

## **CHAPTER II**

### **July - December 1865 The Mark of the Passion**

*“Eucharistic vocations always have the mark of the Passion in them.”  
To a Foundress, Oct. 9, 1865*

#### **General Convocation of the Society**

#### **Reelection as Superior General for life. July 1865**

#### **Illness of his sister Marianne**

#### **Preparations for Two Foundations**

- Nemours for the Servants (Dec. 9, 1865)
- Brussels

#### **Search for an Ecclesiastical Superior for the Servants in Angers**

#### **Spiritual Teacher**

- Retreat to the Servants
- Missions in Tours, Mauron, Nemours, Dreux, Angers, and Brussels

**1588**

**CO 1588**

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

*(II 290/395 VI 2)*

A.R.T.<sup>1</sup>

*Paris, July 7, 1865*

Dear daughter,

My first letter and my first blessing are yours. I won't discuss my reelection: may God be my light and my strength! I was longing a little too much for rest and to be free from a few crosses! May he be praised!<sup>2</sup>

Sister B. is here, as you know. I barely had time to see her ... [4 lines erased].

Yes, the least religious would be preferable, you did well to complain. I will do so if you want me to, and if we can hope for some good from it.

That fine Bishop has fixed ideas, but he will give in to your good reasons, for wouldn't he be creating a struggle between his Superior and us?

Since he is the one who would name one of our religious, that religious whom he would name who would also be under obedience and so can not be displeasing to him.

I'll take care of all your errands with Mr. Le Clere.

I have only enough time to bless you all. I'll say Holy Mass at the Good Shepherd.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

P.S. Miss Sterlingue left immediately for Paris to see her father who is ill.

**1589**

**CO 1589**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE NEE DE MONTAGU**

*(V 26/52)*

A.R.T.

*Paris, July 7, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,

Yesterday God imposed the burden of Perpetual Superiorship upon me once again. Pray for me! It was difficult for me, because I was hoping to have some rest and solitude from everyone in order to belong more to God alone in solitude, I was dreaming and planning for it... (four lines erased).

I find that you are very fortunate to be the little servant of Jesus, his adorer, his hostess and his dwelling. Esteem this happiness, it is great and gracious.

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<sup>1</sup> A.R.T.: "Adveniat Regnum Tuum:" Thy Kingdom Come.

<sup>2</sup> "When he heard the proclamation of his re-election, under the illusion it would not occur, Father became pale, his hands shook and his eyes filled with tears. He did not have the strength to speak, except to say: 'You can all go to sing the Te Deum; as for me, I don't have the courage to do so!' And he withdrew to his room. When they went to get him for dinner, they found him on his knees, fallen on his heels, and bathed in tears." (from the biography by Fr. Tesniere)

*The Mark of the Passion*

Forget your faults, even your sins, to live a little like in Heaven, where we bless, give thanks; where we love the most blessed Trinity ever more perfectly and creatively; where we see our sins only in the mercy of God; our works only in his grace, our happiness only as a ray of divine happiness.

I leave you in our Lord; I am going to celebrate [Mass] and pray for you, and for all your loved ones.

Believe me in our good Master,

Madame,  
Your respectful and ever devoted,  
Eymard

**1590**

**CO 1590**

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

*(II 291/395 VI 2)*

*Paris, July 15, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Here's the letter to ... thank you for yours. Don't get discouraged ... [2 lines erased]. So have no fears on that subject.

Listen to everything and weigh everything in God, don't get so discouraged. Even if you had been laboring for the Work for twenty years, your love should keep you ever young.

I devote myself to it, even though I have less aptitude<sup>3</sup> than you do for the interior life.

Monday, I'll go to see Mr. False: you can imagine that I'm still overburdened with work.

Fr. de Cuers is still here. Sister Benoitte is leaving tomorrow night to spend two or three days at the Thorins with the Gourd Ladies, while waiting for the Nemours affairs to be settled. Today I will write to the father to propose an amount for a pension.

Take care of yourself, we must continue to work and for a long time.

I don't have any fresh news about my sister. I hope that our dear master will keep her for me a little while longer.

I bless you,  
Eymard

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<sup>3</sup> Less aptitude or fewer possibilities.

**1591**

**CO 1591**

**TO MME. CAROLINE DE BOISGROLLIER (SR. MARIE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT)**  
(III 1/5)

*Adveniat Regnum tuum*

*Paris, July 15, 1865*

Dear Sister Marie,

Let us forget the past!

The Pope said to Fenelon: you sinned by too much love; and to Bossuet: and you, by too much zeal. God permitted this trial to test your vocation further after twenty-six years. Well! It will be the last time. You are with the good Master, stay there in peace. You are in the family of the Most Blessed Sacrament, continue to be its daughter and sister.

And so I bless you with my whole heart and give you back all that I wanted to take from you, or perhaps hide from you.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

To dear Sister Marie of the Blessed Sacrament

**1592**

**CO 1592**

**TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 132/145) VI 10

*Paris, July 16, 1865*

Dear sister,

So you are sick! This news made me very sad. I couldn't fly to La Mure to see you because I was in the midst of the General Chapter with all our priests, from July 3<sup>rd</sup> until last Wednesday, ten days in a row without a single moment, not even until today, Sunday, because I had to send each one on to his destination and settle everything.

I really prayed our Lord, dear sister, to relieve and heal you, because you are all I have on earth. I know that heaven is worth more than this poor life, but I would like to request something similar to the grace of St. Benedict and his sister St. Scholastica.

I don't know when I will be free, but I hope to go see you soon, perhaps within two weeks. It would be a great consolation for me, but it is all in God's hands. Stay in his hands, dear sister, don't worry about anything. If God should want you before me, I will take care of our good Nanette and I will not forget your soul, nor your intentions. But I hope that the Good Lord will leave you longer on earth to honor, love and serve him.

I will bless you both.

Your brother,  
Eymard, Superior

**TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)**  
(IV 24/36)

*Paris, July 16, 1865*

Dear sister in our Lord,

Every day I wanted to write to you and scold you a little. Fellowship in our Lord must not be sensitive or count its rights, but only intentions.

So then! So it is! I owe you! But listen. Our General Chapter, which began on the 3rd, came to a close on July 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a retreat, a re-election, sessions; consider how busy I was.

I was re-elected Superior, in spite of my begging to be left alone with God and free.

So now I am chained for life to men whom I must chain very securely to the throne of our royal Master, and whom I must feed each day.

The good Master really presided over these sessions. The devil tried to turn everything upside down, but our Master was in the boat.

Oh! How right you are! I just preached a retreat to the adorers in Paris, I didn't hide my distress.

Beneath the pulpit at St. Thomas I could see 300 lay adorers who serve and adore the Master every night in spite of their fatigue and daytime work.

But where are the priests? We speak about our Lord - it's the glory of our time! We point to the divine Eucharist, it's the spiritual movement of our times; like posts, the priests stay where they are, or they are content with admiring and showing the way. Oh! My heart is sick over it. I wanted to hide from everyone, or else be free to go into the world to embarrass some and encourage others.

People are afraid of the eucharistic vocation; they come as far as our door, but quickly run away. People are afraid of adoration of Jesus the King.

What can we do? Love, adore, consume oneself in place of all these lazy ones.

Thank you for your office; I don't have the time to read at the moment, although it would please me very much.

Therefore, pray for us, so that we may become saints ourselves in order to make saints, and then apostles in order to set the divine fire in the midst of the forests of this lazy and timid world.

I bless you,  
Eymard, Superior

P.S. My residence is still in Paris, and my letters are respected.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Left unopened.

**1594**

**CO 1594**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE NEE DE MONTAGU**  
(V 27/52)

*Paris, July 16, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,

Thank you so much for your last letter and for your prayers for me. This is real charity.

I admit my weakness: I wanted to escape from crosses and hide, thinking I would belong more to God. Our good Master did not will it, may he be blessed! I understood one thing: It is that household crosses are terrible, their source of pain comes from their closeness and continuity. Sometimes they seem light when a beautiful sun releases their dampness; at other times they are overwhelming when water from heaven, or feelings of abandonment by God, adds to it all.

And so, suffering is necessary from everyone and everywhere: it is the seed of Calvary scattered throughout the earth. It seems that divine love always enters into the heart by a new wound, and likes to pierce the heart in order to let its heavenly flame enter in. Well, long live the cross of the Good Lord! And long live those persons who give it or who crucify us to it!

So then, are you a little lazy?... Nonetheless I praise you for your fidelity, a debt of honor is always paid. Then, on a beautiful day, the dry season becomes mild, less harsh, - a gentle rain comes and gives new life to this poor dry earth. Our good Master says a word, the soul awakens, rises and runs to the divine Gardener.

I hope I will not delay too long before I [can] go to Angers. Father Audibert is the one who is replacing Father Leroyer who is destined for Marseilles with Father De Cuers. Father Champion is coming to Paris.

I promise I will do all I can, yes, yes! Your soul belongs to God as does your heart. Have courage and have confidence, I bless you in our Lord.

**1595**

**CO 1595**

**TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS**  
(VI 10/22)

*Paris, July 17, 1865*

Mademoiselle,

Fr. Leroyer must have told you that we were in general chapter and that we would discuss Brussels, but the chapter finds at present that, given our small numbers and Fr. de Cuers' illness, it would be unwise to begin in Brussels. Much as we desire to work with you, Mademoiselle, putting Brussels before all other requests, it isn't possible at the moment because of elections and nominations which changed all the Superiors. Fr. Leroyer is being sent to Marseilles to replace the Fr. Superior who was named Assistant and has to return to Paris.

I am very sorry, Mademoiselle, to have to tell you this. I had been hoping, myself, not to be renamed Superior and leave the mission of this foundation to someone else. All I can promise you is to give it first place and my wholehearted interest in it.

