

CHAPTER II

The Foundation in Angers July 1862 - March 12, 1863

*“All sacrifices put together are like nothing when we have our Lord on his throne. To see him, adore him, love him, serve him. Isn't that Paradise?”
To Josephine Gourd, January 5, 1863.*

Angers:

- Welcome by Bishop Angebault
- Difficulties with civil officials
- Inauguration (December 1862)

The Preacher:

- Annual Retreats for his religious
- Annual Retreats for the Servants
- Profession and Ordination Retreats
- First Communion, Adults
- Octave of Epiphany at Angers

Departure for Rome

1137

CO 1137

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DE CORNULIER)
(IV 39/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, July 9, 1862

Dear Lady,

I couldn't write to you from Tours. I was overwhelmed with work.

I'm [now] here in Paris attending to my ordinary duties and a little more quiet.

I would have liked to go to see you briefly [on my way back] from Tours; I was pressed to return to receive one of our priests who was arriving from Marseilles.

So you still don't have your permission from Rome.¹ How I wish you would have it! You would be so happy to be under the same roof with the good Master!

So things are going a little better for your character defects? Praise God! Do perform the penance when you react too quickly.

Make some progress daily. Don't worry so much about your feet; worry a little more about your heart. Then, be strict to observe my prohibition about your temptation and you will be very pleasing to God, I will answer for that; it is the right way to finish with it. Don't inform anyone about your resolution if you are not asked anything; but simply do it: that will say everything and [say it] better.

Go to Communion and I bless you.

Eymard, S.

1138

CO 1140

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DE CORNULIER)
(IV 39/104)

Spiritual direction written for Mme. de Grandville (V p.81)

July 14, 1862²

1. Follow attentively the decisions [which were] made during your retreat; they were given to you under the influence of grace.

2. Cut short any turmoil or agitation of conscience by simple obedience; be content with a general act of sorrow for anything which has offended God.

3. When your soul is dry, sad and almost discouraged at the sight of your sins, don't begin by looking for the cause in yourself, that would make you feverish; but, turn immediately toward the divine and fatherly goodness of God. With a feeling of humility and trust, confess your weakness, your fault, to him and say: "I am guilty again; am I able to do anything else, oh my God? I accept the humiliation of my condition, the penance I deserve; but keep me at your feet, I do love you and will love you with Magdalen and you will have pity on me once again."

4. Serve our Lord for himself and to please him. Oh! how happy you would be if love were the rule, motive and reward of your actions! How do we act when we love someone for their own sake?

¹ To have the Blessed Sacrament in her home.

² As a document of spiritual direction, this text is placed after the closest letter to the same person: July 9, 1862.

5. Enter resolutely into the freedom of the Lord. The core of this freedom is contained in these words: “May your will be done!” Always keep yourself at the service of this divine will over you. Feel free to do the good that needs to be done, in your duties of state, in scheduling your exercises of prayer; be all things to all people, when God wills it; but only God’s and God’s alone by the law of love.

Hold to everything and to nothing; to everything, when God wills it; to nothing, as soon as God no longer wills it, even your exercises of piety and charity, because God has changed them for something better. Suffering is worth more than prayer, self-denial more than action, silence in God’s presence more than an offering of praise.

6. Lastly, begin this new way of being: let God be your life, not his gifts, his works; live in God, and not in his grace and in his saints; live for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the grace and purpose of your whole life.

Do not worry anymore about your progress, nor about the details of your virtues, nor even about your faults in any systematic way. Do it all in our Lord.

You will make progress when you put yourself aside.

You will find peace only when you go to Jesus by means of Jesus.

May his kindness grant this to you.

Eymard

1139

CO 1138

TO THE COUNTESS D’ANDIGNE

(V 3/52)³

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, July 10, 1862

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I could not answer you from Tours; thank you for remembering me. I was happy to receive news from you.

I like your simple and ready sacrifices. Nothing is good except what God wants.

St. John the Baptist was close to our Lord; he could see him from afar, but he stayed where he was without running to him; obedience required this. His heart alone had the joy of following him.

Be guided by this law of divine love, wanting only what God wills, as he wills and when he wills. Holy surrender is the purest and greatest love; let it be yours. Don’t worry so much about Purgatory; if the Good Lord wills it, you will want it with love. [The thought of] purgatory rejoices my soul as an immense grace of mercy. I know that we must detest the personal cause that leads to it, that is, sin; but even then, we must do so with a gentle humility.

You will go to Heaven, that is the main point. I really like your reflections about our Lord. Oh! yes, let him be your possession and your consolation; it is the greatest you could have.

Jesus is yours, almost alone, he stays in the sacred Host to wait for you there; he likes to converse with you. Let him really be the life, the joy, the happiness of your life!

I bless your difficulties and your crosses; they are the fruit of divine goodness which is pruning the tree; but don’t dwell on your difficulties, surely it’s enough to pass through the fire.

Poor eyes, don’t cry anymore. Take care of them to see the sacred Host. See how happy the soul is when it lives out of love: it only needs a body to suffer and a heart to give and sacrifice itself to divine love.

Goodbye, dear Lady. I bless you in our Lord.

³ Taken from a copy, not the original.

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGBAULT (ANGERS)

(V 1/14)

Angers, July 12, 1862

Dear Excellency,⁴

We come in all simplicity and trust to present to Your Excellency our desire to establish a house of Adoration in your pious city of Angers.

What makes us prefer Angers to other places which are being offered is the thought of raising a throne of honor and love on the very place, if possible, where a wicked priest boldly denied the dogma of the adorable Eucharist.

It seems to us that this would be a foundation of reparation, [which would be] pleasing to God and helpful to priests and faithful.

Therefore, in order that your Excellency may better judge the suitability of our humble petition, may I be so bold as to submit to him the purpose and means of our Society.

Its purpose. - The Society of the Blessed Sacrament, founded in Paris, on May 13, 1856, and honored with a first Letter by his Holiness Pius IX, on January 5, 1859, has as its principal purpose, solemn and perpetual Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, venerated by public worship of perpetual Adoration by its own members, according to the four ends of sacrifice, that is: adoration, thanksgiving, reparation, and the perpetual apostolate of eucharistic prayer.

The divine Office, psalmodied in choir at the canonical hours, is recited as a form of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed.

The secondary purpose of the Society is to devote itself to the glory of our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament by eucharistic apostolate, that is: to make Jesus sacramental known, loved and served by all the means which a pure and prudent zeal can inspire, according to the spirit and purpose of the Society.

Its means. - The Society has two principal means: temporal means and spiritual means.

Temporal means. The Society provides for its own foundation and for the maintenance of its members. Consequently it does not seek to raise funds, or annual collections. In order to devote itself to the eucharistic service of our Lord, it seeks only one thing, the willing consent of Your Excellency.

Spiritual means.

1. For eucharistic worship the Society scrupulously follows the Holy Roman Liturgy.
2. Each of its members, after the canonical steps,⁵ [makes] the three religious vows and the eucharistic vow;
3. The principal works of zeal are: confession, preaching, eucharistic retreats, the Work of First Communion of adults and other works of zeal which have the Blessed Sacrament as its direct purpose.

Spirit of the Society. - The Spirit of the Society can be summarized by the four following virtues:

1. The service of our divine Master, which is the supreme rule and ultimate goal of all the Society's actions and the life of each of its members.
2. Respect and devotedness to the highest authority as coming from God, according to the divine plan.
3. Truth, the unchangeable and inflexible rule of behavior for the Society and its members.
4. To live without privileges, whether civil, ecclesiastical, or religious; to follow the common law in everything, following the example of our Lord.

⁴ Note written in by Bishop Angebault: "I answered July 15th."

⁵ Literally: test, trial. Meaning: period of formation.

The Foundation in Angers

Such are, Your Excellency, the basic principles on which our little Society is based. We await only for the blessing of Your Excellency in order to begin work in Angers. That blessing will be a sure pledge for us of God's [own blessing], in whom I am happy to be, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, Superior

1141

CO 1141

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 12/14)

Paris, July 19, 1862

Dear Mr. Perret,

Everyone here sends you their love and best wishes in God's sight in order that you may come safely to enjoy the success of your holy enterprise.

I am sending you the note from Miss Marie about harmoniums. She looked everywhere - your final advice which we are waiting for will be carried out promptly.

Our good, devout, blind woman is pleased by your kind charity toward her. She is certainly deserving of it.

It would surely be a pleasure for me to attend your beautiful feast of the Blessed Virgin on August 17th, but I'm afraid I have an obstacle at that time. We will unite ourselves to you wholeheartedly.

Believe us all in our Lord, dear Mr. Perret.

All yours,
Eymard⁶

July 20-29 - Visit to Angers in view of a foundation.

1142

CO 1142

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 115/181 VI 3)

Angers, July 21, 1862

Very dear Father,

I saw the Prefect; the Minister's name secured me a good reception, and he even promised me his protection, twice.

He told me that he would write to His Excellency who, I think, will not go back on his word. So the Prefect told me that I could search for a house.... I will write to the Minister about my visit to the Prefect and what he told me: that is the advice I was given.

I was sad not to find the Bishop, who had left on Saturday. Fr. Chneau, his Vicar General, is very kind to us.

⁶ A note from Miss Marie on various brands of harmoniums and a system to replace an organist followed here.

The Foundation in Angers

I ran all day looking at houses, but uselessly: it isn't the right time. The house of the Capuchins would be the best for us; in the meantime, a few people are also looking for something.

I expect to stay over tomorrow, Tuesday, and I would be happy if I could return to Paris Wednesday, but I would like to settle on something.

I am staying at the famous hotel d'Anjou.

Pray for me; the days seem like years.

Eucharistic regards to everyone.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Rev. Fr. de Cuers
religious of the Blessed Sacrament
63 rue fg. St. Jacques
Paris

1143

CO 1143,1

TO THE MINISTER OF WORSHIP⁷
(VII 1/2)

Mr. Minister,

After the audience which Your Excellency kindly granted me on Friday and the assurance that the steps taken for the Capuchins and Barnabites did not pertain to us, since we are auxiliary priests to the Bishops and pastors. I came to Angers to give my reply to the Bishop, who is asking us to come to Angers and into the diocese for the same purpose as in Paris. My first visit, upon arrival, was to the Prefect, to whom I reported what Your Excellency had kindly told me about our plan to come as helpers called by the Bishop. I assured him of our feelings and respect and our loyalty to the government of the Emperor, under whose Empire we came to be in Paris in 1856, with the help of Archbishop Sibour, to labor for the Work of organized Adoration, for priests' retreats, and the religious and free instruction of workers who have not made their first Communion. Our house in Paris is well located for that, at fg St. Jacques 68.

When the Prefect learned about my visit to Your Excellency... the Prefect told me that he would need to write to you about me. As the word of a Minister is a royal word, I am assured of his patronage and I hope to do it honor...

1144

CO 1143,2

TO THE MINISTER OF WORSHIP⁸
(VII 2/2)

July 22, 1862

Mr. Minister,

Following the assurance given to me by Your Excellency on Friday that the steps taken for the

⁷ This is a penciled draft.

⁸ This copy was done in ink.

The Foundation in Angers

Cap[uchins] and the Bar[nabites] for Angers did not pertain to us, I came to Angers to give my reply to the Bishop, who is asking us to come to his help especially for the Work of adoration established in the parishes of the diocese. On arrival, my first visit was to the Prefect, in order that he may know first and through me under what conditions we are coming to Angers. I gave him an account of my meeting with Your Excellency - that we are auxiliary priests living in community - founded in Paris in 1856 by Bishop Sibour, then Archbishop, for the Work of adoration and to establish the Work of First Communion for adult Workers, a work which he lacked, and also to receive priests on retreat.

I assured the Prefect of our loyal and respectful sentiments toward the government of the Emperor. We were born under the Emperor and in Paris. We owe nothing to other governments.

I found the Prefect to be a Magistrate who is loyal to his duties and to the Law. He received me kindly and promised me his kind patronage in case of need. He told me he would have to write to you about me, Mr. Minister. I am happy about it. It will confirm what Your Excellency kindly told me: The word of a Minister is a royal word. I hope to honor it... [incomplete]...

July 29 - Return to Paris.

1145

CO 1144

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 209/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 31, 1862

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Please assign one or two sisters to arrange the flowers for the Most Blessed Sacrament in the morning before the eight o'clock Mass. I will see that they are put in the parlor as early as seven o'clock. The bouquets should be ready at least by seven forty-five. No one is better suited to make these small flower gifts than the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. As it is your beautiful day,⁹ I will try to go say a few words to you at ten o'clock.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Guillot

<i>Aug 2</i>	<i>Monthly Retreat to SSS Religious, Paris. Laziness, Preparation for death.</i>
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⁹ Anniversary and renewal of their vows.

1146

CO 1145

TO MR. DE BENQUE
(VII 2/4)

Paris, August 2, 1862

Dear Mr. de Benque,¹⁰

We would be available to you, Father de Cuers and I, tomorrow, Sunday, at 11 o'clock and at your discretion. You are part of the family, and so we could come see you without any dispensation. Thank you for your dear friendship. See you tomorrow.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1147

CO 1146

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(VII 14/17)

Paris, August 7, 1862

Dear Mother,¹¹

I am really late with you! Not my heart and prayer, but my pen. I bless God for your trip, it was helpful and even necessary. You couldn't break such strong and dear bonds without replacing them immediately with others which are even stronger and more tender, but it could be done only by God and you.

Then, your need for God must have been strengthened by a way of life which is now passed and has been replaced by the adorable Eucharist. What a beautiful and divine center! There we find and rediscover everything in such vibrant love!

Yes, wait for your children to return. It's simpler. I will give the retreat only in the month of September.

I laughed and bless those lovely childlike scenes. How beautiful! Laughter is found where God is well served.

I like to think that you are going to see your dear daughter and Miss Zenaide (Blanc de St. Bonnet). The [presence of God] is felt there even more than nature itself! It will be good for you! Do not sadden charity with the fear of sorrow. There are good tears.

We are all fine. Pray for us and for 60 children who will make their first Communion on August 15th.

Goodbye, dear daughter, and dear Sister in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

P.S. We were expecting Sister Benoitte today, but she was ill in Lyons, and she is still there at Miss

¹⁰ President of the Nocturnal Adoration in Paris.

¹¹ This letter was added at the end of a letter of Fr. Chanuet to his mother.

The Foundation in Angers

Guillot,¹² rue du Juge de Paix, 17, Carmelite house.

Mme. Chanuet
at Mr. Blanc de St. Bonnet
at St. Bonnet via Vaugneray
Rhone

1148

CO 1147

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)
(V 2/14)

Paris, Aug. 9, 1862

Your Excellency,¹³

Allow us to add our wishes and respects to those of your priests and faithful. The feast of St. Lawrence shall also be one of our beloved feasts.¹⁴ Your Excellency, we already like to say that we belong to you, and we hope that it shall soon be so in fact.

When I see you among your people as a Father and tender Shepherd, it is as if I saw our Lord so kind, so simple and so fatherly. You have certainly proved it to us, Your Excellency, by receiving us so kindly.

