Communion, and especially the affair of buying a house on rue Grenelle, St. Germain 11 and 13. It housed the offices of the newspaper "*Le Monde*." We lost it by 50 francs at the auction today. I am not very upset about it, because it was becoming expensive, and we would have been at a loss.

You may have heard about the catastrophe which is affecting us so profoundly: the Le Clere bankruptcy. They say that if we can get 60% we should be satisfied and we had 67,000 francs with them, and I was counting on that for some money for you. I have been putting pressure on them for a long time. Alas! what a trial! it has paralysed my pen and my joy, because you will suffer from it, dear Father.

I will send Fr. Billon to Marseilles to replace Fr. O'Kelly and also so that he may be there to sell his house.

I would have been willing to sell a few Pontifical bonds for a satisfactory sum, but they are so low that we would lose too much. Then also, they have not yet been quoted.

As you can see dear Father, we are not without worries; but our Good Master is there and he sustains and comforts us by the good spirit and fervor of all the members of the Society. The novitiate is beginning to fill up a little. There are 17 in all; 3 Parisians from very good families have entered: that will help the others.

I will be able to go to Marseilles at the beginning of January. They have been asking me to come for so long.

I've just written to poor Mother Marguerite. I'll write to the Bishop of Angers for New Year's Day.

If I can find a day, I would be happy to go visit your dear family.

Believe me ever in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,  
Eymard, Superior

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<sup>107</sup> Wishes for the New Year.

**2093**

**CO 2093**

**TO MISS ANTONIA BOST**  
(IV 27/28)

*Paris, December 26, 1867*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I wanted to visit the newlyweds before answering you. I still haven't been able to do so.

I was very happy to see her; we can see how attentive your brother is and how this young bride is happy! I didn't perceive any cloud.

I will see them more personally and tell you my impressions.

So be comforted and happy. It's a great thing you did by marrying them. A great grace of salvation! I'm still very happy about it, because I love dear Claudius. I didn't know he was so gifted.

And you, dear old daughter, you are the anvil of the cross: that is fine, because it only makes the anvil better. When wheat is well threshed it is totally pure, and the most active flame is the most pure. So each of your relatives must cost you a few blows of the hammer.

Always look for the best in your situation, especially for the goodness of God and the good of your neighbor. That is the great secret of the spiritual life, and of happiness in this world. You know it, because I find that your thoughts have been matured by the sun of trials.

Continue to love our Lord dearly since your heart has been given to him and needs him.

All yours in Jesus Christ,  
Eymard

**2094**

**CO 2094**

**TO MME. LEPAGE**  
(IV 21/26)

*Paris, December 26, 1867*

Dear Madame Lepage and dear daughter in our Lord,

Things have settled down today and I turn to you; you had written.

I went to Belgium. I wanted to see our newlyweds. I saw them; everything seemed fine and they said they were happy. I would have liked to see the young bride to scold her. She is happy, she told me so; is Mr. Claudius as happy? I think so. I will go to see them on the first free day to return their visit. We did a good thing, have no regrets about it. Everything is going well and will go well. I was in Brussels when I read your letter! If I had been closer to you, I would have gone quickly to say: Don't listen to that worry. There is no basis for it; it is a temptation against the good.

Let me wish you a happy New Year. Yes! A good, holy, and happy one in God's service!

Be at peace! God loves you as his privileged child!

Be confident! God has never refused you anything, nor will he refuse you anything!

Be patient toward yourself, your trials will pass; they come from scruples and also from the cross. Place yourself in holy obedience, do everything as if you weren't suffering.

I am sure that you are pleasing to God. Love our good Master attentively and he will hide you in his mantle on stormy days. There is nothing to fear there; we can rest in peace.

*The Earthquake*

I bless you, dear daughter. Give me news about yourself.  
After New Year's, I will leave for Marseilles for a few weeks. What are your plans?

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2095**

**CO 2095**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**  
(V 46/52)

*Paris, December 26, 1867*

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing first of all to thank you for the 200 francs. You are the one who requested them; consequently you have an important part in the gift and the charity.