Believe me, in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your respectful and devoted servant,  
Eymard, Superior

**1596**

**CO 1596**

**TO MR. JULES LECLERC, BOOKSELLER, PARIS**  
(VII 1/1)

*Paris, July 17, 1865*

Dear Mr. Jules,

The time is fast approaching when we will have to ask you to reimburse our 60,000 francs. I wasn't expecting to leave them with you so long, hoping that the purchase of the property in Angers would take place sooner. On the other hand, I am happy that this amount was able to help you in some way.

We will need the full amount toward the end of the month of September. I hope that you will have it ready for me, because the land in Angers will be sold at Auction. We want to buy it at all costs, because it is the motive for our foundation in that city.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Mr. Jules,

Your loving and devoted servant,  
Eymard

**1597**

**CO 1597**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 292/395 VI 2)

*Paris, July 19, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

... [11 lines erased]. You weren't included in the deed because of another arrangement.

The father<sup>5</sup> seems inclined to help. We are purely and simply going to have a sale. We would need to have 6,000 francs for the expenses. Might one of your sisters get them? That is the main thing. Then we will sign a deed to establish a pension for Mademoiselle, for 5,000 francs a year, including her lodging. She will sell the house, a lot and a mill. Tonight we will discuss it in detail.

Tomorrow, Thursday, I am expecting the "little mother."<sup>6</sup>

I need to have the power of attorney for the sisters. I will request it from you either by telegraph or in another letter. This authorization would be to grant to Sr. Benoite, [and] to Miss Larousse, Adelaide, Donreau St, 41, the power to sign the deed.

I've just received news from my sister. She isn't well. The doctor who wrote to me is concerned about the outcome of the illness. I cannot go just now. I may be able to go next week. May God's holy will be done!

She is fine, that ... I think she is the one who was working in the garden, and not another who also wanted to enter with you. I don't remember her name. The one who was working in the garden is very fine, and since she is being asked to withdraw, my advice is that you should give her a try, on condition that she not speak about ... For us, the Eucharist is Carmel.

I bless you wholeheartedly,  
Eymard

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<sup>5</sup> Property of Nemours, father of Miss Sterlingue.

<sup>6</sup> Nickname for Sr. Claudine du S.S.

P.S. I know which clock they are describing to you. I had one in the Major Seminary. A few directors disliked it. Every thought that honors our Lord is good, but find his divine Heart where it is: in the Blessed Sacrament. That devotion is fine for people on the outside or for those who are not adorers. You are the Guard of Love: that is much more than the Guard of Honor. You are continually serving him.

## 1598

CO 1598

### **TO THE RELIGIOUS OF MARSEILLES AND ANGERS<sup>7</sup>** (VIII 1/1)

Very dear Fathers and Brothers in our Lord,

We are sending you an authentic copy of the deliberations and prescriptions of the General Chapter, so that, for the love and the greater glory of our Lord, and the greater good of the Society, you may apply them straightaway as the rule of your eucharistic vocation.

If, because of your small number, you cannot fulfill all the ordinances, accomplish at least those which are possible for you. In case of doubt or difficulties, you may submit them to us, in simplicity and submission in our Lord.

From the motherhouse in Paris, July 19, 1865.

P. Eymard  
Sup. Soc. S.S.<sup>8</sup>

[L + S]

## 1599

CO 1599

### **TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)** (II 293/395 VI 2)

*Paris, July 20, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

My letter had just left yesterday, when we began the feast of St. Marguerite at Vespers.

I immediately offered you my wishes in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and [did so] again this morning at holy Mass.

Yes, be a Marguerite, that is, a precious stone in the presence of God, a diamond shining with virtue, strong with love, and even more beautiful in the darkness of trials and sacrifices!

So St. Marguerite, Virgin, bequeaths you Jesus as your spouse; as a martyr, she gives you the law of love. Now crowned in heaven, she is envious of your crown of thorns. To sum it up, you are both serving the glory of the same Master.

The Nemours affair is progressing slowly, because we need all the documents.

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<sup>7</sup> (Letter following the General Chapter) Identical text in both letters. The only difference are:

- (1) To the priest and Brothers of the Marseilles House  
Very dear ones in our Lord J.C.  
Dear Fathers and Brothers in our Lord.
- (2) To the Fathers and Brothers of the Angers House, Priests  
Very Dear Fathers and Brothers in the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> Superior of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

*The Mark of the Passion*

Sr. Benoit was due to arrive today. Our good Master did well to keep her back until Saturday.

Thank you for Nanette's letter and for the prayers. Thank you for those of Miss Dalaca; don't worry, I won't leave you at the mercy of anyone's discretion. People may talk, but believe only what I write to you.

I'm sending you the letter from the Thorins even though it is torn. I bless you.

All yours,  
Eymard

**1600**

**CO 1600**

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

*(II 294/395 VI 2)*

*Paris, July 22, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Sr. Benoit arrived. She is the same as usual.

The deed is ready.<sup>9</sup> It will be signed Monday morning. I will explain why your name cannot be included. It's because we are crediting you with the deposit.

They want the contract on stamped paper. I'm sending you two sheets on which to have it transcribed. Return them to me, so that I may have them Monday morning without fail. I bless you.

Eymard

I received 2,000 francs from Mme. Mason; send me what you have: we will need 7,000 francs. We need them right away without fail. Ask Mme. Chanuet to advance what she can. I don't know where to find it at the moment, we have only an eight day waiting period.

**1601**

**CO 1601**

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

*(II 295/395 VI 2)*

*Paris, July 22, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm sending you the contract for the pension; have it signed by the three, have a copy made, but not by you. Have the second copy signed and return them both to me immediately.

Yesterday I went to Meaux<sup>10</sup> to ask the Bishop if he would receive you. That fine Bishop is very happy to receive you. He told me he would write to the Bishop of Angers about it as a courtesy. I asked him to do so only in a week's time, so that you would have time to inform the Bishop of Angers.

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<sup>9</sup> For the Nemours foundation.

<sup>10</sup> See city for the foundation of Nemours.

*The Mark of the Passion*

I'm expecting Sr. Benoitte this morning; I saw the notary yesterday. If the authorization I will request from you by telegraph is legalized and received here by Monday, we could sign the deed.

The notary said Sr. Benoitte can sign for everyone. That simplifies matters.

We will be doing something very important. It will give the Society of the Servants more solidity and freedom of action.

Fr. de Cuers left yesterday at 2:00 for Lyons with Brother Jules.

My blessings to you in the Lord.

Eymard

**1602**

**CO 1602**

**TO MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANN-MARIE DU SS)**

(III 19/21)

*Paris, July 23, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

While waiting for a freer moment, I kept waiting until today. Even so I can write you only a few words.

First of all I want to tell you that I received your letter and the 200 francs for Masses for Miss Billard. Please present my sincere regards to her.

My sister is sick. I hope to go see her in a few days, and I will see you, not on my way down, because I don't expect to stop anywhere so as to arrive at La Mure sooner, but on my return to Paris. Then I will give you a little time for direction.

Today I received a letter from La Mure, telling me that my sister's condition has not worsened. So then, I expect to find her still with us. I recommend her to your prayers.

Sr. Benoitte is due to leave tomorrow night for the hot springs at Riom. She is ill.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,  
Eymard

**1603**

**CO 1603**

**To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)**

(II 296/395 VI 2)

*Paris, July 26, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Fr. Audibert is leaving, he will be truly devoted to you. He will give the same conferences as Fr. Leroyer: have confidence in him.

As for the question of a Superior,<sup>11</sup> I'll write to the Bishop to reach the following understanding: the status quo remains the same.

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<sup>11</sup> An ecclesiastical Superior for the Servants.

*The Mark of the Passion*

Everything is finished, but keep it quiet.

I am returning 280 francs; I can't think of leaving you penniless. I'm sending you the receipt from the notary for 7,300 francs. I borrowed the rest from a deposit by Mr. Sterlingue.

I'm sending you the contract. The "little mother" will sign it. I didn't have time. Keep it secret.

Miss Sterlingue entrusted me with her valuables to deposit them at the Bank in your name for greater security. We accomplished that procedure yesterday, the contract the day before. That is why we didn't include you or your sister in the contract, because the valuables are credited to you and that was more important.

It will be necessary to send Miss Jenny Sterlingue a notarized authorization giving her the power to withdraw the interest and titles if necessary. Send it to Nemours by registered mail.

I'm expecting to leave for La Mure soon. Yesterday, I received a letter from Marseilles. She has a lung infection. That means that it's serious. May the Holy Will of God be done!

I am expecting to leave tonight or tomorrow morning.

Sr. Benoit left for her village yesterday.

God has guided this matter ... [2 lines erased]. But everything went as we had hoped, everything came at the right time.<sup>12</sup>

Pray for my sister and for me.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**1604**

**CO 1604**

**TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST**  
(IV 50/52)

*Paris, July 26, 1865*

Dear Madame in our Lord,

Finally, I can see that I must send you the certificate for the Pastor at St. Andre-de-Tarare, since I lost his address again. Please write it after the word "Dom." It is really my fault. I don't dare excuse myself because of my business and travels. Ask God to forgive me for this negligence.

I was really pleased with your dear son in Paris. I am happy to see that he behaves as if he were under his good Mother's wings and that he is faithful to his good principles.

I saw your sister. She was preparing to go see you. She has a real mission in the Delys family. She is very helpful to good Mme. Lepage. I really hope this fine friendship will continue. It has been a century since I wrote to you, but you must tell yourself that I wanted to do so many times. Then, I was carried by succeeding waves, expecting a rest that never comes.

I'm writing to you before I leave. I'm going to La Mure d'Isere to see my poor sister who is very ill. I recommend her to your prayers.

My regards to your fine husband, to your son.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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<sup>12</sup> Financial aid.

**1605**

**CO 1605**

**TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)**  
(V 9/14)

*Paris, July 26, 1865*

Excellency,

Fr. Audibert left this morning to take over his responsibility as Superior in Angers. He left happy, because obedience has entrusted him with this mission, and also because Your Excellency has been so kind toward him. He is the best and most qualified person I can send you, Excellency. I hope that he will measure up to your great kindness toward us and to your zeal for good.