We are preparing the basic necessities here for the foundation which has already been blessed.

It will be doubly dear to me, by the happy opportunity that it will provide me, to offer you my respects and to receive your wise counsels.

Your Excellency, please bless me and our entire little Society.

I am so happy to be in our Lord, Your Excellency's

Very humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS¹⁵

1149

CO 1148

TO MR. ROSEMBERG AND FAMILY
(VII 7/9)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, August 11, 1862

Dear friends of God,

Thank you for your little letter. Without it, I would still not have answered St. Aignan¹⁶ because it was buried under a pile of others. - What a man I am! Really! I cannot be trusted any more than a day-old child - so don't trust me. Then, sometimes I am like a lost soul, not knowing where to give my attention. Finally, I must admit that I am wrong.

¹² Miss Mariette Guillot, perhaps.

¹³ Note handwritten by Bishop Angebault on this letter: "Answered affectionately Aug. 10th."

¹⁴ Perhaps a patronal feast in Angers.

¹⁵ Abbreviation for Superior of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

¹⁶ A request to preach 40 hour devotions at St. Aignan.

The Foundation in Angers

I will then go to St. Aignan on August 22, 23, 24th. I would have to be very sick not to go and visit you briefly in the name of God on the 25th and see good papa Dupont.

Do pray for us - Sr. Benoite arrived Saturday. She is a little better. Her trip was marvelous with remarkable conversions. She loves you all very much, and so do I.

I bless you wholeheartedly. I saw your dear brother; he is always so kind.

Continue to be the children of divine Providence and be sure that [Providence] would perform miracles rather than abandon you.

My friendship to all.

All yours,
Eymard, S.

Aug. 15 - First Communion of 60 Adult Workers.

Aug. 19 or 20 until approximately Aug. 27 - To Angers for civil matters related to the desired foundation.

1150

CO 1149

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 40/104)

Angers, August 20, 1862

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am here in Angers to study the possibility of a house of adoration without knowing yet whether the Good Lord really wants it.

The Bishop is receiving us with his characteristic kindness and devotion. However, I hear that the Prefect is against any religious establishments. We have already noticed it, because he influenced the thinking of the Minister of Worship who had given permission. -May everything turn to the greater glory of God!

If you hadn't been away from Nantes, I would have gone to see you for 24 hours. But it's impossible: I am leaving tonight for Saint Aignan (Loire and Cher), near Blois, where I will be preaching adoration until next Sunday.

So your holy Pastor is in God's arms! I can understand your pain, your tears, your loss. Such strong and holy bonds are not broken indifferently. -But you still have God, dear daughter, and he will not forsake you; you are all his and he is all yours.

But now where shall you go? You have four choices: my advice is to do what is easiest, in the first place. Go where you won't have to wait too much, walk too far. Go to the closest place, if possible.

You have grown now, you know how to direct yourself somewhat, or rather, our Lord is the one who is directing the ship. Your formation is somewhat complete; your direction mustn't be a kind of slavery nor a center of life, but a simple grace.

Where would you go if you didn't know me? Well, go there; at least try it, open your conscience. Then you will see whether you feel a spontaneous trust.

Please, dear daughter! Look at heaven, and may the sight of those who attained it before us, encourage and strengthen us.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

The Foundation in Angers

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

Madame de Grandville
8 rue Saint Laurent
Nantes

1151

CO 1150

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 44/76)

Angers, August 20, 1862

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter. I was anxious to receive news from you, and it isn't too bad. May God be praised! You are right to surrender yourself into God's hands, for life and death. We sleep peacefully when we sleep on God's heart; we travel happily when God carries us. However, do what must be done; you are right not to frighten the people around you, you wouldn't have a single moment of freedom and rest.

In your illness pray very little on your knees; as soon as you feel a bit uncomfortable, sit down. You may say your five Our Fathers and five Hail Marys to replace the Way of the Cross, as you wish. Begin them on your knees, if you wish, except while traveling or when you are in bed.

I share your criticism of the flyers. Offer that sacrifice to God for yourself.

Always maintain a spirit of love and trust; all your virtue and strength lie in that.

I bless you and your dear daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I will be in Paris in a week.
Madame Gourd

1152

CO 1151

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 46/52)

To Miss Stephanie,¹⁷

Thank you, dear Mademoiselle, for your little note about your dear mother. May God give her back to you in good health!

As her nurse, you share her privileges and difficulties.

Go to God by the charity of divine love. It is the season's harvest. Take care of yourself a little; take advantage of opportunities for catnaps, it is such a pressing need for you.

Always be happy around your father and mother; it brings joy to the house.

Please! always be simple with God, a bit recollected within yourself, kind and pleasant toward

¹⁷ There is no indication of place or date on which this letter was written. The contents make this placement a possibility.

The Foundation in Angers

your dear neighbor and very happy with your grace.

I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard. S.

Aug 22, 23, 24

Eucharistic Triduum (40 hours) at St. Aignan

Notes:

Opening of 40 hours: This is the acceptable time, these are the days of salvation (Rm. 13, II Cor. VI 2)

Plan II Abraham longed to see my day. He saw it and rejoiced. (Jn. 8)

If you knew the gift of God – faith

Eucharistic Faith

Eucharist and Priesthood

Return to Paris via Tours.

1153

CO 1152

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)

(VII 15/17)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, August 28, 1862

Dear mother and dear sister in our Lord,

I read your last letter with the heart which God has given me to help you and to receive you into his adorable service. Do what seems suitable before coming. Then you will let our Lord take care of the rest, and he will take care of everything.

I am happy to see that your heart aspires to the Blessed Sacrament and that you appreciate its grace. It is surely the greatest grace of all. You are leaving creatures to come to the Creator, the one who is the principle and the end, the center of every life.

We are beginning our retreat September 1st and will finish on the 8th. The one for the Sisters will begin the following Sunday, the 14th. If there were to be a change, we would write to tell you in time.

Everything is the same as usual. Sr. Benoite is well enough. We are praying a great deal for you, because you are on the battlefield.

I bless you in our Lord. Remember that this farewell takes place once in a lifetime and can enrich you in God's sight. All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

Mme. Chanuet
at Lantigne
via Beaujeu, Rhone

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 41/75)

Paris, August 31, 1862

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

If I had not just returned from a trip, I would be ashamed of my delay. We are working for a foundation in Angers, and I was constantly on the road. You left your net behind, God's net! I will send it to you when I find out positively where you will be.¹⁸

Your letter left me with the impression that God was working in you and wants you to be totally his, but through sacrifice and especially by the gentleness of patience and freedom of heart.

You know that God is drawing you, wants you as his child, and that you are giving him much to do to remove, cut and break every obstacle on your path.

Go toward our good Master by surrender more than by effort, by love more than by virtues, by recollection more than by action. In a word, dwell in God and you will be in your divine center. I will pray for your dear niece whom I remember with joy.

I know that Mr. de Pina, the father, was the most respected person of Grenoble. He was the mayor.

Pray for us; we are beginning our retreat tomorrow morning for 7 days, and I am the one who will be giving it. Added to that I have neuralgia. I hope it will be [like] dew from Heaven.

Goodbye, dear Madame, my kind regards to your dear daughter and to your nieces.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

Sep 1-8 Annual Retreat to SSS Religious (men), Paris

	<i>Opening: Counsels for Retreat</i>
<i>Sep 1</i>	<i>1st Meditation: God's call to the Eucharistic Vocation</i> <i>Conference: Self-knowledge</i> <i>2nd Meditation: Eucharistic vocation</i>
<i>Sep 2</i>	<i>Condition for vocation</i> <i>Conference: Purpose of amendment</i> <i>2nd Meditation: Eucharistic Service</i>
<i>Sep 3</i>	<i>[On this day, letter to Bishop Angebault]</i> <i>Conditions for service: The wedding garment</i> <i>Conference: On the form of eucharistic meditation</i> <i>2nd Meditation: Tepidity</i>
<i>Sep 4</i>	<i>1st Meditation: The eucharistic life of Jesus</i> <i>Conference: Society, center of life</i> <i>2nd Meditation: Eucharistic humility of Jesus</i>
<i>Sep 5</i>	<i>1st Meditation: Religious poverty & the Eucharist</i> <i>Conference: Modesty</i> <i>2nd Meditation: Jesus, obedient in the Eucharist</i>

¹⁸ Meaning unclear.

Sep 6	<i>Counsels</i> <i>1st Meditation: On the Eucharistic love of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i> <i>Conference: How to acquire the virtues</i> <i>2nd Meditation: Interior life of our Sacramental Lord</i>
Sep 7	<i>Meditation on Mary and the Eucharist</i>

1155

CO 1155

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)

(V 3/14)

Paris, Sept. 3, 1862

Your Excellency,

First, I want to thank Your Excellency for such fatherly kindness toward us, and then reply to the various questions you were so kind as to present to us.

1. We have only two houses: one in Paris and one in Marseilles. I had explained this to the Minister, and a public chapel in each house.

2. I also told His Excellency [the Minister] that we are an association of secular priests under the jurisdiction of Bishops and auxiliaries to their religious works, especially of adoration and of First Communion of adult workers.

In the Paris Brief or Ordo, we are listed only under the title of Priests of the Blessed Sacrament, after the other Congregations.

3. I also told His Excellency [the Minister] that we live from our own revenues, which are stable.

4. I spoke about the Church of St. Lawrence which is in ruins on the Knoll, of our intention to restore it and how we would go about it. That is when the Minister outlined the steps I should follow in this case, that is: it would require a petition from Your Excellency for a mission church; the petition needs to be submitted to the State Council, which should not ordinarily result in any difficulties; that the Bishop of Tarbes had just done this for the church of Lourdes.

5. I did not request any authorization from the Minister to go to Angers; Yours, Your Excellency, is sufficient. I only told him that Your Excellency was calling us for a work of adoration; that the work of adoration was public, with a chapel. When the Minister told me that there are at least 600 churches or chapels tolerated there, I answered that it would be one more.

This, Your Excellency, is the summary of my interview with His Excellency. There was a good rapport. He even suggested that I would do well to buy the house of the Capuchin Fathers, etc.

The Minister is mistaken about our situation in Paris. He is supposing that we have several establishments in Paris. We have only one, and I do not direct any other.

I consider the reply of the Minister as a kind consideration and as a promise of authorization. He said, "The question today concerns only the work of perpetual adoration; we are not questioning the principal work (of the large church of St. Lawrence)."

As for the place and size of the chapel dedicated to adoration, about which the Minister wants information, the Capuchin's house is available for rent, or the former hotel de Combray near the Knoll for sale. It seems to me, Your Excellency, that this last location, situated among the poor, far from the two parish churches, would be well received. The chapel we would serve would be modest.

Since the Minister knows that we have public worship, it might be better, Your Excellency, not to speak about a room for our chapel, which would seem very personal. Here, we have adoration

day and night.

I am quite confident that the answer will be affirmative. I will see Mr. Amil¹⁹ immediately after our annual retreat, which will finish Sept. 8th.

Our Lord owes it to you to bless the work which your great love for his glory has begun. I believe, Your Excellency, that you are the first Bishop to form a Society of priests for adoration. You gave us the excellent Father Leroyer. Therefore, we will be your happy debtors, helpers, and devoted children.

Please accept the expression of my strong and very deep gratitude, and the filial respect which leads me to say that I am, in our Lord, Your Excellency's most humble and devoted servant,

Eymard, Sup.

1156

CO 1156

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 41/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, September 12, 1862

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I owe you for the lovely painting from your sister. Many thanks also to you.

Our affair in Angers is facing difficulties from the Minister of Worship. Because of the observations from the Prefect, he has modified, or rather disclaimed, his initial opinion.

The Bishop has complained. The Minister's reply gives us some hope. May God's holy will be done! I love Msgr. Angebault very much: he is very kind and devout! So now this foundation has been delayed at least for a few months. Dear daughter, be sure that if I go to Angers, I will write to tell you in advance, or I'll go to pay you a little visit.

You mentioned my promise for Thursdays. I don't remember it anymore.

You are right not to hurry to bind yourself to a new confessor before God's time. Wait for the circumstances provided by divine providence.

See how God was preparing you for this terrible blow by leading you in a direction of greater freedom and simplicity! Go to the Good Lord, dear daughter, with a trust which is greater than all your faults, and a surrender which is greater than all your sacrifices. You are God's and he will take good care of you.

Therefore, no more worrying.

Come back to kindness.²⁰

In God is peace; in his love is happiness. Therefore,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S

¹⁹ Referred to elsewhere as Mr. Hamil or Hamille.

²⁰ Perhaps, as a resolution.

1157

CO 1157

TO THE SISTER OF MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 41(bis)/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, September 12, 1862

Mademoiselle,

I have just received your lovely religious painting. It made me exclaim with joy and happiness. It is really what I wanted; thank you. However, I regret such an expensive frame: it's too beautiful for us. I will therefore simply have to say that the subject required it and that your devotedness willed it.

So now you are close to the door and inside the house; how could we forget you!

I believe that you chose the center heart, I chose the sword, because that is my lot: how fortunate I would be if one day it could be crowned!²¹

Once more thank you, and believe me in our Lord,

Mademoiselle,
All yours,
Eymard, S

P.S. Nothing yet from Rome. I am looking for a benevolent influential mediator.

1158

CO 1158

TO MME. TESNIERE

(III 1/2)

Paris, September 13, 1862, rue Faubourg St. Jacques, 68

My dear Lady,

You must imagine that I have been absent, or prevented from writing. I was on retreat when your collective letter reached Paris.

Yes, let this dear boy come.²² We will study the important question together before God. I was very edified by his fine sentiments, and even more, dear mother, by your generosity in giving him to God.

I only have time to assure you of my affection and dedication for your beloved son.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

²¹ Probably a commentary on objects in the painting.

²² her son, later Fr. Albert Tesniere SSS.

September 14-21, Annual Retreat to the Servants (Paris)

<i>Sep 14</i>	<i>Announcement of the retreat. Recommendation, dispositions for a retreat.</i>
<i>Sep 15</i>	<i>[Letter to Fr. Leroyer] Beginning the retreat. Eucharistic vocation. On direction. Love of our Lord.</i>
<i>Sep 16</i>	<i>Abide in our Lord's love. Threefold purpose of the Rule - purity.</i>
<i>Sep 17</i>	<i>Sacrificial love of our Lord. Merciful love.</i>
<i>Sep 18</i>	<i>Eucharistic death. Acquiring virtue, spiritual poverty.</i>
<i>Sep 19</i>	<i>Life of recollection in our Lord. Modesty, life of our Lord in us.</i>
<i>Sep 20</i>	<i>[Letter to Mme. Tesniere] Spontaneity of love. How we should obey - perfection of the gift of self.</i>
<i>Sep 21</i>	<i>Three consecrations. Prayer, impressions after the retreat, taking the habit, obedience, cord, name.</i>

1159

CO 1159

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER

(I 4/54)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, September 15, 1862

Dear Father,

I am answering your dear letter. I'm very sad about Fr. Peilin's illness; he is paying a high price for the first campaign of his ministry.