Our First Communion was very edifying; I had never had such edifying and recollected children. Our good Master must have been pleased with these little souls who were so well-prepared. In the afternoon, Bishop Amanthon came to confirm them and was moved by it.

So that is our mutual work. It isn't known very well in Paris: blessed shall it be if it is well-known by God. I received Miss Charlotte's stole and I thank her for it and for her little note, too. Her vestment is used for our second feasts, and it served for the ordination of Brother Jules, on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>.

I would really like to have you come to Paris soon. Don't create any obstacles to it, on the contrary, work for it, for the greater glory of God.

If your soul were dear to me from the natural point of view, I would ask God with all my strength to take away your crosses and sadness, to take you away from yourself; but I cannot become upset with the good wind which fills the sails for God's blessed port. The ship is going faster, although it is more troubled.

The sins which are most severely punished are sins of sensuality. There is much suffering in Purgatory for sins of desire.<sup>108</sup> Well, you don't have any, God gave you the great grace of surrounding your heart and life with the thorns of the desert: that is your greatest grace of salvation. You would be ineffective with natural pleasure. God knows it. But you still have one very great temptation, it is the temptation to find spiritual peace and happiness in God's service. You are too sensitive in that regard. Love and serve God for Himself, be in love with his holy Will over you, in whatever state he may place you, and you will find peace which is beyond human tribulations, even pious ones.

Let me wish you the very first, a good, holy, eucharistic year for the love and glory of our Lord and the joy of his Heart in your heart.

I bless you in this good Master.

Eymard

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<sup>108</sup> Literally: affection. Perhaps, lust.

**2096**

**CO 2097**

**TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET**  
(VII 13/15)

*Paris, Dec. 26, 1867*

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I still don't know when I can go to Lantignie; I am burdened with work and it soon will be New Year's. I must resign myself to stay in Paris. I can assure you that it is difficult for me because I cannot accept your gracious invitation at this time.

Father Chanuet told me guardedly about your plans for Bauzon. I no longer have the grace for this branch of adorers. No doubt it has my eucharistic love. I have a fatherly concern for Sr. Benoite and Sr. Philomene. I would be very glad to know that they are happy in their eucharistic grace; but things have changed for me. I cannot, according to Rome, be an active agent, and so I can only pray and be silent.

Please receive and offer to Mme. Blanche all my wishes for a holy, and happy New Year.

I bless you and your whole dear family which I love as my own.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, Sup.

**2097**

**CO 2092**

**TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE**  
(IV 101/104)

*Paris, December 26, 1867*

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to return my New Year's wishes to you. I was about to do so when your letter reached me this morning. On New Year's day and the following days, I'll probably be on the train to Marseilles where I expect to stay about 10 days, (7, rue Nau). May Jesus be your divine center: that is my whole wish for you; a total and all-embracing center - that is, the source of your thoughts and desires, the impulse of your actions, the basis of your love, the measure of your sacrifices.

How I would like to see you find your life in God!

My God, dear daughter, our lives are based so much on ourselves, by ourselves, for ourselves! A very negative life, because we concentrate almost only on our sins and faults, our imperfections which need to be healed and deplored! That is what crucifies me so about myself.

So, when shall we love God for his own sake! When will his divine perfections be the delightful subject of our prayers! His divine and unlimited goodness, our recurrent feeling of affection! The love he showed in his life and mysteries, the recurrent subject of our piety! Since unfortunately we are always in this poor world! The heavenly fire is barely a wisp of smoke! Oh! It's high time to make Jesus our life in order to glorify him alone! During your monthly retreat, try to think only about these thoughts.

With my fatherly blessing in our Lord, in whom I am,

All yours,  
Eymard, Superior

**TO FR. HENRI BILLON, SSS**  
(VI1/212)

*Paris, December 30, 1867*

LETTER OF OBEDIENCE

I, the undersigned, Superior of the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament, 112 Boulevard Montparnasse, authorize Father Billon, Director of the Work of First Communion for Adult Workers, to withdraw the amount [of money] which the Welfare Office is entitled to donate for the sake of destitute children.

Eymard, Superior