An offer is being made to the Ladies of the Blessed Sacrament of a charming property near Paris, at Nemours, for a little foundation. The gift is worthy of such a beautiful purpose as Adoration. Before accepting, I saw the Bishop of Meaux, to seek his approval. He accepts the foundation of these little Servants with great joy and he will write to Your Excellency about it.

I would see this second house with great pleasure, Your Excellency, to transfer those who need a change of locale. Your Excellency knows better than I what a sick head is capable of [doing].

I submit this to your wisdom, Excellency, as also I hope to go to Angers soon and to propose to Your Excellency the idea of naming as a Superior to the Ladies, one of our Fathers who is wise and prudent, if you should see it as a greater good.

Please accept my sentiments of deepest respect and gratitude with which I am happy to be, Your Excellency's

Most humble and obedient servant,  
Eymard, Sup. Soc. S.S.

*Fr. Eymard went to La Mure Aug. 1 to be with his sick sister until approximately the 8<sup>th</sup>.*

**1606**

**CO 1606**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 297/395 VI 2)

*La Mure, August 1, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

My sister thanks you sincerely for your prayers, your letter, your kindness toward her. Today I brought her holy Communion: she was very happy about it.

She isn't out of danger, the doctor isn't confident. Today, I'll be going to Notre Dame de La Salette on her behalf.

I don't expect to return to Paris before a week.

Don't worry about Nemours. When I explain everything to you, you'll see that the responsibility you worry about doesn't exist, that every prudent means was taken; but I can't explain it to you in letters. I wrote to the Bishop that I'll go to Angers to reach an agreement with His Excellency about a Superior ... [4 and a half lines erased].

I know that some may have thought that Sr. Benoite's presence in Paris was my doing. You know, dear daughter, that I had asked you to tell her not to come during the Chapter, but it was too late. God sent her in spite of it: blessed be God!

*The Mark of the Passion*

Since whatever may be said in my regard about that would be false, I don't need to worry about it, nor am I responsible for all the gossip resulting from human weakness. If God is for us, those who are against us will be very weak!

Your letter had a tone of sadness and discouragement which would make me sad if I didn't know that grace quickly takes the upper hand over your feelings.

Dear daughter, try to see things in God and for the greater good. You know very well that I am devoted to you in life and death.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,  
Eymard

To Very Honorable Mother Superior  
of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament  
10 bis rue de l'Hopital Angers  
(Maine and Loire)

**1607**

**CO 1607**

**DOCUMENTS OF LA SALETTE**  
(VIII 3/4)

*Aug 1, 1865<sup>13</sup>*

"A gentleman of Lyons, the father of a family and head of a business enterprise, had long resisted the tender and urgent pleas of his devout sister to return to God and his Christian duties. A good example to set his children, the hereditary piety of his family, his Christian past - nothing moved him. On the contrary, he held it all up to ridicule, and grew insolent when they tried to insist."

At the end of her resources, one day his sister said: "Well, brother, since nothing can move you, I'm off to La Salette to ask the Blessed Virgin for your conversion!" "You can go to Rome or Jerusalem if you like," replied her obstinate brother, "go, then; you'll find me the same as you left me." His sister went rather upset, as her brother had not promised to say an Ave Maria for her. She went on her pilgrimage with devotion; she prayed fervently and with tears on the Holy Mountain. She asked all the pilgrims for their prayers, and she felt that the Most Blessed Virgin had granted her request and that she would find her dear brother in a better frame of mind.

She went away and returned to Lyons; and when she saw her brother she said with some emotion: "Has my wish been granted? I have prayed hard for you, I offered up all the fatigue of the pilgrimage!" The brother said nothing; he was nervous. "Won't you say anything?" begged his sister. "What do you want me to say! I want to remain as I was when you left; I leave you alone, leave me alone, I'm not doing harm to anyone, I'm a decent man. Goodnight, sister; go to bed!" "Oh! the sister went on, "it is impossible that Our Lady of la Salette didn't grant my wish. is your heart harder than a stone?" She could say no more. The brother went to bed, almost angrily.

The poor sister could hardly sleep she was so sad. She prayed, she implored the Good Mother to come to her aid. Well, the next morning, there was a knock at her door. "Who is it?" "It's me, your brother." "What do you want?" "I've had enough; get up, I want to talk to you." She got up, and there was her brother saying: "Take me to your confessor, I want to make my confession. All night I've been suffering like a soul in hell. I've reflected; and I've realized that I was living the life of a

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<sup>13</sup> On August 1<sup>st</sup> 1865, Father Eymard was giving Evening Instruction at La Salette. He told the story of a CONVERSION, and transcribed it later in the Sanctuary Album. How prematurely aged his handwriting appears!

brute instead of a Christian. I was frightened by my behavior. I'm serious: I want to be converted." The poor sister wept for joy as she embraced her brother. She came with him to see me: the conversion was simple - the Blessed Virgin had done it. He made his confession, and after a period of preparation, he received Communion next to his sister. He was the happiest of men. He was tasting the true happiness of the house of God, and he has persevered. His example was a salutary one for his employees, and a great joy for his family. The tree continues to bear fruits of salvation.

Eymard

1608

CO 1608

**DOCUMENTS OF LA SALETTE**

(VIII 4/4)<sup>14</sup>

"Some time ago,<sup>15</sup> a devout person (sic) had fallen ill. Seeing that she was very weak, her friends sent for her confessor, a religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament. It was evening. They had just recited Matins in the house of the Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament. When the confessor had been away a long time, I went to get news of the patient, who was known to me. I found the priest in the courtyard, just coming down from seeing her. "Well, how is the invalid?" "Not too bad," he told me, "I don't think there is any danger." "Did you hear her confession?" "Yes, as a precaution." "Well! since I am here, please come with me to greet her." He came upstairs with me; the patient recognized me. I spoke a few words to her about the Good Lord, and spoke with her friends about her sudden illness; then I saw that she was going into the death agony; she could no longer hear, her eyes were glazed, her limbs motionless. I immediately tried to find her pulse, but it was gone. A cold sweat was beginning, and the death-rattle told me that she would soon be gone..I exclaimed: "She is dying; quick! Extreme Unction!"

At these words, her friend flung herself upon her and cried out, in tears: "Our Lady of La Salette, save her!" She gave her some water from the miraculous fountain. We did not attempt to go for the holy oils, for, scarcely had we given her the La Salette water then the death-rattle ceased with her breathing, her limbs stiffened, and the chill of death told us that it was all over. We let her head fall back on the pillow - until then we had been holding it to ease her. Everyone burst into tears, for she was a good, devout person.

I knelt beside the bed to say the De Profundis, and, as I was reciting it, unable to continue, I complained to the Blessed Virgin. "How can it be that Our Lady of La Salette, who is so kind and so powerful, has not allowed her time to receive the last sacraments?" I said to myself.

Five or six minutes went by, and then the dead woman rose, sat down, and looked at us in surprise: "What's the matter?" she said. "You look so sad; what's happened?" When we saw her move and speak we were so astonished that no one could answer her. I stood up trembling, and leaned against the wall, while the others murmured in astonishment. "We thought you were dead," I said to her at last. "But I am not in pain, I am well" - and there she was, talking away to everyone, and the next moment they brought her some soup which she drank.

My confrere and I went away, blessing God. I thought the poor lady would need at least a few days' convalescence; but, next morning, as I was saying the 6 o'clock Mass, the first person to whom I gave Communion was our resurrected lady. Respect for this sacred function and the holy place made me hold my surprise in check, but increased my gratitude. The cure was complete.

After Holy Mass, I sent for the happy lady in the parlor, and asked her what had happened the

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<sup>14</sup> To the same audience, on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1865, the Father repeated the story of the cure of which he had written first to Miss de Brissac and transcribed it in the Album du Sanctuary, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1865.

<sup>15</sup> Fr. Eymard wrote to Miss Louise de Brissac about this cure at the end of 1859 (Doc. 903). However the Blessed Sacrament Fathers were founded only in 1856. He also refers to the cure of Miss Guillot in Doc. 134 to Fr. Melin, Dec. 8, 1849.

*The Mark of the Passion*

day before.

She replied, "I was about to pass from this world to the other, I felt I was holding on to life by a mere thread, a breath, when I seemed to see Our Lady of La Salette, who said to me: 'My daughter, I have obtained mercy for you.' I opened my eyes, I could hear, and I felt I was cured."

"But," I said, "how was the Most Blessed Virgin dressed?" "She wore a crown made of rays of light, she had seven swords in her heart, and a cross with a hammer on one side and pincers on the other."

"What was her robe like?"

"I can't say for certain - it was white, but such a white as I've never seen."

"And her face?"

"Oh! she looked kind, but dignified - it was such a kindness that it opened your heart and made you want to go to her; but such dignity, such a noble great manner that inspires respect, but a loving respect."

This is the story of a grace of which I was the happy witness. The lady is still alive, and she has gratitude and devotion for Our Lady of La Salette which keeps her always happy and faithful.

La Salette, August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1865  
(Signed) Eymard

**1609**

**CO 1609**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 298/395 VI 2)

*Paris, August 11, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Here I am in Paris. When I left my poor sister she was still very ill. When I was leaving Wednesday morning she said to me: "We won't see each other again." Could it be true? May the holy will of God be done! She is so weak! I continue to recommend her to your prayers; she really likes to receive your letters; she told me to tell you so. When I arrived she insisted that I write to you: you know that she loves you very much.

I haven't seen or done anything here yet.

Fr. Champion will arrive shortly. I went to Notre Dame de La Salette, and stayed there three days, but I was unable to go to Laus: the bad weather stopped me. Then also, I was a bit tired from my climb to the holy mountain.

I brought you water from the miraculous fountain to Paris.

I'll send it to you in the mail. You will have twenty liters.