I hope that he will be better soon and that a little trip will provide the best convalescence; please give me news about him.

I have two plans: either I will go see you myself, but I can do so only in two weeks because of the retreat for the Ladies, which is beginning today, and another one which is to begin next week; the other plan is to send you Fr. de Cuers who offered himself, or another young man. I will wait to hear from you about that. Are the young missionaries supposed to leave soon? We don't want to leave you all by yourself, so that the Good Master's service should also suffer because of it.

Also, please tell me the family and first names of all your novices and their date of entry, so that I may keep an exact record of it.

Yes, accept to be in charge of the Catholic workers, if, as you said, the Bishop agrees to it. It is a natural work for the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

As for young Chve, it may not yet be time, since you must need his service. Otherwise, he would be fine here for his studies. As for board, take what you can, especially for the maintenance of his clerical clothing during the novitiate.

The question of Angers is still under consideration. The Bishop is vigorously pursuing it with the Minister, and the latter is already letting his resistance and obstacles drop. The Bishop is hopeful, and so are we.

I think the Prefect was the obstacle, because the Minister had placed no opposition at the beginning.

We are working hard for you. It will be beautiful.

Everyone loves you and prays for you, as I do, who am,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1160

CO 1160

TO MME. TESNIERE
(III 2/2)

Paris, September 20, 1862

Dear Lady,

I am sending back your dear Albert; I was very satisfied with him: he has very good dispositions. He certainly could devote himself to the ecclesiastical state, and he will be a good priest. I don't see any obstacles; since he does well the things he does and likes, I am convinced that religion will provide him the strength and virtue that come from this holy state.

Dear Lady, I am glad for this opportunity to express to you the religious dedication which your piety and charity have always inspired in me.

If I can render you some service at Sens, I will do so willingly. Therefore...

Eymard

1161

CO 1161

TO ALBERT TESNIERE (FR. ALBERT T. SSS)
(III 1/2)

Paris, September 29, 1862

Dear Friend,

I am writing to answer your welcome letter. My heart is happy to receive you for the service of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, you will be welcome here, because we love you.

So, for my part, there are no obstacles.

However, you understand that when you come to us, it will be like a Roman General: burning your ships behind you. You must become a holy priest and a good religious.

Your military career will be lost. Your studies here will only be ecclesiastical studies and cannot be used for a bachelor's degree.

This, dear Albert, is what you must have considered before making a final decision.

Human prudence would prefer to terminate the studies at La Fleche; but piety and salvation reign here. So, if you come, you will be well received; if you delay, my friendship for you will remain the same.

Believe me in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1162

CO 1162

TO MME. TESNIERE
(III 3/3)

Dear Lady,

As you will see in my letter to our dear Albert, I am letting him judge between the two options to be taken. He alone, in fact, can decide on this important question, since he must consider his preferences and his strength. Surely, he will always be dear to us, whether at La Fleche or here.

I will try to replace you near him as much as possible. Decide among yourselves. I will pray for you, dear lady.

All yours in our Lord.

Eymard

1163

CO 1165

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 4/52)²³

*Paris, Sept. 28, 1862*²⁴

May our Lord watch over you and be your peace and joy in his divine love! I have been very busy lately; I gave the retreat to our Religious, then to the Ladies:²⁵ now I am a little freer, I'm writing to give you the first fruits.

You are suffering and you will suffer, it's a good path. You are praying, that is, walking and flying. You love our Lord and you are all his, he is all yours. What could be sweeter and more pleasant? On the contrary, you must be glad and be very happy at the feet of the divine Master who is yours in his divine Sacrament of love. You have Paradise and you are unhappy!

I know your faults: you are poor in virtue, poor in merit, poor in good deeds, that's all true. But you are rich in mercy, in spiritual poverty. At least, you owe everything to our Lord and you give him all the honor. Learn how to suffer purely for his love and to go without a thousand little nothings for his greater glory. Our good Master only asks you for one thing: that is to have confidence in his goodness and to surrender to his Providence of love. Do it well; be his beggar who lives from day to day.

No news about Angers; the Minister has requested many details from the Bishop. We are waiting for God's time, it will be the right one.

I will inform you if I am to go to Angers.

Goodbye in our Lord. I always find you in Him and I bless you always. Write to us.

²³ Taken from a copy, not the original.

²⁴ Published in French as Oct. 28, 1862, listed by Fr. Garreau as Sept. 28, 1862.

²⁵ The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

1164

CO 1163

TO FATHER CLAUDIUS MAYET, S.M.
(VI 4/4)²⁶

Paris, September 29, 1862

Dear friend,

Fifteen years ago I read the Life and Letters of Marie-Eustelle. The impression they made on me have become one of those memories of grace which one never forgets. I can even say that it was like the dawn of an outstanding favor. Since then, I have daily recourse to the prayers of that saintly lover of the divine Eucharist.

I am convinced that the Virgin of Saint Pallais was a forerunner of the triumph of the worship of the adorable Eucharist which we are witnessing, and that if one were to gather from her letters the various feelings of piety which inspire them, it could make a devout and delightful manual of adoration. The feelings of the Saints have an inimitable unction of devotion. They seem to be still alive and inflamed with their initial fervor. That is why I express this desire.

I congratulate you, dear friend, on having such a beautiful mission. You will make that touching Life re-live, completing it and making it dearer and more venerable for us. I don't thank you for this: your heart must be finding its own sweet reward.

1165

CO 1092

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 42/75)²⁷

Madame Jordan,

You are [doing] better than I dared to hope, dear Madame; have courage! I can see that the love of our Lord is sprouting and growing in you and I hope that it will rise like an ear of wheat. It cost me that I couldn't see you, it is a sacrifice that the Good Lord was asking of me. I was pleased to see the good devout people from Tarare, they are so dedicated to the Most Blessed Sacrament. It is my [preferred] city in the diocese of Lyons, for others are not open.²⁸

Continue to journey on the little path we have shown you. Walk ahead simply step by step, hold the hand of the Good Lord like a blind person; eat the bread he is giving you, like a good beggar, let the grace of the moment be your life, for you will always find a good lodging, a good family, a good table prepared by divine Providence.

Consider that water from the brook and the river are approaching the sea of eternity; your poor little boat is following its course with the banner of Heaven.

I laughed when I read your letter. It was so full, impossible to add another line. That's fine, you've covered things from a to z.

Goodbye then, dear Madame.

²⁶ This letter was found in the book: *L'Ange de l'Eucharistie or Vie et Esprit de Marie Eustelle*, by the Author of the Life of Captain Marceau, Perisse Paris, Brussels parvis Ste Gudule. Fr. Eymard's name is not mentioned; just: Letter from a Superior-General. Tradition is that Fr. Mayet himself is the author of the Life of Captain Marceau.

²⁷ This undated letter was probably written between August and November 1862. Reference to his ministry in Tarare leads us to think so. (Garreau)

²⁸ Probably not open to him because of his past position with the Marists. Ed.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

1166

CO 1164

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)

(III 15/21 III 1)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, October 1, 1862

Dear daughter,

I have been owing you a letter for so long! See how we treat family friends; we make them pass last, hoping to give more to them than to others, and see, I have given you nothing.

I am really sorry about it... and I promise to do better in the future.

I've had your written direction for such a long time; since it is so old now, it would be like giving a remedy to someone who is already healed; so, you must tell me anew about your present state.

Nevertheless, I would like to say:

1. Continue your Communions, your strength lies in that. Go as a poor beggar and convalescent.

2. It is good to do your three examens; however, when you forget it at noon, make it up at night.

3. Bear with your feelings of powerlessness in God's presence: that is the poor person's adoration. At such a time stay very simply at the feet of God. When you are tired, you are not held to adoration; but when you miss it through your own fault, recite five Paters and 5 Aves in reparation;

4. Do the monthly retreat as follows: in the morning, let your meditation be on the graces which come from the goodness of God, on those he gives you and on what you owe him. This meditation will touch you more than any other.

During the day, spend fifteen minutes for examen and reparation. In the evening, the preparation for death. Then, ask God to give you another month to serve him better.

5. Dear daughter, always be very patient in the midst of your trials and sufferings; that is the flower of divine love. Your place here is ever certainly assured; are you not our eldest daughter?

When you see Mme. Delpuche, please remember me to her and tell her that we don't forget her, that I hope to see her when I go to Lyons in the winter. We are saddened by the illness of our dear sick friend,²⁹ Sister Josephine, Miss Billard. We were really afraid that the Good Lord would take her; we would certainly want her to live longer. Please tell her our best wishes and how we are praying for her.

Goodbye, dear daughter; give our best regards to your dear sister.³⁰

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

²⁹ Literally: daughter.

³⁰ Her sister Jenny, for whose care she could not leave Lyons to join her sisters in Paris.

1167

CO 1166

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 42/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, October 3, 1862

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

You asked for my opinion about a confessor.

I would favor the Pastor, your neighbor; he is closer, and it is easier.

Confession leaves one free as regards direction. Dear daughter, you are really not sufficiently informed about that.

Confession regards one's conscience; direction regards the freedom which stems from trust. We are always free to seek advice elsewhere. I don't like consciences that consider themselves bound, as by a vow, to a confessor.

So, without discussing the relationships you may want to maintain or consult, simply go to confession and say whatever you wish.

Freedom! dear daughter! freedom even in direction!

As you get closer to God, external needs will decrease.

You don't need to continually review the past. Leave it where it is, under the mantle of forgiveness and oblivion! I would greatly love for you to have the Blessed Sacrament!³¹ I am seeking and waiting.

Nothing new about Angers. The matter is being debated between the Bishop and the Minister.

So much for religious freedom!

My respects to your dear sister. Her painting is always before me and I really like it.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S

<i>Oct 4</i> <i>Conference Servants: Detachment.</i>
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1168

CO 1167

TO ALBERT TESNIERE AND HIS MOTHER
(III 2/2)

Paris, October 5, 1862

Dear friend,

Come when you wish; your little cell is ready and the Great King is expecting you.

You will have a beautiful place in his Guard, as you already have a very tender one in his heart and in mine.

Don't have your cassock made at Sens; they would not know [what you need]: and you, dear mother, be at peace and happy about your dear son.

If the Good Lord should prolong your life, you will attend his holy Mass; if God should decide

³¹ The Reserved Sacrament in her home.

The Foundation in Angers

otherwise, you will have left this beloved son in our Lord's family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Oct. 7 - Entrance of Father Albert Tesniere.

1169

CO 1168

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

(V 11/14)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, October 10, 1862

Dear friend,

I thank our good Master for having enlightened and drawn you, and let you triumph over natural feelings and yourself.

It's a terrible and violent struggle; but we can feel a grace and strength beyond our own strength, followed by a peace and happiness previously unknown. God has won, and he is pleased. I am not surprised by the faith and generosity of your devout parents; so God will reward them for it, even in this world; they are not losing you; they will find you again and you will be more of a son and more of a Christian.

I admit that if our vocation did not come from Heaven, you would be unusually foolish to leave your family and to come and embrace a way of life where human nature finds nothing but crucifixion and death. But you are a man who doesn't consult friendship, self-interest, comfort, or even the happiness [that comes from] virtue. There is only one reason, one determining motive here! God wills it. And in the presence of these three words, we add: and so do I.

You want information about the small supplies [you are to bring]; here it is:

1. We have the bed, but bring sheets and blankets.
2. Bring table napkins, even handtowels.
3. We have lamps.
4. A Novice doesn't have a penny of his own. He gives me his money and I buy what he needs; or, if he has nothing, I pay for it.
5. Yes, you will study Gousset. Bring only the books you will find helpful.
6. I strongly urge you not to worry about preparing all these things; your relatives are nearby. Then also, in this family everyone is treated as a son.

The young soldier³² entered with a minor [companion], a soldier from Castelfidardo, Mr. Martin from Strasbourg, who was by the side of General de Pimodan; he is a saint.

Goodbye, dear friend, my respects to your good parents.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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

³² Evidently some mutual acquaintance.

1170

CO 1169

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGBAULT (ANGERS)

(V 4/14)

Paris, October 10, 1862

Excellency,³³

I am a bit late with Your Excellency. I was waiting to have something positive to reply to your esteemed letter.

The Minister finally came back yesterday; they could not do anything in his absence. I saw Mr. Hamille,³⁴ who is always very kind, he is leaving on holiday Saturday; he recommended me to Mr. Tardy, the head of the division who is in charge of our affair. Mr. Tardy told me that he had sent our application to the Minister.

I communicated to him, the director, the favorable documents that I had from the Archdiocese which served to support your letter, Excellency. He told me that because we are secular priests, this foundation should not meet with any difficulties; - that they had thought it would be a large establishment. He added that our business would be handled only in a few days.

That, Your Excellency, is the present state of affairs, on a good path, I hope. So we will soon be at your kind disposal, Excellency, happy to become worthy of your trust.

It is with the greatest veneration that I permit myself to say that I am, Your Excellency's,

Very devoted servant,
Eymard, Superior

1171

CO 1170

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

(V 45/76)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, October 15, 1862

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I am truly sorry I didn't answer you right away; forgive me in our Lord.

1. Yes, when the questions: "May I? Should I?" leave you undecided, consult the grace and reasons of the moment; let that be your guide.³⁵ In some cases, propriety is a good motive.

2. For poverty.³⁶ When it relates to others, or what seems suitable to your position, incline toward a gift or charity, when you can. That is the guiding principle.

However, when it is a matter of lavishness or exceptional luxury, frugality is better.

You did the right thing about the two books, as well as the Masses at La Salette: they complete your pilgrimage. Yes, buy the "Life of Captain Marceau" and a few helpful books; it's a matter of charity.

You may replace the two surplices. If you helped the young priest, you did well.

I am not in favor of the annuity for Vaise.

³³ Handwritten note by Bishop Angebault on this letter: "Letter from Fr. Eymard, Fine hopes."

³⁴ Referred to elsewhere as Mr. Amil or Hamil.

³⁵ Literally: your light.

³⁶ Mme. Gourd consulted Fr. Eymard regarding the practical applications of her private vow of poverty.

The Foundation in Angers

Pray silently for the healing of [his] soul, but don't start pressuring him again. The blow has been struck; he knows what he owes to God. So, wait for the moment of divine Providence.

It's a good thing that the young man should get married.

Take care of your health, not as its slave, but in an ordinary manner.

Count on the gentle and gracious goodness of God and the all-powerful protection of the Blessed Virgin for the conversion and salvation of that dear soul. A soul for whom there has been so much prayer and suffering cannot perish.

In general, dear daughter, when you must make a quick decision either about poverty or something which would require permission or advice - if it's urgent - act according to your lights at that moment, in a spirit of obedience or charity, and go forward.

Let us love our Lord very much, dear daughter, for he is loved so little; there are so few people who belong entirely to Him! Oh! while no limits are set for a deceptive and vain world, for shameful and debasing passions, for worthless people, nothing is done for the Good Lord. Oh! how humiliated our Lord is in contrast with the devil who rules on earth!