I saw ... your dear sisters. I was very pleased to find your sister Jenny well. I had the joy of saying holy Mass at Fourviere. It's understood that I didn't forget you anywhere, nor your dear daughters.

I bless you and leave you in our Lord.

All yours,  
Eymard

**1610**

**CO 1610**

**TO BROTHER MARIE RATONS**  
(VI 5/7)

*Paris, August 11, 1865*

Dear Brother Marie,

This is just to greet you briefly from the heart - and to tell you how glad I was to hear of your complete exemption from military service. - So now you are quite free from all worldly bonds. So, dear brother, you must belong completely to our good Master, to his service and his love. It was for this that he has shielded you with his protection, that you might be his true Adorer. The devil may perhaps show you the world in bright colors, and the example of those who find salvation there. Do not listen to him, dear brother. You are in the ark of salvation; be sure to stay there. You are in our Lord's family; bind yourself to it wholeheartedly. Love your Superiors as Fathers, as they love you tenderly; and I am the first, as I keep in mind your devotion to the service of the good Master.

I bless you, dear brother.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, Sup.

**1611**

**CO 1611**

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(VI 6/10 III 145)

*Paris, August 16, 1865*

Thank you, dear sister, and you too, Nanette, for giving me news about yourselves. I am so far away and I worry about you; although when I left you were slightly better. But I am afraid lest that improvement may be set back by your weakened state. I am praying to the Good Lord for you, dear sister, and they are praying for you in all the houses of the Society.

May our Lord comfort and heal you! However, dear sister, we must always conclude with our good Master's own prayer: "My God, may your holy will and not mine be done." If the Good Lord wants to call you to Heaven, to be with him, to be perfectly lovingly his! I certainly do not wish to delay your happiness, and you, my sister, you love God more than life, more than anything. But I like to hope, and I pray for a little delay, so as to keep you a little longer, and I always end by saying as you do: whatever the Good Lord wills!

I believe you have put on your Scapulars again; do keep them on.

I had a good trip and arrived in Paris Thursday evening and I began the retreat on Friday. Have trust and courage.

And you, dear Nanette, look after yourself a little more, to be able to look after your sister.

I bless you. All yours in our Lord,

Your brother,  
Eymard

**1612**

**CO 1612**

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

*(III 133/145) VI 10*

*Paris, August 19, 1865*

Dear sisters,

I sent you the books I promised. Keep a copy. I am happy to give it to you, it is: *The Sorrowful Passion and the Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ*, seven volumes in all. Fr. Faure and Fr. Girolet<sup>16</sup> will send for their copies. I wanted to pay for the postage here; but it was not accepted because of the intermediary coaches. The kind Fathers will reimburse you for it.

Since I didn't receive news from you, dear sister, I suppose that your strength must be returning little by little and that, with the help of God and the Blessed Virgin, you will soon recover from the serious illness which obtained many prayers for you and, I hope, many merits before God as well.

As for me, I am here in the midst of all my affairs, but I am well.

Believe me in our Lord,

Dear sisters,

All yours,

Your brother,

Eymard, S.

**1613**

**CO 1613**

**TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)**

*(IV 72/104)*

*Paris, August 19, 1865*

Madame in our Lord Jesus Christ,

I am back in Paris after a trip to La Mure, where my poor sister is very ill. She was still sick when I had to leave her since duty was calling me back to Paris. Everything went well during our General Chapter. Our good Master presided over it, peace and harmony prevailed.

So I find myself reelected for life: these are really the galleys of religious life because it means sacrificing one's freedom, almost one's peace.

I prayed a great deal on your beautiful anniversary, which must be very special to you, since it brings back such beautiful and holy memories.

I am planning to go to Angers at the end of the month. I'll write to you from there. If I can find a free day, I'll even go to Nantes.

We'll discuss the retreat, but if you are a little tired, don't think about it, you would do it poorly.

Leave death where it is: for your part, place yourself in our Lord's life, in his goodness and infinite mercy. We must owe everything to his divine Heart, and rest securely only in him.

Therefore, I bless you in him and I am, dear Lady,

All yours,

Eymard, S.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> The parish priests.

<sup>17</sup> S. = abbreviation for Superior.

**1614**

**CO 1614**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE NEE DE MONTAGU**  
(V 28/52)

*Paris, August 19, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,

I have just returned from La Mure. I left my poor sister still very ill in God's hands. For her, death would be a gain, but a loss for the village because she does good there. However, the greater good is the holy Will of God. May this holy Will be done. Therefore, I adore it in advance and submit to everything.

Oh! This visit showed me the emptiness of this world, and how great is the grace of God which helps us to sanctify this poor life and to glorify God by our Lord!

I was thinking so seldom of Heaven, drawn on by activity or by the desire that God be glorified. Heaven is more present to me, more desirable, more everything. It is the Ocean from which flow all the little streams of our small virtues, our weak merits; it's the perfection and consummation of divine love, and that's saying everything.

Continue to direct your heart to this beautiful path, but a heart that has wings, the two wings of trust and generosity.

This life is changeable, but one thing must not be, that is fidelity to the love of our Lord.

And so, as long as this fidelity is operative, things are fine. Whether we have more or less feeling is only incidental.

I am in our Lord,

Madame,

Your devoted servant,  
Eymard

P.S. I am planning to go to Angers at the end of this month.

**1615**

**CO 1615**

**TO MME. GAUTHIER (NEE COURT)**<sup>18</sup>  
(VII 1/1)

*Paris, rue fg St. Jacques, 68, August 20, 1865*

Dear Lady,

I am keeping note for your brother Jules. It was too late to arrange things for him at this time, for the Assumption. We will work for the next promotion. Tell him not to become discouraged, that he will get there. It's true that patronage is very powerful now as always. But with his sense of responsibility and his studies he will not be without it.

Thank you for your friendship toward my dear good sister. I am so sad about it, it makes me ill, because I am really afraid to lose her. I am begging the Good Lord to leave her a while longer. However, she belongs to God before being ours - may his holy will be done. If La Mure were not so far, I would return very quickly.

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<sup>18</sup> From La Mure

*The Mark of the Passion*

I would be grateful if you would go see her, and give me news about her. Nanette is quite concerned.

I'm very united to you in our Lord, dear Lady,

All yours,  
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Please have the enclosed letter remitted to proper address.

*A letter to Marguerite Guillot published in French as Aug. 21, 1865, is misdated. The contents indicate it was written Nov. 29.*

**1616**

**CO 1617**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**  
(VII 1/20)<sup>19</sup>

*Paris, August 21, 1865*

Madame,

I only have time to tell you that Mr. Octave Ravache, (Avenue de la Sante, 11) gratefully accepts a position as accountant under your son. As soon as you have a vacant position, he will be happy to fill it. I am leaving for Angers until Friday night.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

P.S. I was happy to meet your dear son.

**1617**

**CO 1616**

**TO AN UNKNOWN DIRECTEE**  
(VII 1/1)<sup>20</sup>

*Paris, August 21, 1865*

Very dear Sister,

Thank you for your good letter. I was worried about you.

I left my poor sister quite ill. May the Holy Will of God be done! Do pray for her, because the priests of the village neglect the sick.

I prayed for you at Notre Dame de La Salette. I didn't have time to go to Notre Dame du Laus and then I was not well.

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<sup>19</sup> First of excerpts from 19 letters and a spiritual schedule.

<sup>20</sup> The original belongs to the Fraternite Sacerdotale.

*The Mark of the Passion*

I will leave at 9:00 this morning for Angers. The Bishop wants to name a Superior;<sup>21</sup> he is waiting for me. I will do what God wills. I will stay in Angers until Friday, because I will preach for adoration here in Paris on Saturday.

Write to me in Angers. If you can, give me a message for Mme. d'Andigne. I suppose that you will wait for my return to Paris, in order that I may see you.

I bless you. Belong entirely to our Lord on the Cross. Offer him everything and when he shows you the sins and frailties of the world, it is so that you might ask his forgiveness and pray for sinners.<sup>22</sup>

I bless you again.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

P.S. I am sending you a picture of Rome for your desk

<i>Aug 23</i>	<i>Conference Servants:</i>	<i>(Angers) Be happy with God.</i>
<i>Aug 24</i>	<i>Conference Servants:</i>	<i>Calm.</i>

*Aug. 26 - Return to Paris.*

**1618**

**CO 1618**

**TO MISS DE MEEUS**  
(VI 11/22)

*Paris, August 28, 1865*

Mademoiselle,

I shall be with you tomorrow, Tuesday. I've been in Paris only two days, which is why I have been late in answering the good Father's letter. I will go to Brussels to see you and tell you of my goodwill, but also that it is impossible for us to make a foundation at this time.

So we shall see what is to be done for the glory of our good and common Master, in Whom I am,

All yours,  
Eymard, Sup.

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<sup>21</sup> for the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

<sup>22</sup> At this point the page is cut about 33 to 34 millimeters.

**1619**

**CO 1619**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 300/395 VI 2)

*Paris, September 2, 1865*

Dear daughter,

I'm sending you Nanette's letter. My poor sister is going to the Good Lord. I'm very busy here in Paris.

Monday morning I'll go to see Mr. False. I've just arrived from Brussels, where I didn't settle anything. My purpose was to listen.

I believe that you have signed the authorization.

Mr. Sterlingue wanted to go to extremes. The court officer said that bad advice had brought him to that.

Thank you for Sr. Benoite's letters. I have your money. I'll send it to you. I have time only to bless you.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**1620**

**CO 1620**

**TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 127/145)

*Paris, Sunday, September 3, 1865<sup>23</sup>*

Dear sisters,

I have a few free days ahead of me, and I plan to go see you.

I will get there Tuesday night or Wednesday of this week, Thursday at the latest.

May the Good Lord bring you relief, dear sister, may he bless my arrival and my stay.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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<sup>23</sup> In the French Volume, 1863, but Sunday, September 3, was in 1865. Troussier.

**1621**

**CO 1621**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 301/395 VI 2)

*Paris, September 4, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,<sup>24</sup>

I've just seen Mr. False. What a difficult man! He no longer wants to dialogue. He wants to keep his rights, while leaving you free to build. - "Yes," I answered, "but what guarantee would they have that you wouldn't harass them later on after they have built? Will you give it to them?" - "No" - "Well! They cannot." - Then he leveled every kind of criticism against the closed alley, every imaginable thing that could be said. I came back to it 5 times, but no way. I offered 600 francs. He didn't give in. Finally, I said to him: "You are the only one, everyone else has agreed." - "What do I care? I am keeping my rights," he said. "But if we had taken your architect at his word when he asked for 600 francs, it would be done." - "No," he said, "I hadn't given any order. I consulted and I was advised to keep my rights."

I tried every persuasive argument and every reason. Finally we had to give up. He showed me his stores and finally, at the door, I argued with him again. His sister had written him a very nice letter in your favor. Finally, I was very sad. Then he promised to write to his architect in Angers saying that he would send me his decision here. I hope, in spite of his harshness, that he will let himself be won over. So be patient for a few more days.

I'm leaving tomorrow for La Mure: I received a letter from the doctor. Write to me there.

Fr. Champion will conclude the negotiations with Mr. False. I am keeping 800 francs for that and returning 1200.

I have time only to bless you.

**1622**

**CO 1622**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 302/395 VI 2)

*Paris, September 4, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,<sup>25</sup>

I am sending you 1200 francs. I kept 600 francs for Mr. False and 200 francs which I am borrowing from you. I am leaving immediately; the doctor's letter implies that the end is near. I bless you.

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<sup>24</sup> This letter was copied from a text in Rev. Mother Marguerite's handwriting, not from the original.

<sup>25</sup> This letter was copied from a text of Rev. Mother Marguerite, not from the original.

**1623**

**CO 1623**

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

*(I 155/181 VI 2)*

*Paris, September 5, 1865*

Very dear Father,

I am sending you the plans for the foundation written by the Ladies from Brussels. I added my own notes to it, in agreement with Fr. Champion. Please examine both, share it with Fr. Leroyer and tell me your opinion.

I had to go to Brussels, obliged by these Ladies, because of the lodgings they have and in order not to cause them any loss. I saw His Eminence, he was very kind. It is quite evident that we cannot do anything this year; I told them so.

Pray for my sister who is at the end of her life. My consolation is that she belongs fully to God.

I am all yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, S.S.S.<sup>26</sup>

**1624**

**CO 1624**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*

*(II 303/395 VI 2)*

*La Mure, September 8, 1865*

Dear daughter,

We are here at La Mure with Sr. B. and Miss Sterlingue.

I thought it was necessary to see Nemours and the work being done there, before coming here, as I don't know how long I will stay here. Sr. Benoit was there. I brought her here as well as Miss Sterlingue who really needed it. Sr. B. made the trip without being overtired. However, she hopes to go to Notre Dame de La Salette to fulfill her vow. We found my dear sister's health improved. Because of the novena which ended last Monday she has seemed to be much better for the last three days.

This morning, I said holy Mass for her in her room and gave her Communion. She was very happy about it, and so was I. This afternoon she was very sick and tonight she is very weak. Poor sister! Might this be a ray of hope just to comfort us for a moment? Heaven seems to be calling her.

Thank you for your good idea about the vows. I will give it some thought and do it, if possible.

I had mentioned a young 20 year old woman to you, a friend of ours who doesn't have a dowry at this time. She is fine. See whether Sr. Benoit could bring her with her. I find her very fine; she knows how to sew well, has good health, is modest, and belongs to a good family. The mail is leaving.

I bless you.

Eymard

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<sup>26</sup> SSS = abbreviation for Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

**1625**

**CO 1625**

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

*(II 304/395 VI 2)*

*La Mure, September 11, 1865*

Dear daughter,

I'm writing to give you news about myself. My sister is still with us, her condition hasn't changed. Fatigue and weakness follow after an apparent improvement. However, on Monday, at the end of the novena you had requested for my sister, she was much better. She has since attributed this improvement to the novena, and it's only right.

We are leaving today for Notre Dame de La Salette, hoping that our good Mother will complete what she has begun, or obtain us all the grace to glorify God in these solemn moments which are so painful to bear. Sr. B. is well in the afternoons. Mornings and evenings she isn't well. Some sediment has settled, sometimes she suffers a great deal. I hope that Our Lady of La Salette will give her a little more strength. My sister was happy to see her ... [two lines erased].

Every day I say holy Mass in my sister's room. It's a great consolation for her.

Continue your prayers for us, we will not forget you.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

**1626**

**CO 1626**

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

*(II 305/395 VI 2)*

*La Mure, September 15, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

We've just safely returned from Notre Dame de La Salette and from Laus. You know that we remembered you and all your dear daughters.

Sr. Benoite made the ascent and descent of the holy mountain without fatigue and without incident.

When we arrived at La Salette on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30, Sr. Benoite went to the miraculous fountain and was instantaneously healed from the sediment in her head and ears ... [8 lines erased] happy at Notre Dame du Laus. She stayed at the same place you did, she prayed for you. This pilgrimage was a source of grace and consolation.

We were at Laus on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> when my sister nearly died. She regained consciousness after a weak spell that lasted three hours.

Today the 15<sup>th</sup>, when we returned, we found her as well as when we had left her, which gave us great comfort. She isn't out of danger yet. I'm waiting a few more days before deciding about my return. If I were not to return soon, I would send back Sr. Benoite and Miss Sterlingue to you. This trip helped them both very much, and really pleased my sister ... [2 lines erased].

I'm quite surprised by Mr. False's refusal. When I go back to Paris I'll see if there is any way of coming back on it.

About Nemours, we all thought the Good Lord wanted this foundation in order to have another throne, and also to provide the motherhouse of Angers a very useful annex.

As far as the other difficulties are concerned, our Good Master is there to come to our aid.

Some difficulties kill a work, others make it live and grow. I hope your difficulties will be the latter.

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

All yours,  
Eymard

**1627**

**CO 1627**

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

*(II 306/395 VI 2)*

*La Mure, September 20, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to give you our news. My sister is better, her coughing stopped when we returned from Notre Dame du Laus. That evening I anointed her with oil from the sanctuary lamp of Laus, she slept well and did not cough in the morning. Since that time, I have been anointing her with holy oil, with the same results. So, because of this grace, she promised to go thank our good Mother at Laus. I think I'll be able to leave my sister toward the end of the week. I will try to go see your kind sisters and Miss Baillet, as you said. Sr. Benoite left Monday for Grenoble and Lyons, accompanied by Miss Euphrasie Ravanat and Miss Jenny Sterlingue. They left a big vacuum here. My sister is constantly saying: "Oh! The house is so empty."

I informed your sisters and Mme. Gourd about their arrival.

Our pilgrimages were successful.

... [14 lines erased].

They keep a delightful memory of Laus. It's because they were very recollected there; it's the grace of the place.

From Lyons, she will go to Nemours to see the repairs. I thought what had been done was fine, it will be enough to begin and won't cost much.

From there, she will go to Angers. She has been absent from there for so long!...

My sister and Nanette made their profession on Sunday, on the feast of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, September 17. They are very happy about it. My sister has already repeated to me several times to tell you that you are now her mother and her kind mother and that she is your daughter, the same for Nanette.

She is very happy to have holy Mass every day.

I long to return to the Most Blessed Sacrament: one feels so poor, so ill at ease, far from that sun of love.

Your letter informs me that you are getting weaker and weaker. Please put aside all the exercises that tire you, for you must recover the necessary strength to work for the greater glory of our Lord. The Work is still so weak! There is generosity, that's true, but not deep roots. It must be watered by one's sufferings, prayers and virtues, in order that it might flourish in God's sight.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I bless you, you and all your daughters.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

P.S. In Paris I kept quiet about the trip.... I didn't even say anything to ....

**1628**

**CO 1628**

**TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)**  
(IV 73/104)

*La Mure, September 20, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to give you a sign of life. For the last two weeks I have been with my sister who is gravely ill. I owed her this comfort and my godmother, too. She has been somewhat better for the last few days, thanks to Our Lady of Laus and la Salette. So, I expect to return to Paris in a few days. I'm eager to return to my prie-dieu, because, when we aren't meant to live in the world, we feel very uneasy there. We hardly know how to serve God when we are outside of our source of grace and life.

This experience shows me how necessary it is to maintain a spiritual schedule, to be strict about our daily exercises, under pain of barrenness and great suffering. I want to tell you that because I know how strictly you keep to your schedule and how obedient you are to follow the way that was outlined; rely on that for your progress in virtue and your perseverance in the love of God.

I leave you in our Lord and expect to receive news from you in Paris within a week.

Believe me in our Lord,

Madame,  
Your totally devoted,  
Eymard, P.S.<sup>27</sup>

**1629**

**CO 1629**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**  
(V 29/52)

*La Mure (Isere), September 20, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to give you news about my dear sister who was ill and dying, the reason for my trip and stay here. I didn't even think that I would find her alive. We prayed so much to the most blessed Virgin; we even made a pilgrimage to Notre Dame de La Salette and Laus. It really made us feel good to find her better when we returned.

The anointing done with the blessed oil from the sanctuary lamp of Laus stopped her coughing which was exhausting her so. She was able to rest. This improvement will allow me to leave for Paris in a few days.

We must truly love the Good Lord for himself, that is true and pure love. - He loves you so - that is what I am asking for you. Because to love God is everything; to be loved by him is the supreme happiness; to serve him through virtue and obedience is sovereign perfection.

I am in our Lord, Madame,

Your all devoted,

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<sup>27</sup> P.S. = abbreviation for Priest, Superior.

**1630**

**CO 1630**

**TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET**  
(VII 5/15)

*La Mure, September 21, 1865*

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I am really late with you! Two trips to my sister, who was really ill, kept me busy.