I bless you, dear daughter. Give us news about yourself; it's always very dear to us in our Lord.

In Him, all yours,
Eymard

1172

CO 1171

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 8/17 VIII 26)

Paris, October 15, 1862

Mademoiselle,

I learned that you are ill. I was sorry to hear it. I prayed to our good Master to leave you a while longer on earth. Father Poupinel reassured me with the news that you are better. May you continue to improve and get better. Alas, dear Mademoiselle, all these changes tell us that this is not our final homeland and place of rest. That beautiful Heaven which has its door on Calvary must have all our love. But we must complete the work of God in us.

Think a little about your servant on the way, because I am also journeying, sometimes painfully toward that Calvary, but our Master is so kind that he carries the whole cross and I only need to follow him. I don't know when I will go to Lyons, but the thought of your visit already brings me joy.

May our Lord keep and comfort you, dear Mademoiselle.

In Him,
All yours

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 32/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, October 16, 1862

Miss Stephanie

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I kept waiting for news about your missing letter, I filed a complaint. Don't let that prevent you from writing with complete simplicity; it's only an accident which the devil may have instigated to take away your simplicity and openness.

What you spoke about in your last letter which I re-read is so old that I won't answer it, except for three points:

1. Your vocal prayers, etc. They must be done in ordinary circumstances. However, when you haven't done your reading, or said the Office by bedtime, put them aside.

2. For the little mortifications, for your face, etc...., that's fine; but it shouldn't become a struggle. It's true that negligence in that area keeps growing and a limit must be set.

3. As for the Pastor's things, you do well (one line erased), it is a double charity.

In what concerns support for the church, you ought to give good example. Do everything in the world to keep the Blessed Sacrament; should there be any doubt about it, your reasons are very favorable to keeping it.

I was very happy about your trip to La Salette; it is an indirect commitment. Be convinced that grace is working interiorly.³⁷ Continue your prayers and good works for this intention.

Always go to the Good Lord with simplicity and love. It is the shortest way.

I bless you, dear daughter, in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

Madame Gourd

Oct. 21 - Meetings with civil officials of Angers in Paris.

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER

(I 5/54)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, October 22, 1862

Very dear Father,

I'm writing to thank you first of all for your letter and for the notes about your house, and [then] to bring you up-to-date about ordinary matters.

1. Nothing new about Angers.

³⁷ Probably in reference to her father's conversion. Ed. note.

The Foundation in Angers

I saw Mr. Hamille³⁸ and Mr. Tardy, directors of the Ministry of Worship. The files are at the Ministry; the Minister has just returned from his vacation and hasn't been able to see to it. There may not be any difficulties. Mr. Tardy told me that the Bishop's second letter to the Minister had a good effect.

2. There is nothing new, either, about the requested chapel in Paris; we searched; there is nothing but they are thinking of opening a little street facing the chapel door; therefore, they intend to maintain it.

3. I expect that you either have news about Fr. Peilin, or he is there in person. I'm not satisfied with his leaving us so long without news. I heard that he was better.

4. We have two new Brothers: one in minor orders and the young military man whom Fr. de Cuers saw.

Fr. Auger wrote to tell me that his father is at death's door and that he could not come yet.

5. It is as cold as in winter, with a cold wind and continual rain. I'm happy to know that Fr. de Cuers is there enjoying your beautiful sunshine; the winter has already begun here.

6. I saw your dear sister and her fine husband, Mr. Lemay. Joseph really would have wanted to go see you in Marseilles, your godchild loves you so much: they are eager for the foundation.³⁹

7. I was sorry to learn that the Bishop of Angers isn't well. May God preserve him.

Goodbye, dear Father. My regards to dear Fr. de Cuers and to all the Brothers.

Everyone here sends you their fond regards.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I requested the candle through the Superior of the French Seminary in Rome, whom I saw in Paris.

1175

CO 1174

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 9/17 VIII 26)

Paris, October 28, 1862

Mademoiselle,

I wanted to answer you right away and then I let the moment pass. So I am late again.

Thank you for your good and dear letter. Long-standing friendships are like a river which flows high at its banks. It is the only stable kind of friendship. It survives storms and weather which erase so many things.

Dear daughter, illness is a messenger from Heaven which comes knocking at our door like a forerunner. We must receive it because it possesses God's secret.

Yes, in Heaven, it [suffering] has special rights at the throne of Jesus crucified. Welcome it when it comes, but don't desire it. I wish you good health! for alas! when you will no longer be in Lyons, if I should survive you, as my life is moving quickly, a day and a month here, if I say, you are no longer in Lyons, I will no longer have a Bethany there, that fond memory, those former days, no more trips, but only the Good Lord and his friends.

I bless you, my sister. Think of me in prayer; the thought of you at the foot of the altar is a loving thought; then from time to time [send me] a dear letter.

All yours in our Lord

³⁸ Printed in French as Mr. Hamitte. Probably an error. cf. Doc. 1170.

³⁹ The foundation of Angers, Fr. Leroyer's home town.

1176

CO 1175

TO FR. AGUSTINO THEINER
(VI 2/2)

Paris, October 28, 1862⁴⁰

Good Father Theiner,

I am writing to be remembered by you as it is impossible to forget your good friendship. I am sending you a few Masses by means of good Fr. Olivieri for your needy religious.

You would be very kind and gracious if you could say a little word to His Holiness in favor of the most beautiful work of zeal which exists, and which some gentlemen of Marseilles are directing with so much success.

Goodbye, dear Father Theiner. When will I have the pleasure of embracing you!
Believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup. Soc.SS.

1177

CO 1178

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER
(I 6/54)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, November 9, 1862

Dear Father,

I've been wanting to write to you for several days. I made a quick trip to Lyons to see a benefactress who was dying; she was dead when I got there. I recommend her to your prayers.⁴¹

In Lyons I saw Fr. Peilin, he really wants to come back. He was advised to try very strong remedies. I authorized it for about a week. He was supposed to write to me today if he was better, but I'm not hoping for anything, or not much.

A fine doctor in Paris told me that the only solution is an operation.

On the other hand, I've been told that this infirmity could make him unable to preach; so then, how could I send you back a servant who cannot help you actively! You have such great need of help, it really is high time for us to give you a serious helper! Here is my decision: I suggested to Fr. Champion that he go to Marseilles for a while. He will leave here to join you in a week or ten days. He asked me for that amount of time [in order] to finish a work on the liturgy for the printers at Mr. Le Clere. When that is done, he will leave right away; he is happy to go there, he will be a great help to you in your office of Superior. I urge you to entrust the novices to him so that he may begin their novitiate exercises and give them spiritual conferences: so then, he will be the Master of novices. Divine Providence seems to be indicating this choice. We have no more space here, we are seventeen; we can't do otherwise until we have a separate Novitiate.

My whole desire is to establish the house of Marseilles solidly, because it has suffered enough.

Don't make any changes in your former practices of simple observances without telling me

⁴⁰ Original date illegible. Vatican Archives listed as Oct. 1863. However, in 1863-64-65, Eymard was not in Paris. Listed as 1862 by Garreau.

⁴¹ Miss Josephine Billard. Literally: memento.

about it, because we should aim at uniformity everywhere. If what you are doing is better, it should be maintained, and we should do the same. Besides, when there is question of making a new decision, we should reflect carefully, in order not to go backwards.

Fr. Champion will surely leave a great vacuum here. Fortunately, Fr. Chanuet and his novices really give of themselves, and each one renders service to the extent he can.

I will therefore call Fr. Peilin back here and help him get better first of all.

Nothing new about Angers, I am still waiting. My visit to the Ministry didn't speed anything! What can we do? Pray, and wait for God's moment.

We haven't received anything from the City either about the transfer of domicile; the City is borrowing money to be able to give some.

I plan to leave Fr. de Cuers there for a while; three of you is not too many,⁴² and even if Fr. Peilin were better, I would have given him to you, to create a good professed house.

Nothing else is new, except that a cold dampness is setting in.

Has Brother Auze returned?

Eucharistic regards to everyone.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I've just received your letter; thank you. I hope mine will make you happy. Oh! Yes, sad Corsicans! like the Cretans in St. Paul's time. I cannot send you Brother Simon yet; I would like him to be ordained. Fr. Champion is professor here, he will do very well there.

It hurts me to know that Fr. de Cuers is suffering. He would suffer even more in Paris, because of the cold and lack of exercise, because we have more study here than activity.

1178

CO 1179

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 116/181 VI 3)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, November 9, 1862

Very dear Father,

I've just written a few words to Fr. Leroyer. I'll send you Fr. Champion, since I cannot send you Fr. Peilin at least for some time for he is to be operated on in Paris; later, it would be too late. I saw his pain in Lyons when I went to see a dying benefactress; we are advised to have him operated on. They tell me that internal medicine is useless, so be it: there are more opportunities in Paris than elsewhere (Lyons). Fr. Champion will be helpful to you there, and it will also be good for him, since the house of Marseilles is more unified than ours, with fewer components and distractions: it is a Professed house.

As he loves you and Fr. Leroyer very much, he is happy to go. His work will be Master of Novices, for that should be our priority.

In this state of things, for the good of the house of Marseilles and of each one, it is important, dear Father, that you remain there as an intermediary so they may continue what has been done, and the way it is done. Before changing a practice, things must be studied carefully.

Although it would please me to have you here, I feel that your presence is more helpful in Marseilles. There is nothing new here, and you can help us only by means of the ordinary service; there is an additional advantage there. Besides, there is no news about Angers, nor from the City

⁴² Three priests.

The Foundation in Angers

Hall of Paris, everything is dead. It isn't our fault, because we have done enough.

I will send your pension check with Fr. Champion. I kept a small amount for the beginning of the foundation in Angers. Another reason leads me to send Fr. Champion to Marseilles: in case of a foundation in Angers, to be faithful to the truth, we will have to send Fr. Leroyer, at least for a few months, since his name was given to the Minister, even if we must replace him after the beginnings. In that case, Fr. Champion would serve as intermediary in Marseilles, I think that is the best way to go for the moment.

Mr. de Leudeville entered as a novice a few days ago. His health seems stronger. He is also a man of rule and devotedness; we will observe him under the test.

We are beginning to feel that damp cold characteristic of Paris. God be praised! It is our sacrifice for the moment.

In our Lord, dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers

1179

CO 1180

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 43/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, November 9, 1862

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

It worries me a little not to have any news from you. I should believe that everything is going fine, because fever or the cross both make people communicate; well then! be happy.

How good is the Good Lord! He replaces everyone, outlives everyone, he is always our good Father! So be truly his, with a holy surrender which makes the soul God's poor, happy and blind beggar. Oh! If we really knew our Lord, how vibrant and strong we would be! Go often then to cast yourself at his feet with love, like the holy women after the Resurrection; go and plunge yourself more often in the divine hearth of his Eucharist, and he will nourish you.

You must reach the point where Jesus will be enough for you. Oh what a beautiful direction Jesus gives us! Then, we must enclose ourselves in his divine Heart, to be molded and filled with his spirit, and chiselled by his divine hands.

There is nothing new about Angers. God has his time.

I am sending you a card that was sent to me, so that it may constantly remind you: blind trust, sweetness in virtue, simplicity in love.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, S

1180

CO 1181

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 43/75)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, November 9, 1862

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

So you have been ill and in great pain! If you hadn't been so far away, I would have gone to heal you if I could have done so. I only went as far as your door in Lyons. There, on Monday morning, they told me that you were fine and that you would arrive in 10 to 15 days.

When I came down from the train, my first visit was to you.

Does that surprise you? I left Paris on Sunday the 2nd for Lyons to attend to a dying person. I found her dead. At least I really prayed for her and said the holy Mass at her funeral. She was a holy soul, a Third Order member, and one of my former penitents, Miss Billard from St. Louis.

So you can see that I do not forget my own! As for you, dear Madame, you must become still a little holier. Ah! Life in this world is so beautiful!, so precious, so eternal!

These few days of life have put Heaven at our service and the Most Holy Trinity at work with us and in us. Oh! If a damned person, or a soul in Purgatory, had but a single one of our days at their disposal!

So then, dear daughter, we must become holy and truly glorify God in our daily sufferings and sacrifices.

Yesterday I saw your dear nieces, I welcomed them as coming from you; and so I am repaying you a little for my debts by helping them. They really love you; they are going to stock up on their supplies;⁴³ they are very good. If dear Mathilda is with you, tell her I thank her for her letter. I really prayed for your healing, and I will say the 20 Masses she sent me.

Then, when she has time, have her write me a long letter from the heart.

Goodbye, dear Madame, you know how close I am to you in our good Master in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard, S.

The associate Pastor from La Mure is asking me to submit the name of his brother, Mr. Charvet, a first class clerk for indirect contributions, for [the position of] manager in the offices at St. Marcellin's Quarters whose present manager is expecting a promotion.

See if you can do anything. He is a good person.

1181

CO 1182

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 6/19)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, November 16, 1862

Madame Mathilde,

I am writing, dear daughter, to answer your letter which was transparent with honesty and good

⁴³ Probably in a spiritual sense. Ed.

intentions.

To begin, I am closely united to you in your prayers to have a child of blessing,⁴⁴ and I hope it will be given you from God's goodness. As it will be a saint, God makes us ask for a long time. Your promise to raise a poor child in gratitude must have touched the Heart of God.

You did well to review these past three years, since this has brought you peace. From time to time it's good to review our ordinary confessions, because a venial fault is not forgiven without contrition.

You have loved your mother dearly and you will love her even more now that the Good Lord has given her back to you. Yes, may he sustain her for you and for me too, because she is very dear to me in our Lord. Of all the good souls whom I have directed, hers is certainly the one with which I have the most affinity in our Lord.

You have received a great deal, dear daughter; be very generous to our good Master in return. Use your free time wisely because society requires so much from us that if we aren't careful, we will never have a moment to think of our own soul or of God.

While you are still young you need to protect the solid and extensive training you received. You must even keep informed a little about the principal writings of the times which are in your field. There are certain periodicals which are well-done and which keep us well informed at a low price.

Try to be simple and affectionate with the Good Lord, for him and in him. I think that your distractions come from the fact that you concentrate too much on things or on your faults. We don't feel the wind in a well-closed house. A soul that knows how to dwell in Jesus doesn't feel the fury of storms.

Try to reach that beloved dwelling, dear daughter. Jesus said: "Whoever abides in me and I in him, that one will bear great fruit."

How do we dwell in Jesus?

1. By loving his adorable and ever beloved Will.
2. By contemplating his infinite goodness, which is constantly pouring itself out upon us.

Oh! how happy we are when we live in that divine atmosphere! It's true, we must be generously mortified to live this interior life in Jesus, but love does it painlessly. The world is a Calvary which crucifies both good and evil people. How many sacrifices of self-denial we must make at every moment! Accomplish them well for the Good Lord.

Be ever gracious in duty, generous in virtue, devout in love, and you will be as the Good Lord wants you to be.

I bless you, dear daughter,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S

1182

CO 1183

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 33/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, November 16, 1862

Dear daughter,

I am now answering the various details regarding your direction. The order you followed is fine.

1. Limit your activity. It is by the ordering of things and duties that you will finally succeed in doing many things without feeling burdened.

⁴⁴ She desires pregnancy.

The Foundation in Angers

2. Think less often about the spirit of sacrifice. It's true, everything depends on it; you must make it your bouquet to divine love.

3. Silence: speak through charity, that's fine, for mental relaxation isn't bad, provided that the law of charity is maintained.

4. Esteem for your neighbor, severity about noticing their faults. I found this article true on several points: your severity is natural and stems from your character, the lack of personal love which you can expect from it proves it. What to do? - Nothing direct, except in violent reactions of temptation against [our neighbor], then we must take firm hold of ourselves and intercept with gentleness, silence, or charity the feeling which moves us against our neighbor. Otherwise, go quietly on your way, take this as a rule: I will act as I would do if I were not tempted. Oh! Dear daughter, if only we would see [a bit more] how pleased God is with our poor neighbor, things would go better!

6. Modesty of the eyes. Excellent thought; but we need a simple modesty, to look without seeing, as St. Francis de Sales says.

7. Interior impatience. This defect is corrected by willing only what God wants and as he wants it.

8. Adoration by the four thoughts... It's the best of all methods. When you finish, begin over again until you finally learn how to spend more time on it.

9. Aspire to the spiritual repose of recollection at the feet of your good Master: the silence of love is perfect love.

Poor daughter, you are still on this wretched earth; don't be astonished if you are wretched as well. You must always rise again and go to the door of divine Goodness.

Now, dear daughter, I will answer your first letter.

About the Reserved Sacrament: I do hope that you will keep it.

If the Pastor wants to, he can easily explain that the chapel is public, surrounded with a good number of faithful who are far from the church, that the chapel is watched over by you and by others.

Therefore, it isn't strictly a personal favor. You give enough to be [considered] a benefactress. However, it seems to me that, it would be prudent to tell the Pastor to make the request from the Bishop to retain the Reserved Sacrament, - that you are hoping to bring P. back to his initial pledge, that if he learned that the Reserved Sacrament was being removed because of his reduction,⁴⁵ everything would be lost;⁴⁶ that you will give later, but that it is prudent on that score not to make the request now.

I think this is a strong reason.

Goodbye dear daughter; may our Lord bless you: you, your dear mother, and your dear father. Your souls are very dear to me. Rather than to hurt yourself (one line erased), of all even if they feel strongly about it.

... is in Lyons for about 2 weeks; she needed to go. If you go to Lyons, see this dear mother.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I am reopening my letter to repeat: Sell your shoes rather than lose the One who is Everything.

⁴⁵ Reduction of financial support by her father? Ed. note.

⁴⁶ Hope for her father's conversion. Ed. note.

1183

CO 1184

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGBAULT (ANGERS)

(V 5/14)

Paris, November 16, 1862

Excellency,

I am very happy about the good news, the permission of the Minister for the foundation in Angers.

All the courage and devotedness which your piety [inspired] were required, Excellency, to overcome so many obstacles.

Now, our only desire is to respond to Your Excellency's expectations to carry out the beautiful plan⁴⁷ which led us to Angers, in preference to any other city.

First, I will send Fr. de Cuers to you, Excellency, to receive your first orders and to prepare the chapel and house immediately. When everything will be ready, I will send Fr. Leroyer to begin adoration. This dear Father is so happy to see this dear desire of his heart happen in his dear city!

I am giving Fr. de Cuers a copy of the faculties signed for us by his Eminence Cardinal Morlot and Bishop De Mazenod of Marseilles, in order that your Excellency may be so kind as to give us his, and so we may become your sons.⁴⁸

Your Excellency, I hope that I will soon have the happiness to go to thank you myself for the paternal interest you have shown us. It is especially at the feet of our good Master that we will prove our gratitude to you.

It is with sentiments of most profound respect and gratitude that I am confident to say that I am, in our Lord, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS

1184

CO 1185

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

(I 117/181 VI 3)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, November 19, 1862

Very dear Father,

Let us adore God's plans! Surely the place for exposition is already determined Above;⁴⁹ let us hope that one day it will be at the Knoll!

Tonight I saw the Mayor, the end of the visit was better than the beginning: they began by saying that it would be impossible, then difficult, but at the end they were kind.

The Mayor said that he would look into it when he reached Angers.

He went further and spoke of a large piece of land belonging to the city, which will be for sale; it's the armory across from the Ambray Hotel. That is, the land on Lyonnaise Street, next to, or across from, the church.

⁴⁷ French: pense - thought, plan, project.

⁴⁸ Literally: children.

⁴⁹ Capitalized in the original.

He told me that they would make a street there this winter, and that there would be a nice lot there.

For the Knoll, he repeated what you said. It seemed to me that we might easily obtain the separation of the Knoll from the lot, or buy it separately.

It was agreed that you would see him on his arrival to speak about it. The agreement with the city by the Hospital Administration is not binding yet. If the Administration wants it, I believe the Mayor will not place any obstacles to it. The Knoll is useless to them for their plans; or at least, not worth much.

Visit the armory; see if there is an old convent church; look elsewhere, too. I suffer to think that you are alone there; would it be better to return before the Mayor's arrival? it's up to you to see him.

I have 30 to 40 thousand francs at hand, to borrow, if we need it to buy something; that way we could pay cash.

Fr. Champion left, as happy as a child.

Dear Father, give us news about yourself from time to time, it would comfort us over your absence.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1185

CO 1186

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 5/52)

Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin, 1862

Madame,

You are the first to hear the news! Everything is settled for Angers. In about two weeks we will go to prepare a temporary setting for Exposition; the Carmelites on rue Lyonnaise are lending us their church and relinquishing the use of the Chaplain's house where we will be able to house 4 or 5 adorers.

I am sending Father de Cuers to prepare the sanctuary of the church by having it partially painted, etc. When everything is ready, I will go to Angers for the day of Exposition and I will let you know beforehand.

If you are able to go there, please write to tell me, because I would feel badly if you were not there for the rising of the Sun of love and grace.

Are you feeling better? Will you be coming to Paris soon? Have you considered the Pastor of St. Clotilde's for our sermon?⁵⁰ Are you praying for us?

Is our Lord pleased with his servant? Is she going to him like a gentle trusting child and with a simple, blind surrender to whatever his love desires? Are you pleased with God? What questions! But they are all dear to me.

I bless you in our Lord and at his feet, I am

All yours,
Eymard

⁵⁰ Sermon to raise funds for the First Communion ministry.

RETREAT

RETREAT PLAN
AIM OF THE RETREAT
(November 1862)

I) The aim of the retreat is to place yourself in our Lord. - He said: He who dwells in me, and I in him, will bring forth much fruit. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and all will be granted you.”

Now what does it mean to dwell in Jesus? What is the path which leads to that divine dwelling? How can we enter there? What are the conditions for remaining there?

Three great truths to be studied during the retreat.

1) We do not dwell in Jesus - when we dwell in the labor of his service; a truly devoted and faithful servant concentrates on his Master’s affairs, attentive to his Master’s concerns, more than in his Master.

- We do not dwell in Jesus - when we dwell on what may procure his glory; the soldier going to fight for his King does not dwell with him.

We do not dwell in Jesus when we work for our own perfection according to the law or virtue.

In all these states the soul dwells in itself - always restless - exposed to all winds.

To dwell in Jesus is to leave oneself behind, to strip oneself of self - to give oneself as one gives wood to the fire - a heart to royal love - a life for a life.

That is the life of the spouse. - A spouse leaves her name, her relatives, her home, her friends, her country - her personal pleasures, and goes to live in the home of her divine spouse, to live with him, from him, for him.

Therefore

- she thinks in Jesus
- she speaks the word of Jesus
- she performs the actions of Jesus
- she prays the prayer of Jesus
- she suffers the suffering of Jesus
- she dreams only of what may please him
- she loves only what Jesus loves
- she wants only what pleases him
- she is absorbed in Jesus.

2) The path which leads to this dwelling in Jesus is a love which gives all, - and wants to suffer all

3) The door which introduces us into the dwelling of Jesus - is holy recollection.

4) The condition for remaining there is the Most Blessed Eucharist. Jesus said: “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood dwells in me, and I in him.”

May Jesus, then, dear daughter,⁵¹ be the way, the truth, and the life of your retreat.

Eymard, Sup.

⁵¹ Probably to Mother Guyot, the superior of St. Thomas de Villeneuve, according to Sr. Valentine Bouchard, SSS.

[The above text was followed by some resolutions⁵² done in the handwriting of the addressee, after which were the following words in the handwriting of Fr. Eymard.]

If you follow this path of recollection and prayer it will make you happy! However, you must expect the penance you will experience from the Lord at the very beginning of your prayer for your distractions and mental wanderings. That is the purification. Everything depends on the first moment.

To abide in Jesus, we must leave external ties behind and leave at the door of his divine heart whatever cannot or should not go into that divine dwelling.

To reach such a divine condition, the thought of the beauty, goodness, love and power of Jesus must become the habitual and delightful thought of one's heart. Therefore, we must contemplate him in himself.

Therefore, dear daughter, get to work.
Eymard

1187

CO 1187

TO MR. ROSEMBERG AND FAMILY
(VII 8/9)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, December 2, 1862

Very dear friend,

Ever since yesterday I have been making fruitless attempts to go see you at Tours. It has been impossible to work it out. During this time I have ordination, a retreat for the three novices who will be making their profession on Christmas Day. It's a great sacrifice for me. I love Tours, as you know, I love good papa Dupont and your family as my own. Then, I would have been so happy to give a little retreat to the good Lady adorers, but it is impossible. Please offer my excuses to Miss de Saveniere.

I expect to go to Angers for the exposition on the Feast of St. John, December 27th. I do hope to see you and papa Dupont on my return [trip].

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Dear friend of my heart,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

⁵² Resolutions (of Mother Guyot):

1. To have a spirit of recollection I will therefore try to be united to God. During prayer, I will not worry about this or that, but think of God and little of myself. Then in my relationship with others I will speak only with calm and gentleness.
2. I renew the r[esolution] of another retreat to go often before the Blessed Sacrament to recommend myself to the Heart of Jesus, to the Blessed Virgin, to St. Joseph, to my dear Angel, and [to the Angels] of those whom I will be directing.
3. Every day I will read at least a few verses or a paragraph of the Holy Gospel. This reading was so helpful to me during my retreat. Yes, I want to abide in Jesus and let him abide in me to bear fruit.

The Foundation in Angers

Dec. 6 - Departure of Fr. de Cuers to prepare the Angers foundation.

1188

CO 1188

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 1/14)⁵³

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, December 15, 1862

Mademoiselle,

Thank you for the letter you sent when you arrived. I was waiting for it. I thank God for sustaining you in the midst of these outcries which come both from human nature and from life itself. Good! At least you can say to our Lord: My love for you is greater than all this.

Your heart stayed with our beloved and divine Sacrament of love. Your mind will be taken up with your affairs, your life will be God's, and all will go well.

I bless you, my good young lady. Give us news about yourself. We treasure it in the Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

1189

CO 1189

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 44/75)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, December 15, 1862

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter, for the news you gave me about everyone, your dear Mathilde and your good nieces. You can see that I do pay my debts; that poor net is still here, waiting to be sent, and I don't know the address; I lost it. So, I will need it, with a little note, I have the samples here. Oh! You are right; it's no use depending on me; I'm like that with the Good Lord too, I really need his mercy.

I don't expect to go to Lyons during the month of January as I usually do on my way to Marseilles.

On December 27, the Feast of St. John, I will be going to Angers to expose our Good Lord and King, for the first time, on a new throne at the very place where the unbelieving Beranger preached his heresies against the Most Blessed Sacrament during the 12th century. I expect to spend a few weeks there (rue Lyonnaise, at the Carmelites).

I do and will think of your proteges; however, though I am trustworthy at the feet of our good Master, I am not so with men, in spite of their promises. Oh! How sad it is to see the antichambers of great ones filled and the Palace of the Great King deserted! You don't belong to that world anymore, dear Madame, and you are very fortunate! but I am in the midst of it and it makes me see better how good is the Good Lord.

When I go to Marseilles, I will really try to pay you a little visit. In the meantime, visit me at

⁵³ Miss Thomas did domestic work for the Fathers in Paris.

The Foundation in Angers

the feet of our Lord.

I will finish now. In a moment, I will go to preach about our good Master.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

1190

CO 1190

TO BROTHER JEAN, CAPUCHIN SCHOLASTIC
(VI 1/1)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, December 15, 1862

Very dear and beloved brother Jean,

May our good Master repay you all your good wishes for us! I was happy to have news about you, and especially to learn that on Saturday you will have received the tonsure and Minor Orders. That was always the object of my wishes for you, because a priest and a good priest can give so much glory to God! And, with the heart of the Seraphic Father St. Francis you will be an excellent priest of the Lord.

Oh yes, dear and kind brother, we will really pray for you. The beautiful friendship between us makes it a beloved duty.

At this time we are making a small foundation of expiation in Angers - at the very spot where the wicked Beranger dared to preach against the divinity of the Eucharist. Exposition will take place on the Feast of St. John, your religious patron saint. I recommend this to your prayers.

The Good Lord is blessing us with crosses. It is a good blessing!

Goodbye, my dear brother Jean, may God also complete what he has begun so well in you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

To Brother Jean in Bayonne (Dec. 1862)
West Pyrenees

1191

CO 1191

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 10/17 VIII 26)

Paris, December 15, 1862

Mademoiselle,

I received the stipends for the novena for your dear deceased. Because of your friendship, you can presume that I will take personal responsibility for it. Therefore, thank you.

I didn't have time to be sad about your illness, I only learned about it when you were already better. I wanted to write to you, but unfortunately I put it off until the next day and now a long time has elapsed. But you know that our feelings are unchanging and ever more dedicated. You are a Bethany in my life; I would almost say, my family. May God keep you and bless you. But obey

the doctor, and now and then, when it isn't too imprudent to go out, go to steal the Good Lord; but holy Communion with the divine Will must be at every moment. Yes, rest in God's hands, on the maternal bosom of divine Providence. Live from day to day and you will be a blessed child. Thanks once again for your letter; you know how much it means to me.

1192

CO 1192

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(VI 3/4 I 181)

*[end December 1862]*⁵⁴

Well, dear Father! The workmen and women, like the train, are all going full steam ahead!

So, is the opening date still to be the 27th, the feast of St John? I cannot leave on Christmas Day, we are having vows as well as First Communion that day, etc. - I shall be half-dead, but I will leave either that night or on Friday, and - really, it is almost a pity that Epiphany would not be the day of the⁵⁵... royalty.

Everyone here is surprised at this. It would be no more than 5 or 6 days! Think about it and decide. For my part, your opinion shall be my own.

Courage! and regards to all.