My sister is a little better and I expect to return to Paris in a few days. Should you have any errands to give me, I shall be in Lyons around the beginning of next week, and I will go to get them at Mr. de St. Bonnet, rue Sala, or at least from his Porter.

I am happy to see that your chapel is almost finished and will be ready for All Saints. If I can respond to such a fine invitation, I would surely be happy to do so.

As for your mother, I still cannot answer, because the Bishop is difficult about granting such permissions. Only a necessity could make the Bishop budge; he did not even want to give Sr. Benoit permission to go to the springs, even though she was very ill.

If I had a day to myself, I would go as far as Lantignie, but with my sick sister, I cannot make any plans.

May God bless your dear and holy family, and let you share in the hundredfold of the Gospel. My devoted respects to your dear wife.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, Superior

**1631**

**CO 1631**

**TO FR. CYR AMAND CHAMPION SSS**  
(I 4/5 VI 1)

*La Mure, September 23, 1865*

Very dear Father,

Miss Guillot from Angers wrote to tell me about her difficulties in regard to the alley which is to be opened or closed.

Mr. Placet, the notary at the post office of Angers, notified the Ladies to pay 500 francs within a week, or once this extension passed, he will force them to open the alley.

Mr. False is the only one opposed, after requesting 600 francs in compensation and creating a thousand difficulties. I went to see him before leaving. He had promised me he would take care of it and write to tell me so in Paris.

Dear Father, kindly go to see him and bring him my letter immediately. If you don't gain anything, write to tell Mother in Angers (Rue de l'Hopital, 10 bis). They will have to redo the wall of the alley, open it and lose the 400 francs they have already given. Hell is let loose.

I will be with you at the end of next week. My sister's health continues to improve.

All yours, dear Father,  
Eymard

**1632**

**CO 1632**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 307/395 VI 2)

*La Mure, September 23, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I wrote to Fr. Champion and to Mr. False, asking Father to write to tell you the answer immediately, which I hope will be favorable. Write a note to Mr. Placet, the notary, in the following terms:

“Sir, I am still determined to give you 5000 francs for compensation. I am waiting for Mr. False’s answer regarding his share.

I’ve just written to him, begging him to bring the matter to a close.

Therefore, Sir, kindly wait a little to allow for the time needed to receive his answer. We regret that this matter was so poorly handled. We deeply regret it and we have decided to bring the matter to a close, and if necessary, even to go elsewhere.

I have the honor of being respectfully yours....”

My sister is holding her own. I hope to be in Lyons Monday night or Tuesday morning.

Take heart, dear daughter. Difficulties are only opportunities for virtue. Let trust in God be your armor.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**1633**

**CO 1633**

*TO MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANN-MARIE DU SS)*  
(III 20/21)

*La Mure, Monday, September 25, 1865*

Dear sister,

I was due to leave this morning and go to spend the night in Lyons, but last night my sister was not as well. So I stayed here today. I will probably not be in Lyons until Wednesday morning. Sister Benoite wrote to tell me to go see Mme. Morel at her home. Therefore I will go to the Carthusians, then to you, in the afternoon, I hope. It is all very conditional, for between now and Wednesday, how will my sister be? So I mention it tentatively, because I can’t know when I will leave from Grenoble for Lyons.

Sr. Benoite found Mme. G. very sick.<sup>28</sup> We must really pray for her.

I bless you dear daughter. My sister was very happy with your letter and your kind regards, as was Nanette. Greetings from the heart for your good sister Jenny.

All yours,  
Eymard

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<sup>28</sup> Mme. Gourd at Lantignie.

*The Mark of the Passion*

P.S. - I re-opened my letter to tell you that my sister has just had a weak spell so I cannot specify the day nor the hour when I will come. If she has no others, I still hope to go spend the night in Lyons; but don't expect me, because I would be arriving too late.

**1634**

**CO 1634**

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

(V 14/14)

*La Mure, September 25, 1865*

Dear friend in our Lord,

I'm really late with you! not in God's sight, but according to the law of friendship.

I shared deeply in the Christian death of Madame your mother. This death must have been very painful to such a son's heart!

She died as she had lived, as a holy soul. God gave her a great consolation when he gave you to her devotedness. You helped her until her last breath; that must have given your heart such grief, and yet it was also a grace for both of you.

So, dear friend, all our near and dear ones are leaving. A void is being created: God remains, replaces and fills everything. We will meet again in Heaven, walk toward it with giant steps, in the shadow of the cross of our divine Master.

For the last four weeks, I have been here, near my sister, who is very ill; she was in imminent danger of death. God is sustaining her between life and death. However, I expect to leave her tomorrow or the next day and return to my prie-Dieu.

Goodbye, good and dear friend, have courage and surrender into God's hands.

All yours,  
Eymard, Superior

To Father de Leudeville  
at Leudeville  
via Marolles-en-Hurepoix  
(Seine-et-Oise)

**1635**

**CO 1635**

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

(II 308/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

*Paris, October 1, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I arrived in Paris yesterday morning. I didn't have time to write to you right away.

I left my sister in fair condition. I left her Wednesday.

I couldn't leave sooner because she nearly died from a slight indigestion on Sunday and on Monday from a weak spell. Thanks be to God, the danger passed. I hope she will soon be better.

In Lyons I saw your two sisters; Sr. Mariette is much better. Sr. Jenny is well enough, they are especially very prudent.

*The Mark of the Passion*

I saw Miss.... Her condition frightened me Wednesday night. I saw her when I arrived; she expressed the desire to see me on the next day, Thursday. I stayed because of her; fortunately she was a little better on Thursday.

I saw Nemours in passing, it will be ready soon. It will be the Good Master's Paradise.

Fr. Champion saw Mr. False and gave him my letter. He was proper and said that if his tenants consented, he would gladly consent. So then, it is a matter of calling his tenants together. It might be done by Mr. Neveu, your notary, at his place, or by Dussouchet, your architect.

See what needs to be done. I don't see what advantage there would be in my bringing them together, since we have Mr. False's word. Look into it and write to me, because if my presence were necessary I couldn't refuse you anything.

I have time only to bless you and tell you, dear daughter, that I am in our Lord, devoted to you and your dear family.

Eymard

P.S. ... will tell you the rest. I saw Miss Baillet. She is better than I expected. I think she will come right away, I am writing to her today.

**1636**

**CO 1636**

**TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)**  
(VI 4/12)

*Paris, October 1, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Mother will tell you why I was so late in leaving La Mure. My sister had an attack of indigestion and was very weak, but I left her in better health and convalescing. She always remembers her dear Sister Benoitte; you helped her a great deal. I have brought her photograph, but it isn't very good. Nanette said she would have another taken.

I hope our Lord will let us keep this dear sister; I found her very ill, but slightly better on Thursday. I went to look for you on Thursday in Nemours. I saw Baudin on Saturday. He had only one more hour of work to do.

Mr. Laret is to send me all his notes for the altar and the various furnishings.

The good Master didn't will that I should find you still here. You are in his dwelling and at his feet. Your heart must have felt a great need to see him again and adore him upon his modest throne.

We must pray to ask him to bring these little problems in Angers to an end; or ask him whether it is a sign that the house should be moved elsewhere, or whether we should limit it to one if the little street is opened, but may his holy will be done.

I hope, dear daughter, that you have rested a little from your journey and your fatigue. You really needed it.

Your daughters and sisters and especially Mother must have welcomed you with great joy, and I am very glad of it. You may write to me in image and sign, as you like. Do not forget how hard you must pray for me and for my three graces.

I don't need to tell you that I do the same for you. One does not forget a child whom God has entrusted to us.

Every blessing in our Lord,  
Eymard

**1637**

**CO 1637**

**TO MME. HOMMAY**  
(III 1/1)<sup>29</sup>

A.R.T.

*Paris, October 2, 1865*

Madame,

I've just arrived from a long trip, and on my return I found your letter which had remained here.

I hold good Miss Ann Lecointe in high esteem. She has had terrible trials which she has borne and sanctified well.

I would like her to be received with the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, but it has become difficult in Angers, because of the Carmelites, and the confessor to the Carmelites who is also the confessor for these Ladies.... This poor sister has suffered quite a bit! I had written a favorable letter for her, when I received one showing me the present impossibility. - Keep her if you can, for she truly loves God. Present her my faithful regards and tell her that I do not forget her before God.

With respect I am in our Lord,

Madame,

Your very humble servant,  
Eymard, Sup.

**1638**

**CO 1638**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**  
(VII 2/20)

*Paris, October 2, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,<sup>30</sup>

I have just arrived from my sister's home. I left her feeling a little better. God has delayed her reward, for she is entirely his. When I arrived, I found your letter of September 2<sup>nd</sup>. So you have been waiting a long time. Come when you want to, especially in the morning. We will discuss the little journal, your schedule and your soul.

In our Lord, Madame, your respectfully devoted,

Eymard

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<sup>29</sup> Letter about Sr. Constance (formerly Miss Ann Lecointe). The name of Mme. Hommay is provided by the Archives of the Servants.

<sup>30</sup> Excerpt from a letter.

**1639**

**CO 1639**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 309/395 VI 2)

*Paris, October 4, 1865*

Dear daughter,

Thank you for today's letter: mine was already written. I am sending it to you just the same and I am submitting it to you for study. Believe me that I have nothing ... on the contrary. I am totally dedicated to help her, but we must see things as they are. I will go see Mr. False. I would also want to see a lawyer.

I promise to take care of your affair. If the Bishop comes to see you, say that my sister's illness kept me there with her.

I have time only to bless you.

Eymard

**1640**

**CO 1640**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 310/395 VI 2)

*Paris, October 6, 1865*

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your letter. Yes, it requires reflection, prayer and strength, for we must find a mistress of novices for Angers, a Superior for Nemours, and choose the subjects. We must do so trusting in God.

I don't know whether the feelings I experience come from any other motivation than God's, but I favor putting Sr. B. in closer union with God. So much external life must fatigue her soul and harm her grace; it is clear that she needs God.