Eymard

1193

CO 1193

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER
(I 7/54)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, December 18, 1862

Dear Father,

I was waiting for a letter from Fr. de Cuers to write and tell you the date for the beginning of Exposition in Angers.

I would have preferred Epiphany to the feast of St. John; however, I left it to Fr. de Cuers' decision: if everything is ready, and if the Bishop wants it sooner, that will settle it.

I will let you know about it as soon as I can; Father is very happy.

If you wish, have the clothing ceremony for your novices on Christmas or another day. Good Fr. Champion is right about that; the cassock helps religious life, and among us, we can almost say that it creates it.

We will have profession on Christmas Day here. Those who are called are: Fr. O'Kelly, Brother Eugene and Brother Henry. While recognizing that Brother Ren, the porter, is doing well lately, we have delayed him for a few months, in order to encourage him to learn to read, which he knows only a little. He is setting himself to it wholeheartedly.

It was truly divine Providence which delayed my visit to Marseilles. I couldn't have preached the octave for the Epiphany. I am a bit weak from constipation, so I must be patient, I think it is

⁵⁴ Listed at the end of the month. (Garreau) However, the contents indicate an earlier placement. Ed.

⁵⁵ Illegible word. Most likely a preference expressed for Epiphany as the date for the first exposition.

due mostly to the cold.

So, I am praying to our Good Master to inspire our dear Father;⁵⁶ he is brand new, so there is a vast field for his zeal. I know that he is doing well and is loved. Offer my regards to him, as well as to all your brothers.

In our Lord, dear Father,
All yours,
Eymard

1194

CO 1194

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 118/181 VI 3)

[Paris]⁵⁷, Saturday, December 20, 1862⁵⁸

Dear Father,

I am writing to you in haste; I wasn't able to see the Minister, I'll see him Monday. Everyone tells me that the reference to auxiliary servants doesn't include the three priests.

That is the devil's last blow; our Lord will have the last word on Monday.

Forgive this paper, I am writing to you from the post office as I leave the Ministry.

All yours,
Eymard

To. Rev. Fr. de Cuers
at the Carmelites, rue Lyonnaise
Angers (Maine and Loire)

1195

CO 1195

TO CARDINAL MORLOT, (PARIS)
(VI 4/4)

December 22, 1862

Your Eminence,

God continues to bless our Work for the First Communion of Adult Workers: 51 of them will have the joy of communicating for the first time on Christmas Day and, among them six fathers of families; one father will be baptized with his two children. In the name of this Work, dear to your heart, I am requesting Your Eminence with confidence, to authorize Benediction on the day of First Communion, so that we may close that beautiful day with Benediction, and renew Baptismal Vows⁵⁹. We often find irregular unions among these unfortunate parents. We shall then arrange with the Parish priests to marry them quietly in our chapel. At Easter, we gather as many of our former children as we can. We give them a retreat of 4 days to prepare them for their Easter duty, and we have the consolation of seeing a large number of them attending.

⁵⁶ It is unclear to whom he is referring.

⁵⁷ Troussier.

⁵⁸ Troussier. The date is printed in the French Letters as December 26.

⁵⁹ In the margin was written: fiat ut petitur. A. Suret, V.G.

The Foundation in Angers

May your fatherly heart, Your Eminence, bless the sons and the Father, who is most happy to be Your Eminence's humble son,

Eymard

Paris
December 22, 1862

Dec 26 - Departure for the foundation in Angers.

1196

CO 1196

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 44/104)

On the train, December 26, 1862⁶⁰

Dear Lady,

I am on my way to Angers. The first Exposition will be done by the Bishop on Monday at 8:00 a.m. I expect to stay there until the 15th. I will wait for your visit there. Otherwise, I will try to go to visit you if I can. My address: rue Lyonnaise, at the Carmelites, Angers.

My best regards to your dear sister.

All yours,
Eymard

Dec 29 - Opening of the house of Angers. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. de Cuers had returned to Marseilles to replace Fr. Leroyer, who was originally from Angers and would come to the inauguration.

1197

CO 1197

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 119/181 VI 3)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Angers, December 31, 1862

Very dear Father,

I am sending Fr. Peilin back to you, and I am keeping Fr. Chanuet until Friday morning, because of tomorrow's feast. Fr. Chanuet must have written you the details of Monday's feast.

The altar was magnificent. All the religious groups were represented: the Pastor of the Cathedral, those from St. Teresa - its curate - and from the Trinity, Fr. Charles, Fr. du Coudray, two Vicar Generals, the Bishop's chaplain.

The Bishop gave a very touching account linking Jesus' birth with our arrival and Exposition.

At the end, his tears were flowing; he said lovely things about the Blessed Sacrament, he spoke

⁶⁰ Published in French as 1861. Because of the contents, 1862 is more likely (Troussier). A letter to de Cuers published in French as Dec. 26 was corrected by Troussier as Dec. 20th.

out his heart; among other things: "My priests will receive you well. The Pastors will receive you well, and if ever you would find a heart closed to you, you would always have the heart of your Bishop." He praised the sector: "Welcome the poor," he said, "they are the beloved of the Lord; welcome the rich who may often be unfaithful to the Lord, alas, but who were nevertheless welcomed at Bethlehem."

There was a large attendance: there must have been 50 men and 350 women. I preached in the evening, there were fewer men, but as many women. I announced the daily exercises, the Thursday instruction, and said a word about the Aggregation.

Our adorations are going well. At every moment I see courageous women coming for their adoration; there are many devout people on this side of town.

The good Carmelites are excellent, and happy with the joy of Exposition. Their chaplain was sent away, it was better to terminate immediately; we would have been in each other's way.

Yesterday I saw the Prefect for a long time; he wanted to be kind, he wanted to be strict, always on the fence about the truth. That being the case, I told him how we were progressing, but he kept referring to his letter to the Minister and the fact that he had not received an answer from him, that he would send it to me when he receives it. He is a man who likes to keep you hanging and agonizing. I told him in every [possible] tone of voice that we would respect the limits set by the minister, that the Minister had prejudices against us, that he had been ill-informed. The Prefect spoke to me about associations which are organized for adoration by the people of the city; he compared them to secret societies, he said that these do not depend on the Ministry, but on him. Poor man! he has the sad talent of thorns! but our Lord is on his throne, he has already been there three days, he will grow and become the God of the Resurrection. The Prefect kept telling me: the Minister has granted more than he intended, you are a Congregation. - Yes, Sir, we are a Congregation, but a secular one, in this regard, the Minister did not grant us any favor or privilege. We are not bound by the law of regulars, we have community life; there are six of us. We will respect the limits, it is in our own interest to do so. I thanked him for not having opposed the opening. A half hour was spent in this way.

Now, thank you for your kind wishes, dear and beloved Father, you couldn't have made them more eucharistic, nor dearer to my heart. Let us suffer everything, provided that our great King may reign; let's confront any sacrifice, provided we may gain one more throne for him. All for the Master! - the only happiness of the servant is to serve him. By our vocation, the empire of the world is ours, the grace of the times, the power and mission of eucharistic love. Oh! if we could only appreciate the honor and greatness of our vocation! how small the great ones of this world are before the Divine Eucharist! how small even the virtues of the great saints in the presence of this Sun of all justice, little stars before the eternal Sun!

A good religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament is fine anywhere... he has the adorable Host. How good the Good Lord was in this foundation! he really wanted it. The first and last hour were sublime, the Master's honor was royal.

Surely, one day this foundation will be great; it has been tried too much to remain in mediocrity. If we had not begun immediately, a thousand new difficulties might have come to block it; it was our Lord's time. We lack everything and we have more than we need: a very poor and cold church, but it has the King on his throne of grace and fire.

I am happy to have come at the very beginning, you will come next, dear Father, because when I look at the future, I need to close my eyes quickly and do like St. John on the bosom of our Lord.

I constantly tell myself: we are soldiers, the soldier gets his orders from his leader, from morning until night; that's a soldier's whole life. The next day, he returns to get new orders.

Fr. Peilin decided to have surgery in Paris; encourage him, but then, what shall we do for Marseilles, for Fr. Leroyer? I'm afraid that Fr. Peilin might need to stay in Paris a while. How then shall we replace Father? Perhaps the surgery will not be much.

For the Epiphany retreat here, I still don't know anything; will there be any people? Should it be announced tomorrow, or Sunday? Will it create a sensation? I'm like a man who doesn't see clearly. I'm still feeling the pain which yesterday's visit caused me. I will do for the best.

My best wishes for a good eucharistic year to all the Fathers and Brothers. My wishes can be summarized as follows: May they be good and happy adorers, always proud and happy to serve such a great and good Master.

I am, very dear Father, very strongly united to you in our Good Master and

All yours,
Eymard, S.

1198

CO 1198

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 205/395 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Angers, December 31, 1862⁶¹

Very dear daughter,

May our Lord bless you during the New Year. May he give you and all your sisters the grace of love which is the life, virtue and happiness of a true Servant of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Oh! yes, dear daughters, love our Eucharistic King and Spouse: eucharistic love is your entire law, virtue and holiness. True love is self-forgetful, devoted, perpetually self-sacrificing, not through self-interest nor effort, but with joy, finding its sole happiness in pleasing others.

To love our Lord royally means total death to our selfish nature and within oneself as well; for love is death first, then life. Love doesn't limit itself to certain days or hours. Love is like eternity, ever growing with new gifts and affection. May your heart ever dwell in its center!

I don't need to tell you how often you are present to me, you, Sister Benoite and all your sisters; and how I wish for you all that our good Master wants to give you and wants you to be. You are my beloved family.

I am happy here in this Bethlehem. The divine King is already three days old; he will grow, that is my hope, while we remain ever at his feet.

The opening by the Bishop on Monday was magnificent: there were many clergy and people, a very beautiful altar; however, when it was time to go to the refectory, divine Providence had to provide. I had had breakfast prepared for fifteen guests; everything went fine, but everything was borrowed, that's fine.

Nothing is as beautiful as a foundation made by men. We keep on laughing and saying: we don't have this, nor that, not even pins. From time to time I go out and come back laden like the poor village women when they return from the city. But the Good Lord is so good! We are at the Carmelites who would give us their whole house; you can understand that discretion requires that we should not need anything.

Once more, happy New Year to you, dear daughter, may it be the best of all; to Sr. Benoite, may she glorify our Lord by her sufferings; to all your sisters, whom I offer to our Lord every morning during the Holy Sacrifice.

I bless you with the blessing which our Lord has given me in his divine mercy.

In him, all yours,
Eymard

P.S. When you see M. thank her for her kind letter. I understand her sorrow: it was God's will.

⁶¹ Originally printed as December 31, 1861 in French Volume II. Because of the content and the manuscript, Fr. Troussier puts it as 1862.

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER
(I 8/54)

Angers, January 1, 1863⁶²

Dear Father,

I am writing to wish you a happy New Year, you are the first. I wished it to you this morning at the feet of the divine Master, and I prayed to him to bless you all: you, dear Fr. Champion, and all your dear Brothers.

What can we wish a religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament, other than to be a good and perfect adorer, entirely dedicated to the service of his good Master, seeking only his glory by death to self, or better yet, by total selflessness.

Oh! If only we understood the honor and happiness of our sublime vocation! If the world only knew how rich we are!

January 4. Now I am finishing my letter, dear Father. I have been so busy these days, that I couldn't even find a single moment.

I can't tell you anything new about the opening, your friend Mr. Chesneau told you the same day. How beautiful it was! All classes were represented: the Jesuits, the Lazarists, the Oblates, the pastors, the one from the Cathedral, those from St. Teresa and from the Trinity, with his assistant; the chaplains from Calvary, the Carmelites, Fr. du Coudray.

There must have been 50 to 60 men, and about 350 women.

The Bishop spoke, as he does, from the heart with devotion and feeling. He made me cry and he cried himself.

So our Lord has been on his throne in Angers for a week now. It will continue to grow: I believe that this foundation will be great some day; it has had so many trials!

Your city of Angers has good subjects, dear Father, I will keep this work for you, as I know no one. My mission is to plant this tree of life well, to form the eucharistic guard within; then, you will set the fire. Our good Master has many visitors among the people from the Doutre; he must be pleased.

Try to leave for Paris towards the end of the Epiphany octave. Take Fr. de Cuers and bring him with you.

Work it out between you; Fr. Peilin will go to Marseilles. He wants to have his surgery first; he is happy to return.

Everyone is waiting for you here.

We haven't received anything from Marseilles yet, I will file a claim for it: I trust you addressed the two cases to the Carmelites.

See how divine Providence works! Marseilles has provided a wonderful dessert; Paris alone provided the decoration for the altar; the second honor will be yours.

Goodbye, dear Father. See you soon.

My most heartfelt regards to all your brothers.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. -- I forgot a letter for you from Brother Henry in Paris; he was asking you to pray for his profession: don't tell him I forgot it.

⁶² Finished on January 4th.

1200

CO 1200

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 120/181 VI 3)

Angers, January 2, 1863

Very dear Father,

I cannot let Fr. Chanuet leave without writing you a few words. Our Lord is already 5 days old here. God grant that these days may be full and pleasing in his sight!

The house is beginning to function. Our Lord has a limited service, the poor are coming to visit him.

I will write to Fr. Leroyer to come toward the end of his octave, to get you in Paris, but we will have to see when Fr. Peilin can go. He told me that he would go to Paris for his surgery. Plan this trip with the two of them, and send me a note about it.

In our Lord, all yours,
Eymard

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers

1201

CO 1201

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 206/395 VI 2)

Angers, January 2, 1863⁶³

Thank you dear daughter, for your wishes which were so eucharistic; you must have received mine; we both have the same mission, let's see who will be most devoted to it.

Our poor house of Bethlehem is now beginning to have its daily necessities, but not those for the following day. We will need six surplices to change; once again we will count on your sisterly care to send them to us.

Tell Sister Benoite not to forget those who are absent and to obey you well, that I send my blessing to heal her a little.

My most devoted regards to you all; a special remembrance to Miss Thomas. She must be "the straw" of the Child Jesus' Crib.

Miss Michel is to come around the 15th.

I bless you, dear and poor daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁶³ The manuscript and printed letters read January 2, 1862, but Father Eymard was in Paris then, whereas he was in Angers in 1863.

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 6/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum!

Angers, January 3, 1863⁶⁴

Madame,

Your two letters brought me some comfort over your absence. I was going to put my letter in the mail (here enclosed) when yours was handed to me.... The Good Lord willed it for his greater glory. I felt that you should have the first blessing.⁶⁵ It belonged to you, for you are a daughter and sister of the family of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I was happy to meet Mr. D'A..., he was the first to recognize me and speak to me; he was very kind. I told him that if I had had a free day, I would have gone to greet him.

January 4th - So now we are here in Angers! after so many obstacles, interdictions, threats, what our Lord wants, happens, in spite of all human malice.

Indeed, we want to establish our foundation only under his protection and his love. His glory is too much at stake for him to forsake us on an angry sea.

The opening was beautiful, the Bishop put his devout and loving heart fully into it; he said wonderful things about the foundation which he compared to the birth of our Lord; and then, he made a profession of faith for us. I would have hidden, if I could have.⁶⁶ This good Bishop cried while he was preaching.