The dealer for the oven will be going over there on Tuesday. Do you want him to go as far as Angers to fix yours? He says it is not working. I will wait for your answer.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. I wrote to your sister Mariette in Lyons to send Miss Baillet; however, I am the only one who knows her. So I must go to meet her; I will do so once I know the day and time of her arrival.

**1641**

**CO 1641**

**TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS**  
(VI 12/22)

*Paris, October 6, 1865*

Mademoiselle,

I am at your disposal. I would like, however, to have our meeting as soon as possible, on account of many things which may call me elsewhere.

Your proposal has made our Fathers a little less enthusiastic. I like to believe that a frank and clear conversation, as you like to have, will show everyone our mutual goodwill.

I shall wait for you to kindly set a date and am in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your respectful and devoted servant,  
Eymard, Sup.

**1642**

**CO 1642**

**TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)**  
(IV 74/104)

*Paris, October 8, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,

I have just returned from la Mure, I left my sister feeling a little better. Now I'm back to my usual pace. I still don't know when I will go to Angers; I'll let you know. I think it will be after the 15<sup>th</sup>.

You belong completely to God and your neighbor at this time, that's fine. Both laws are fulfilled. However, be sure that God is the law, grace and purpose of everything.

Good Fr. R. is urging you to be gentle, that's fine. Often make this invocation:

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto thine.

I leave you at the feet of our good Master and bless you very personally in his divine love.

Eymard, P.S.

**TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST**  
(IV 51/52)

*Paris, October 8, 1865*

Dear sister and daughter in our Lord,

Your letter delighted me. My soul often went to Joasson alone and returned the same!

In your charity, please forgive my silence, but I don't excuse it myself. My great fault is to wait to have more free time for my friends, and this is almost always lacking.

I stayed in Rome five months and since I arrived I have done nothing but travel. I can't remember your letter [expressing your] inner distress. Your soul is too dear to me to neglect it. Your letter must have missed me; but God didn't fail you. This is what consoles me. He will never fail you, for you are entirely his. However, God likes to cast a soul into a mysterious abyss, so that it may free itself and attach itself more purely to him.

I remain devoted to you, whenever your needs and thoughts tell you to write to me. I may perhaps be more fortunate then, at least I will always receive news from you and your loved ones with joy in our Lord. Then, from time to time, we need to open our soul, to submit it to obedience, and to God's blessing.

I really regretted that I couldn't see your dear eldest [son] more often. The best time to see me freely is in the morning or after 6:30 at night. I may be freer, but I must admit that I am not a strong column, but a very weak reed. I am happy with the good news about Albert; the heart is usually a sign of God's voice. He loves the Marists; that is a good sign, since they are so good! I can only bless such a thought.

Courage, dear daughter and sister in our Lord, the love of Jesus is really neglected and even humiliated in the Christian world; devout souls too often forget the God of the Tabernacle: so he really remains alone. Feed this fire which God has enkindled through you; that is your mission, you can't have a more beautiful one.

Please believe that I remain very united to you in your good and divine Master.

All yours,  
Eymard, S

P.S. I must have sent the certificate for the Pastor of St. Andre-de-Tarare; but lest I didn't do so, I am sending you this one. Since I'm not sure of his name, please write it where there is a star. I will say your Masses at the first open date.

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**  
(V 30/52)

*October 8, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,

I owe you a little note. I have been here in Paris for a few days. I left my sister slightly better.

I am back to my usual life here. We are preparing a beautiful First Communion for All Saints Day. If only you could be here! You would be edified and consoled by it.

I don't know when I will go back to Angers. I hope to go during the month or after All Saints. I will let you know.

I am sending you a charming little book in the mail. I hope that it will help you.

I am pleased about the person God entrusted to me.<sup>31</sup> She has suffered greatly from moral, physical and even spiritual sufferings. Her state was very sad, close to despair. Her poor thoughts were at the point of exasperation, and blasphemy even rolled around her soul like the thunder of the storm. Poor soul! and alone at that! I really felt badly, and I would pity her greatly if I didn't know that her heart belongs entirely to God in the midst of such horrors, that her virtue which has been so tested has remained faithful to her Communion and to a strict and military obedience. That is what is saving her and makes her very pleasing to God, for she certainly loves God more than herself, and God is very pleased with her, for she is suffering martyrdom in this painful state. In fact, it isn't when God is carrying us, feeding us with his consolations, sharing all his favors with us, that our love has value, but truly when, like Job, we praise him in adversity. Like our Savior in the Garden of Olives [our love] drinks the offered chalice... and suffers with still greater love, even the desertion of his heavenly Father. Then love is generous and victorious.

That soul is very dear to me in our Lord. I must let it suffer, since God wills it so, but I offer it to God a hundred times over and pray for her. I recommend her to you so that she may be patient in bearing with herself, faithful to obey (because that is her life-raft), generous in overcoming herself, and always kind to those who surround her and who have no doubts about her interior martyrdom.

I recommend myself to your prayers in your devout and blessed chapel, where Jesus finds delight in his solitude of love, having only you as his court and for his graces.

Kindly believe me in his divine charity, Madame,

Your respectful servant,  
Eymard

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<sup>31</sup> Using the third person, St. Peter Julian describes her state of soul.

**1645**

**CO 1645**

**TO MME. LEPAGE**  
(IV 7/26)

*Paris, October 9, 1865*

Dear Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to tell you that I am in Paris. When I left my sister she was feeling better after several visits to the gates of eternity. I hope that God will let her work a little longer.

I am drinking the water you gave me,<sup>32</sup> thank you. I would remember you without it, but more so with this charity of yours.

So now you are at home at Rennes, and our good Master with you. Be at peace there and faithful to your times of silence and prayer. Now that you have found God, be sure to be with him and be his good and loving companion.

Please ask your dear friend to send another letter to her father for me for my protege in view of the job we are requesting. I left hers at La Mure, after addressing it carefully and [putting it away] not to lose it.

Give me news about both of you.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,  
Eymard

**1646**

**CO 1646**

**TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)**  
(IV 61/75)

*Paris, October 9, 1865*

Dear Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to answer your last letter briefly.

I returned a second time to see my sister. The doctor had written to tell me that she would die. God has left her on earth for a while. She was better when I left.

I was very happy to see good Fr. Peuriere again. He is truly a man of God! Draw all the good you can from him.

So dear Father Seymat is at Pont! That village really needs a saint. On your part, you ought to thank God for knowing them and for having been able to benefit from them. God alone remains. You are at Calet! You will have more time for yourself there, to belong more to God, to be more at his service! That's fine; we must breathe deeply in God, with a deep breath, and live in him.

After all, a life of union with God is the only true life. Exterior activity only exhausts our weak virtue.

Thank you for the news about Mme. Nugues. It would please me to see her again. May God help her and console her in her states of suffering.

My religious respects to your dear Mathilde who shares your life and goes directly to God.

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<sup>32</sup> Spring water? Blessed water?

*The Mark of the Passion*

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

All yours,  
Eymard, S.S.<sup>33</sup>

**1647**

**CO 1647**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**  
(VII 3/20)

*Paris, October 9, 1865*

Madame,<sup>34</sup>

Allow me to send you the little letter I am sending to your son as a souvenir. My poor young man is suffering and I with him, but I hope that his waiting will soon come to an end. It is truly a good work to help these fine young Christians whom the world rejects and whom the devil wants to drive to despair.

In our Lord, Madame, your respectful and devoted servant,

Eymard

**1648**

**CO 1648**

**TO A FOUNDESS OF A CONGREGATION OF ADORERS**  
(VIII 1)

*Paris, Rue fg St. Jacques 65, Oct. 9, 1865*

Very esteemed Mother,

I owe you many thanks for having thought of us. It is true that, as we are consecrated to the same end - the service of adoration of our Lord in his august Sacrament of love, we are brothers and sisters in our vocations; and so I am happy to learn of your existence and your tribulations. Eucharistic vocations always have the mark of the Passion on them, since the divine Eucharist is the admirable and perpetual continuation of the Passion. Do not be discouraged by your trials. Do not unite yourselves to any other Institution. Keep your initial grace - coming from God as it does, the work will bear fruit one day. I pray and will have prayers said for you. I ask you the same favor.

(If a young Miss Proux from Rouen, formerly a novice with the Benedictines, asks you to let her enter, I do not advise it. I believe she has already made several fruitless attempts.) I await your rules or projects for rules and if I can help you I shall do so gladly.

My respectful good wishes to your good Sister Assistant whom I unfortunately do not know very well.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, Sup.Soc.SS.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> S.S. = abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

<sup>34</sup> Excerpt from a letter.

<sup>35</sup> Abbreviation for Superior of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

**TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS**  
(VI 13/22)

*[Paris, October 12, 1865]*

Miss de Meeus  
Superior of the Community  
of the Ladies of Perpetual Adoration,  
Brussels

Mademoiselle,

I am putting before you, in all simplicity, the reasons for our Fathers' reservations about the foundation you do us the honor of offering to us.

In our letter of May 16<sup>th</sup> this year we requested:

1. complete freedom of the [use of the] chapel and objects for worship;
2. the Lady Adorers to leave the Choir, and keep the use of the stalls connecting with their apartments;
3. lodgings for the religious;
4. the Lady Adorers to share the expenses of Exposition;
5. a time-table of annual service to be set up for the exercises, ordinary and extraordinary, of the Lady Adorers.

Those, Mademoiselle, were the first conditions we set as a basis for our acceptance. Now, according to the written conditions which you handed me on my last trip to Brussels:

1. We would have only the use of the Church and not its administration; the offerings and the monies from the seats and boxes would not be ours; nor would we have the offerings of the Eucharistic Weeks: all of which were granted us by the Carmelite Ladies of Angers, along with the complete administration of the Church.

2. We would not have the freedom of the old chapel, but would be obliged to ask for it from the Superior (fem.) of the Institute. Now, dear lady, this chapel will be as necessary to us as the Church. It is there that we must continue Exposition on the days when the Church is being used for various services. It is there, too, and only there, that we will hear Confessions and not in the Church, on account of the Most Blessed Sacrament Exposed.