I hope that this foundation will be the most beautiful flower in his crown, since it was harvested at the Cenacle.

The religious and secular clergy were well represented: the Superior of the Jesuit fathers, the Lazarists, the Oblates; the Pastors of the Cathedral, of St. Teresa and Trinity parishes; the Chaplains, Fr. Charles and Fr. de Coudray; the two Vicar Generals; the secretary from the Chancery; the curate from St. Teresa's; the Chaplain of the Carmelites. There was a numerous attendance, about 60 men, at least 300 women, and music.

The feast in Heaven must also have been great; there is a new throne for the Lamb!...

Today, our Lord is seven days old here. Oh! What good and gracious days they have been! I was hungering to see him and speak to him!

Truly, I sometimes find myself telling our good Master that I love him so, because, at his feet, I forget Paris, Marseilles, La Mure; I feel as if I am no longer in this world. Sometimes I wonder if I still have any heart...

How beautiful exposition is! there are no more foreign lands, nothing still seems beautiful in the world! other than the beautiful, holy, gracious and adorable Host, Jesus!

The people in the neighborhood come to visit our Lord. I can understand that people from the other shore do not come, it's far; and then, they have exposition at the Chancery.

I don't need to tell you, dear Lady, that I pray for you and your loved ones.

Your cope serves as a standard reminder here, every day at 4 o'clock.⁶⁷

Since you have time, write to us. I still don't know when I will go to Paris.

If our good Master wanted me to die here, I would be willing: to be buried in the foundations. Sometimes I ask him for this, because the one who will come after me will be better and will do better; I am the front soldier for the first round of artillery, covered with dust and mud; that is all there is on the battlefield; what follows must be better.

⁶⁴ Finished Jan. 4.

⁶⁵ of the New Year or of the new foundation.

⁶⁶ Probably too many compliments.

⁶⁷ Used for Benediction.

The Foundation in Angers

Goodbye, at the feet of the divine Master I bless you wholeheartedly. Know how to be happy there, be very simple, humble, youthful like the Child Jesus. Pay no attention to your agitation and storms. Jesus, your King, loves you. That is very sure!

Eymard

I am sending you my first letter as a proof that I didn't forget my promise.

1203

CO 1203

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 207/395 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Angers, January 4, 1863⁶⁸

Dear daughter,

Thanks in advance for the surplices; we only need a few sheets, we don't have any to change, we go from day to day.

I am glad that you have been put in charge of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph. If everyone sings, sing.

As for adoration until midnight, it seems to me that until 9:30, or 10:00 p.m. at the most, would be sufficient; the rest seems a bit risky to me. Say that you cannot take it upon yourself; if they answer that they take it upon themselves, say that in another [similar] case I had reproached you. They are doing this for the glory of the Divine Master, the intention is excellent. But beyond that, you must be prudent; it's even time to be more so.

I am fine, thank you for your letters. They do please me very much.

All yours,
Eymard

1204

CO 1204

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

(V 46/76)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Angers, January 5, 1863

Dear daughter in our Lord,

May God repay your good wishes to me!⁶⁹ Your needs are ever present to me. The beloved soul we wish to see at the feet of the Good Lord, surrendering itself once and for all to his divine goodness and mercy, - that grace is very dear and alive in my heart.

For you, dear daughter, continue to be the Good Lord's poor little one! Poor people don't know how to think, work or express their needs well. Be like that at the feet of our good Master.

Your poor mind doesn't serve you very well: it even tires you. Bear with your poor agitated

⁶⁸ The manuscript and printed letters read January 4, 1862, but Father Eymard was in Paris then, whereas he was in Angers in 1863.

⁶⁹ New Year's wishes.

The Foundation in Angers

mind. Dear daughter, live with a free heart (but very gratefully) in God's fatherly kindness which is so great toward you. Always go forward, in spite of your distractions, your imagination and your faults.

See how the Good Lord had pity on that poor woman; she died a holy death; she received the Sacraments; she still had a good mind. That is the greatest grace. Your grief and fears in her regard touched the Heart of God.

I liked your letter which was written in the form of a journal. That is how you must do; there's nothing better for a father's heart.

I'm pleased that you will be coming to Paris. I expect to be there in about ten days, if it's God's will.

Our little foundation, which was made in the midst of many trials, is functioning. We are five; but all sacrifices put together are like nothing when we have our Lord on his throne. To see him, adore him, love him, serve him: isn't that Paradise?

Goodbye, dear daughter! If I should die, please have about fifty Masses said for those I would have forgotten to say. I'm always afraid about that.

I bless you with my whole heart.

Eymard

Madame Gourd.

1205

CO 1205

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 34/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum!

Angers, January 5, 1863

Miss Stephanie

Thank you for your wishes,⁷⁰ dear daughter, and especially for your prayers. Pray well, especially at this time.

I offer the same wish for you. Oh! Yes, may our Lord reign in all hearts, but especially in our own.

Indeed, he prefers this victory of the gift of our own hearts over the gift of all other hearts.

Dear daughter, I can see that you long to get out of that apathy which is weighing you down. You would like to have a strong external means at hand, something more stimulating, and I tell you that you have a better one, that is, the grace of the Reserved Sacrament, of holy Communion and of your dear mother.

Live only from day to day with the grace of the day. You are doing too much like sick people do. Consider the good you have received, the tangible love of our Lord; his goodness at every moment. Live a bit more out of gratitude and the fire will become strong again.

I am very happy with the news which the Pastor has given you. Be sure that if our good Master is pleased with you, he will remain your divine guest.⁷¹

Our little foundation is progressing in the midst of some poverty, a poverty which gives the appearance of being rich. Exposition was done magnificently on December 29th by the Bishop. So now, the Child Jesus is 8 days old here. It's always good to be on this Tabor of love.

Goodbye dear daughter; I bless you for this New Year.

Eymard

⁷⁰ New Year's wishes.

⁷¹ They will be allowed to keep the Reserved Sacrament.

TO MOTHER GUYOT^{72 73}
(V 1/8)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Angers, at the Carmelites, January 5, 1863

Dear Mother and daughter in our Lord,

I didn't have time to wish you a happy New Year until now. I did so in the presence of the Good Lord and I do so every day at the Memento where you will be [remembered] until the end of my life.

Dear Mother, I wish you the royal love of our Lord; the rest is nothing by comparison to this eucharistic diadem. Oh yes! Do love our Good Lord in a royal, not servile fashion!

Be a true disciple of his sacred love. You have his Tabernacle, you have its key and its keeping.

Then, do everything royally for the pure glory of your Good Lord, and finally be a bit more obedient to me when I tell you:

BE | kind and gracious toward your daughters;
| spiritual and patient toward yourself;
| noble and devoted in God's service;
| always alert to the divine Will.

That being said, I bless you and I am going to celebrate [Mass] and offer you to our heavenly Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. The Bishop has entrusted altar breads exclusively to some Religious here; he even refused to let the Carmelites here make any.

Jan. 6-13 - Preached the Octave of the Epiphany in Angers.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 121/181 VI 3)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Angers, January 7, 1863

Very dear Father,

I began the Octave. I am preaching at 6:30 a.m. for the working women and 4:00 p.m. for those who are free. Some people come, not a crowd, but pious souls. God will send them, he is the One who must bless them.

⁷² Superior at St. Thomas Villanova, rue d'Enfer, Paris.

⁷³ The 8 letters to Mother Guyot were taken from copies, no from the originals; they had every evidence of authenticity.

The Foundation in Angers

The royal feast⁷⁴ was very beautiful, with many people. Yours must have been magnificent. The objects from Marseilles were in Angers for more than two weeks, we claimed them, and received them on the eve of Epiphany. It made things festive.

People are coming to visit our Lord, not many, but good.

I am going to preach; I am very sad about Sr. Benoite's serious illness; may the holy Will of God be done!

In our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

1208

CO 1208

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 210/395 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Angers, January 7, 1863

Very dear daughter,

Thank you for your letters, even though they tell me about a very heavy cross. I began the novena at six o'clock this morning, I will continue it at the same hour. I am asking God to keep Sister Benoite a while longer, she will have plenty of time to rest. Tell her that I am blessing her and did bless her with the Blessed Sacrament; let her offer her sufferings to our Lord for the Work and especially for the new house in Angers. I am preaching the Octave twice a day; I don't even have time to turn around. God sustains me in my weakness and I need it.

Thank you for the surplices and the sheets, add a few hand towels, and we will be rich. The rest is fine. Please write to me.

My soul is resigned, but my heart is sad. May God's divine Will be done!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

I am reopening my letter so that you will tell Sr. Benoite, in virtue of Holy Obedience, to ask our Lord to [let her] stay a while longer in order to suffer for the Work

1209

CO 1209

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 122/181 VI 3)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Angers, January 8, 1863

Very dear Father,

People are beginning to come to the instructions; today I counted six priests among the listeners. Pray so that God may bless this foundation.

⁷⁴ Epiphany.

The Foundation in Angers

Miss Guillot will be sending us surplices, etc. Kindly put some hand towels in her package, if she hasn't put any. Especially, buy us two lamps like those in the sacristy and the staircase, with two extra glasses, we would also need some glass followers for our candelabra, we have only the exact number. Put all that in the package.

Everyone is fine.

Brother Henry is outstanding, Paul sings, Brother Eugene shines by his insights. Our singing is not outstanding, I am encouraging the sisters⁷⁵ to sing.

In osculo sancto.⁷⁶

All yours,

Eymard

P.S. -- Send Fr. Peilin to Marseilles as soon as possible, so that Fr. Leroyer may come to you in Paris and both of you come here.

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
religious of the Blessed Sacrament
68 rue faubourg St. Jacques
(Paris)

1210

CO 1210

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 211/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Angers, January 9, 1863

Dear daughter,

I wrote to you Wednesday. I am surprised that you didn't receive my letter; I received everything: your hundred francs, your telegram. What touched me most is your charity.

I began the novena for the healing of Sr. Benoitte on the 7th. I am saying holy Mass every day at 6:00 for this intention.

God is sustaining me, adoration is going well, preaching twice a day. There is an attendance of devout and simple people who are pleasing to God.

Tell Sr. Benoitte that I am praying a great deal for her, that she should offer herself to God.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

P.S. I am going now to preach.

⁷⁵ The Carmelite Sisters, whose chapel they were using.

⁷⁶ with a holy embrace.

1211

CO 1211

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 212/395 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum!

Angers, January 10, 1863

Dear daughter,

Everything reached us in good condition, now we are too rich! Thank you, may God repay you for it!

I thank God for healing Sr. Benoite: she must continue to work a while longer. It would not be very nice for her to go to Paradise and leave me here with difficulties and trials; she is being sensible, I'm pleased about that.

We are working very hard. God is watching over me, I haven't been ill; the Fathers are well. My migraine headache comes up to the door, but when it sees that I have too much to do, it threatens a little and goes away.

My sincere blessings.

All yours,
Eymard

1212

CO 1212

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 213/395 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum!

Angers, January 11, 1863

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I received your letter and its contents: many thanks; however, don't send me anything else. It would be superfluous; I have all I need at present. I almost miss our earlier poverty, it was so nice to be able to say: we don't have it. We really can get along without everything, except God!

Thank Miss Thomas for her generosity, she was very helpful. Our Lord will remember it, and so will we.

Nothing new here. Our Octave will end Tuesday. I thank the Good Lord for having granted relief to Sr. Benoite: I really prayed for that. Tell her that I am not forgetting her: on the contrary, I am praying very much for her, for you and for all your dear daughters.

In our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 123/181 VI 3)

A.R.T.

Angers, January 15, 1863

Very dear Father,

Brother Simon gave me 200 francs when he arrived, and 150 francs a month ago. He bought some things from a ploughman and personal objects for a 50th of a franc in the expectation of coming to Angers. I think he will bring it all; give him 300 francs. Fr. Carri can borrow them from the Masses until I return, or even 350 francs, if necessary. As for what we received from the Chartreuse, that is for his board, he has no claim to it. I am entirely at peace about this dismissal. I asked God [not to keep him] if he did not have the true qualities of a religious of the Blessed Sacrament. He was always doubtful. What is happening to him happens to those who come for themselves and who are not straightforward.

I am entirely at God's disposal for the trip to Rome.⁷⁷ If I hadn't mentioned it, it was because I was in a hurry and did not have time.

I wasn't expecting to go until the Archbishop of Paris would be installed, because without testimonial letters, one can do nothing in Rome, and I certainly wouldn't go there without them. I don't think the new Archbishop who was named would refuse us a letter.

The Bishop of Angers is absent until Sunday, I will ask him for one before leaving.

So you are more tired, dear Father, and I was counting on you to finish what you have begun here! And if Fr. Leroyer is absent from the house, especially in the beginning, how will it go with Fr. O'Kelly who doesn't know how to preach or is afraid to?

It isn't possible to leave this house alone. In that case,⁷⁸ I should put off my return to Paris until Fr. Leroyer would be totally settled, and we are so few... Surely, dear Father, I don't want to increase your fatigue, but if I could lessen it, I would do so willingly.

I was far from expecting that your health would be at such a point on the eve of my departure. I had counted on you when we began Angers.

Your letter almost indicates that you have a few problems. Please tell me about it, for if I am the cause, it is certainly unknowingly. Without withdrawing or becoming passive, you can still do a great deal of good. Your example and the esteem and affection that we have for you, your love for the Most Blessed Sacrament: these things do more good than you would think.

Every day I ask our Good Master to keep you still a long time in his service and in my fond and fraternal friendship.

In our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

Forgive me.

⁷⁷ With three houses it was now possible to request official approval of the Congregation from Rome.

⁷⁸ In the case that Fr. de Cuers is not well enough to replace him in Angers.

1214

CO 1214

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 45/104)

Angers, January 23, 1863

Dear Lady,

I will do all I can to come see you tonight, Friday, via the express train. I can give you only a few hours on Saturday.

First of all, thank you for the lovely flowers. I will come to thank you for your visit.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. My respects to your dear sister.

1215

CO 1215

TO THE MAYOR OF ANGERS⁷⁹
(VII 1/1)

Angers, January 24, 1863

Mr. Mayor,

We are now permanently established in Angers and temporarily at the Carmelites, who kindly put their Church at our disposal. We continue to hope to acquire the Knoll to build a chapel there, as the Bishop wrote to His Excellency, the Minister of Worship, who welcomed this idea favorably.

Therefore, Mr. Mayor, I am asking you to consider with the same kindness as I received in Paris, the question of whether your cession of rights in this matter would be likely and would give us hope of purchase from the administration of hospices, according to the ordinary legal form.

The chapel which we wish to build on this Knoll will be public; it will give life to that poor sector, and bring honor to the City, at least we hope so, and especially, Mr. Mayor, to your wisdom and just administration.

I would be very grateful, Mr. Mayor, if you would submit it to the Council as you had led us to hope, and then advise me.

I regret that an obligatory departure for Paris deprives me of the honor of coming to offer you my respectful best wishes once again.

Kindly receive them again and believe me, Mr. Mayor.

Your very humble servant,
Eymard

Paris
rue fg St. Jacques 68

⁷⁹ This letter is taken from a copy, not from the original.

The Foundation in Angers

Jan. 24, 1863 - Return to Paris via Nantes.

1216

CO 1216

TO MILES. MARIANNE Eymard AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 123/145 VI 10)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, January 29, 1863

Very dear sisters,

It is high time to wish you a happy New Year. I did so in the presence of God and I do it wholeheartedly everyday, it is only right.

Miss Guillot must have told you that I had gone to Angers for a foundation, I have just returned. I had been there since the end of December, but I was so busy that I didn't have time to breathe; so I didn't write to anyone.

On December 29th the Bishop came for the first Exposition with many clergy, surrounded with a devout assembly. I was very happy to see our Lord on a new throne: it is the third one; where shall the fourth one be? wherever he wills, we are ready to go to the furthest limits of the world for his glory.

It is very late, dear sisters, to wish you a happy New Year, but my wish is always the same: to wish the reign of Jesus within you and around you. How fortunate you are! God has entrusted you with dear young souls to form for his divine service! do it well, joyfully and lovingly. You have the most beautiful mission; then, you do laundry for his altars and decorate them, you are very honored. You will be repaid for everything in Heaven, just be fervent and devoted.

I am well. Through my own fault, the country air left me with a migraine headache, but just for a day when I returned. Now I have a stack of letters to read and write, visits to render; what a slave! I should add: of the Good Lord.

I will inquire for good Mr. Jouardet, it seems that he was forgotten.

I don't know when I will be able to go see you. I will be going to Marseilles, but I can't say exactly when; I hope to go to La Mure in passing for a heartfelt greeting, not as long as I would like, but at least it will be a very fraternal and cordial one in our Lord in whom I remain,

Your brother,
Eymard, S.S.S.

1217

CO 1217

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 124/181)

A.R.T.

Paris, February 1, 1863⁸⁰

Very dear Father,

The cause of suffering which you described to me is too weighty [for me] to refuse your return here. So return, dear Father, as you wish.

⁸⁰ February 1 or 3: Troussier.

The Foundation in Angers

As there are so many blankets in Angers, and we lack some here, it would be useful if they would send us two or three, as I think you must have about 15 or 16, and more. However, if it is too much trouble, let us wait.

I am in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

1218

CO 1218

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 214/395 VI 2)

Paris, February 2, 1863

Dear daughter in our Lord,

A thought came to me in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament about Mme Chanuet. It is that if you were to write, it would be better to write to her directly, making your observations kindly, as something that makes you sad, so that she may also know what she has to do; that is more appropriate for you than to accuse her in my presence. It is more befitting your position as Superior, and it will also make you stronger. Expose the facts, be moderate in making personal reflections, and we will pray that God will bless the rest. We shouldn't forget that spiritual childbearing has its own agony: it is birth to grace.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1219

CO 1219

TO MR. DE BENQUE
(VII 3/4)

Paris, February 2, 1863

Dear Mr. de Benque,

Please receive my Eucharistic wishes for you and your beautiful, beloved Work, although belated.⁸¹ I wish you all the blessings which flow from it, and all the happiness which the Holy Eucharist contains.

I've just returned from Angers. I hope that this little foundation will be for the glory of God. They are 6: 3 fathers and 3 brothers.

When I returned through Tours, one of my good friends gave me this note. He is a fine adorer. Since you are the only one I know at the bank, I am sending it to you. If it is redeemable,⁸² I entrust it to you. It seems that Mr. Fabre is a very distinguished subject.

Believe me in our Lord, dear Mr. de Benque,

⁸¹ The Nocturnal Adoration Society.

⁸² Literally: if it is hopeful.

All yours,
Eymard

1220

CO 1220

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 12/24)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, February 6, 1863

Dear friend and brother in our Lord,

I have just read your letter now for the first time. Your friendship, your wishes, touch my heart deeply! I return them to you still fresh.⁸³ You surely are my dear beloved Bethany. I love Lazarus, Martha and Mary, and all the little flowers of the Good Lord.⁸⁴

It's definite, I cannot separate you from my prayer, and, as treasurer of the Society, I am giving you its spiritual purse.

When will I go to Lyons? Perhaps soon, perhaps in a month, I don't know, but I will not pass by without a visit and a handshake.

I have just returned from Angers, where we have just made a foundation. It began on December 29th, the day of the Exposition. That house is functioning well.

When shall we go to Lyons? God knows. It will be the foundation of Notre Dame de Fourviere. Goodbye, dear friend, a thousand and one blessings and regards to all your dear ones.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

Feb. 8 - To Lyons to discuss possibility of a foundation.

1221

CO 1221

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 124/145 VI 10)

Lyons, Sunday, February 8, 1863

Dear sisters,

I am here in Lyons on business. I have two days to myself. I am leaving tomorrow, Monday, to go see you Monday evening. I will stay with you on Tuesday, and leave you on Wednesday. See you soon.

Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

⁸³ Literally: still warm.

⁸⁴ Mr. Carrel's children.

The Foundation in Angers

Feb. 9-10 - In La Mure.

Feb. 11 - Return to Paris.

Feb 15 Conference Servants: Vocation, the reign of our Lord.

Feb 18 Conference Servants: Ash Wednesday. Penance through the heart.

Late Feb Conference Servants: Mortification spiritualizes the body, simplifies the spirit, frees the heart.

Mar 1 Conference Servants: The month of St. Joseph.

1222

CO 1222

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 46/104)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, March 2, 1863

Dear Lady,

I have not left yet. I expect to leave at the beginning of next week. So, I still have time to receive news from you.

I communicated the message about your dear brother; they recognized him: he is in Purgatory, near the middle, with his arms crossed, looking above calmly; they told me that he had been very charitable. That is the best news of all. Although it isn't a matter of faith, it is still quite comforting.

My retreat isn't finished yet:⁸⁵ they are still working on it, and promised to give it to me soon. Please pray for my trip to Rome.

If you should need to write to me, write to the French Seminary, on rue Saint Clare in Rome.

My devoted respects to your dear sister, and [thanks] for her religious painting.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S

1223

CO 1223

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 17/36)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, March 2, 1863

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

It has been so long since I received news from you, or from your dear Director, that I would almost cry out that I have been forgotten. You may be saying the same.

⁸⁵ Retreat notes.

The Foundation in Angers

I arrived here from Angers a short time ago;⁸⁶ we founded a little house there. It has been functioning since December 29th.

I've just come from Lyons where a foundation is being offered to us,⁸⁷ but the Cardinal wants to take time to study the matter.

I am ready to leave for Rome a week from now. I didn't want to leave without telling you, and asking you whether you have any errands.

Please begin praying for us so that the glory of our common Master may shine forth pure and great because of this trip.

I am in bad shape, physically and spiritually. Our good Master will sustain my weakness, I hope.

Goodbye, dear sister, believe that I am ever united with you at the feet of our Good Lord, in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1224

CO 1224

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 7/19)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, March 2, 1863

Dear Madame and daughter in our Lord,

I'm very happy about your beautiful trip to Rome: it's the most beautiful one for a Christian soul. Read *Christian Rome* or some other work, in order to know the background of the monuments in advance.

Be like the sun ever rising toward high noon. The world is ever robbing us of our time, our piety and our virtue. We must be careful to fill our reservoir of graces in the morning.

1. In Paris, meat is allowed until Shrove Tuesday inclusively. I think it's the same in Marseilles. Follow the custom in effect at the points of departure or arrival. Be broad-minded. Say a word about it to your confessor, if you find it necessary.

2. On the sea, do as people do on the sea: lucky, yet, if you are not seasick.

3. Your Easter duties can be fulfilled in Rome more easily than anywhere else, in any church or chapel. The rule is that travelers should perform their Easter duties wherever they are.

4. I urge you to receive Communion every time you can. During a pilgrimage, it's a need.

5. Oblige your dear mother to eat a little more, to take some coffee in the morning. She is taking advantage of my absence!...⁸⁸

You should have given me the name of your sister-in-law in Rome. They'll give you my address at the French College, St. Claire Street, near the Piazza Minerva.

I expect to leave by the beginning of next week.

I bless you,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁸⁶ January 23.

⁸⁷ February 8.

⁸⁸ To perform stricter penances than he would allow.

Mar 4	Conference Servants: Annihilating love.
Mar 7	Conference Servants: Annihilating love.

March 8 - Departure for Rome via Marseilles.

1225

CO 1225

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(III 16/21)

Paris, March 8, 1863

Dear sisters,⁸⁹

I am writing a few words to you from the train, for I will not be able to stop in Lyons, time is lacking. I must set out for Rome tomorrow night. I have been so busy!

Please tell Miss Josephine Christen, at Miss Billard's, that I read her letter to Mother, that she can come to be with her in Paris, and that she will be welcomed. She will replace her dear mistress at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament.⁹⁰ Personally, I would be very happy to welcome her should she prefer to wait for my return from Rome, in about a month.

Let her do as she wishes.

Please give my regrets to good Mme Delpuche. I will see her on my return, and you also, my dear sisters.

Your sisters⁹¹ are well and your two nieces are happy and responsible. They are expecting to see me when I return.

Please pray very much for me, especially at Notre Dame de Fourviere, for this will be a long trip and the good Master must do everything.

Love the Good Lord dearly and always serve him joyfully. I don't write to you very often, but you are always dear to my heart in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. I treat you like my family.

Goodbye, good daughters, I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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

⁸⁹ To Mariette and Jenny Guillot.

⁹⁰ Her employer Miss Billard had left the Servants and then had died.

⁹¹ Sisters Marguerite and Claudine.

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

(V 47/76)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, March 8, 1863

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

It has been so long since I have written to you! Some of it was due to travel, some due to fatigue, and also because I was expecting you in Paris: everything concurred. However, you do know that your soul is ever dear to me in our Lord, and that everything which interests you, interests me.

Miss Guillot has given you some news about us. She told you what our Lord has done in our Society. The Good Lord is very good; he continues to give us many graces, while we, we are very poor adorers.

Our house in Angers is doing very well and is already doing some good in the city. Many people come to our church.

Now, I am on my way to Rome. I will soon be passing by Romanche and I will bless you wholeheartedly, as well as your dear patient. I am going to place our little Society at the feet of the Sovereign Pontiff and ask him for a second blessing. I will leave from Marseilles tomorrow night at 9 o'clock and reach Rome on Wednesday, around 11 o'clock a.m.

I don't need to tell you to pray for this trip. I will do so for you and your dear patient in every beautiful sanctuary of the Eternal City.

You certainly have had your trials and anguish, dear daughter. I understand all the pain in your heart in the extreme circumstances you were in, between the fear of failure and your duty of conscience. Oh! poor daughter, how you must have suffered! Be at peace: you did not offend the Good Lord.

He sees and knows his duties very well.⁹² What proves it is that he asked you if he was in danger of death; that means he would have confessed himself.

As for you, dear daughter, let this be your guiding principle: when there is no danger in his condition and you doubt or fear to do more harm than good, be at peace; it isn't time. In order to speak directly about confession, you must feel a bit more confident and God must open the door.

Let us bless God for his convalescence. God is preparing this dear patient through illness, which surely makes him reflect a lot.

We will double our prayers with you, dear daughter. For this reason, I am giving you all the merits of the Society during the month of St. Joseph.

Goodbye, dear daughter!

I bless you with all my heart. Be calm and poor at the feet of our good Master.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Here is my address in Rome: at the French Seminary, St. Claire Street. - The cost of postage is one franc.

⁹² her husband.

1227

CO 1227

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 35/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum!

Paris, March 8, 1863

Miss Stephanie

Dear daughter in our Lord,

My illegible handwriting will show you that I am writing to you on the train.

I hope that your charity has forgiven me for my silence. I was expecting you in Paris.

You certainly have had your sorrows and trials, and our Lord hasn't consoled you yet with the resurrection of your dear Lazarus.⁹³ It will be beautiful, since God is expecting so much prayer!

Have confidence, the fruit of so many sacrifices, prayers and tears cannot perish. Continue to storm heaven with holy violence. This is the month of St. Joseph, your good mother's feast. Bring about this lovely bouquet somehow; St. Joseph must get to it for good.

Always be calm and generous, dear daughter. Do not consult your heart or your mind, but only duty or the holy Will of God at each moment, or the most charitable choice to make. In doubts or in the fear of acting, pray; then do what prayer will inspire you; nothing, if you are anxious, but everything that trust will suggest. So much for your obligations in relation to your dear father.

As for you, go to the Good Lord as sick people do, for you must be very tired from all these struggles. Remember that in the case of illness, the... is piety, that is when good becomes the greater good. Let your poor feelings cry out a little, but let your heart always be given to your divine Master. Go see him often like Magdalene of Bethany.

Goodbye dear daughter; I really hope to have news from you in Rome, at the French Seminary, rue St. Claire. Postage will be one franc.

I bless you.

All yours,

Eymard

Madame Gourd

1228

CO 1228

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 45/75)

A.R.T.

Paris,⁹⁴ March 8, 1863

Dear sister in our Lord,

I am on the train for Marseilles and I cannot stop because I was weighed down with business until this morning. I will pass through Lyons tonight around 10:00; I will bless you when I pass.

I would surely have been happy to see you and to tell you to love the Good Lord dearly, to be

⁹³ Conversion of her father.

⁹⁴ Published in French as May 8, 1863. This is impossible because he was in Rome at that time. (Troussier)

The Foundation in Angers

the beloved host of his heart, and the servant of his love. This divine dwelling is the only one that is peaceful and good; there is no real virtue other than the one that makes us live from Jesus; no pure love except through self-denial. My dear daughter, you know all that and you have begun to do it. Always do it well for you should not and cannot regress.

Don't be upset with me if I have only a few words for you. They are from the heart and the Tabernacle. I assure you that I always keep your place for you.

Goodbye, dear daughter in our Lord; pray for this trip so that everything may turn to the glory of our divine Master and that I may not be an obstacle to his graces.

I bless you and your dear daughter whom I will be expecting in Rome.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

Mme C. Jordan
10 rue de Castries
Lyons

1229

CO 1229

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 13/24)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

from Paris to Lyons, March 8, 1863

Dear friend and brother in our Lord,

I'm writing on the train to say a quick hello. I left Paris this morning, I must be at Marseilles tomorrow morning and leave for Rome in the evening.

Therefore, it's impossible for me to pay my debt to fraternal friendship. Since you are a man of duty, you will respect mine.

It's impossible to gain a half-day for Lyons! I will surely think of you at St. Peter's, at St. Mary Major's, at St. John Lateran's. You shall also pray for me, because I really need it. It is true that as the Good Lord has always been so kind on our behalf, I would be at fault to fear human beings.

My faithful regards to your dear wife, to your whole family. My best wishes to good Fr. Barnola and Fr. Jacquet.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

My address in Rome: at the French Seminary, rue Ste-Claire, - if you should need me.