3. If we were to accept the foundation, it would have to be understood that except for the Rev. Fr. Boone, or the religious sisters' confessor, no other priest would have the right to hear confessions in the Church or the chapel, at least without the consent of the Superior (masc.)

4. As regards lodgings, it is stated that if the Fathers need the apartment rented by the Ladies, they must pay the annual rent of 1800 francs.

Now, since in our houses the number of religious is strictly 16 because of the service, this expense, soon to come upon us, added to the cost of luminaries - normally 5000 francs, without counting the ordinary maintenance of worship, would be too heavy an expense. The answer will be that donations and offerings will be sufficient. We do not believe so, at least [not] for the early years. And so, Mademoiselle, although we have been very touched by your offer of yearly support for a limited time, when we consider what a great burden it would be for you, we must not proceed.

Also, regarding the furnishings for worship which you kindly offer to put at our disposal, we will accept it only in the beginning, as we intend to have our own furnishings for worship, so that all our houses may be uniform.

We would suffer from not having a garden, as we do not go out.

*The Mark of the Passion*

We shall say nothing about the article determining the distance of a foundation other than the one under consideration. We intend to keep our freedom. Besides, we have no intention to create competition, nor expansion at the expense of the first.

These, Mademoiselle, are our feelings. They will perhaps seem demanding. No, they are merely positive. At the moment we are being urged to accept a Church, house and garden in a big city, and another in the centre of France, but since you came first, Mademoiselle, we have kept yours as a priority.

However, it is natural to prefer something which is an advantage and not a burden.

Please tell us what you think, Mademoiselle, and I trust it will be either the final obstacle, or our freedom [from obligation].

Please believe me, in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

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

**1650**

**CO 1650**

*To Count Jean Raymond De Cuers (Fr. De Cuers SSS)*  
(I 156/181 VI2)

A.R.T.

*Paris, October 14, 1865*

Very dear Father,

I will receive young Carnatti warmly and be attentive to him. I will try to guide him in this city which is dangerous for a young man who is inexperienced.

The cholera is rampant here, the hospitals already have quite a large number of victims. They say that it is spreading especially at Montmartre and Batignolles. The St. Germain quarter has some cases, the sisters of Bon Secours are the ones who told us about it. And now the exaggerations of fearful people, and of women, are creating a stir. People only talk about the cholera, think about the cholera. What is good is that people with faith think about their conscience.

Our dialogue with Brussels continues. I have just written to them following your advice which everyone shares; that is: that we want not only the use of the church, but its administration as well; that we are asking to have the right to use the chapel, lodging without rent, etc. I expressed my surprise about their reflections in our regard. As a proof to the contrary, I transcribed the basic conditions from the letter we had written jointly on May 16. I am waiting for that answer.

This was not done by Miss de Meeus. Fr. Boone must have a part in it.

We are waiting for the nomination of the Bishop of Marseilles. They say that Fr. Guiol is a possibility, the Bishop of Gap and Fr. Deplace, the pastor of Notre Dame, an ex-Jesuit.

Vocations are scarce; the cholera frightens people and the absolute service of the Master, even more.

Nothing new; as for the compulsory purchase, complete silence.

Dear Father, thank you for your prayers for my sister. I left her slightly better, about two weeks ago. I haven't had any news for the worse, I left her in God's hands.

My fond regards to the kind Fathers and Brothers of the Eucharistic family.

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

**1651**

**CO 1651**

**TO MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 134/145)

*Paris, October 15, 1865*

Very dear sisters,

I am longing for news about you. I hope it continues to be good and better, that you are convalescing now, and getting stronger every day. May God and the Blessed Virgin be praised for having healed you!

But we need to be prudent during convalescence. That is why you should watch out for changes in temperature. You know that is what always makes you sick.

God is giving you a long retreat, poor sister! But your soul must have benefited from it. From time to time the Good Lord puts us on a bed of suffering, to make us go through our purgatory, honor his Passion and multiply our merits a hundredfold for heaven.

Illness is a letter which invites us to Calvary and heaven.

I am well, there is no cholera in our sector, it is very healthy.

When you answer me, tell me if papa Bonnois died on the day I left. That poor man did not expect to die but I am sure that he fulfilled his Christian duties well.

My affectionate respects to the good Lesbros family and to your fine doctor.

I bless you in our Lord, very dear sister, especially you, dear Nanette, you must be happy about our sister's improvement, but you must also need rest badly.

Your brother,  
Eymard

**1652**

**CO 1652**

**TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS**  
(VI 14/22)

*Paris, October 15, 1865*

Mademoiselle,

I received your esteemed letter this morning. It will be very difficult for me to come to Maubeuge this week because of several prior commitments. It could be Monday of next week, if that suits you. We will leave Paris on the train you indicate in your letter.

We do not doubt your goodwill in this matter, dear Lady. It is a test from God, and perhaps from nature too.

If God is with us, it will all turn out well.

I am, in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your respectful servant,  
Eymard, Sup. Soc.

**1653**

**CO 1653**

**TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER**  
(VII 16/19)

*Paris, October 15, 1865*

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Thank you for your kind letter. I could not answer it right away, because of the sick and other duties. I do approve your little schedule for adoration. However, begin by consulting your strength. I know that you need God, the Blessed Sacrament, adoration. This need will precisely be your law, just as you went to Blois to get some rest, sunshine and strength. That is the rule of your sojourn.

If you do not like it [there], here is the address of the community of Chigny, near Tours. We [get there] by taking the Angers train as far as Port-Boulet. The house is called the Priory. Board and room is 300 Fr. I am giving you this information in case you should need it.

Cholera is now hitting faubourg S. Germain and is showing up a little everywhere. That does not prevent the children of Babylon from enjoying themselves and forgetting God. Alas! What can the merciful goodness of God do with so many unbelievers and wicked men!

Dear daughter, always leave your soul in the hands of God, keep your mind as serene as the truth which enlightens it, your heart as active as the divine fire which enlivens and inspires it; you belong to God everywhere.

I bless you very eucharistically in our Lord.

Eymard, Sup.

**1654**

**CO 1654**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 311/395 VI 2)

*Paris, October 16, 1865*

Personal: - Make it a rule always to read my letters before talking about them.

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am sending you Nanette's letter about my sister: she is still very weak. I'm afraid that she will pass away. May the holy Will be praised in all things!

I'm also sending you the letter for Miss Prou. Read it. It isn't possible for me to give the retreat she is requesting because of the one by Fr. Audibert. I still don't know if I can give it and yours as well, I mean the one for the whole community. I cannot go to Angers without having your Rules finished and I am burdened with concerns and visits, even though I avoid half of them, - but they are men, and priests. Please pray that I may finish. You are right to say that I begin things and do not finish anything. It's true, I admit it. But I would need to hide and I don't know where.

I can't find your note ... that's what is delaying my letter. I put it away so carefully that I can't find it anymore.

So you aren't well? My God! I suppose you spent nights doing ... that's what tires you. If that's the case, don't do it any more .... You must be more reasonable. Get help for those things your illness requires ... [2 lines erased]. Please ... You belong to your Community above all. Our dear Master wouldn't be pleased about it, nor would I.

*The Mark of the Passion*

Please! my dear daughters. If you need to economize your time, let it be for greater recollection and union with God.

From Nemours we are constantly receiving letters about furnishings, and work. Fr. Champion was there and will be very helpful. I think that it will be ready soon.

What I read about Mr. Barret confirms my opinion that he isn't very intelligent, doesn't have a good spirit, and is scandalized by everything. So, I don't want him. Such vocations would take away our peace and simplicity.

I bless you and all your dear daughters.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**1655**

**CO 1655**

**TO MR. ADOLPHE BLANC DE ST. BONNET**  
(VII 3/4)

*Paris, Oct. 18, 1865*

Esteemed Mr. de St. Bonnet,

You graciously invited me to go to your delightful countryside to work, to enjoy the charms of solitude and peace, and those of a family which is too kind toward me.

There is no oasis for me in this stormy world. As God's messenger, one must go further toward the unknown. However, I was so happy and so comfortable at work at St. Bonnet! I often think of it, especially of the interesting conversations which awakened in me a love and desire for beauty and truth, which I could perceive with my weak understanding.

But this is the time of struggle for me, and I must keep my tent ready, desiring to see my souls only on the battlefield.

Remember me a little among your lovely family and in your friendly heart. Here, you are all present and all very alive and blessed.

I was pleased to read your work in "Le Monde." It is the truth; it is such a beautiful mission which God has given you, but so little appreciated. Like the Apostles, our reward will come only in Heaven.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Mr. de St. Bonnet.

All yours,  
Eymard, Sup.

*October 19 - At the estate of Ostreignies, near Maubeuge, he signed a contract with Miss de Meeus for the foundation of the first house in Brussels.*

**1656**

**CO 1656**

**TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES**  
(VI1/7)

*[Paris, rue fg S. Jacques 68, October 20, 1865]*

Eminence,

Desirous of working for the glory of our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament in your Archdiocese, under the protection of your most Catholic zeal, the Superior of the Society of the Most Bl. Sacrament (whose seat is in Paris) dares to beg Your Eminence to bless this religious project.

Miss de Meeus of Brussels would, in that event, be happy to let us use the expiatory Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament of the Miracle. There, according to the particular aim of our Society, we would have perpetual adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament exposed, and work to increase, or at least sustain, the faith, devotion and worship of the August Sacrament of the Altars.

But, so that Your Eminence may learn for yourself about the nature of our Institute, the means it employs to achieve its ends, and the spirit which must animate all its members, I am sending you a copy of our Constitutions and one of our Decree of Approbation by the Holy See.

Trusting in a favorable reply, I kiss, with the deepest respect, the hem of your Roman Purple, and dare to call myself, through our Lord,

Your Eminence's most humble and obedient servant.  
Pierre Eymard  
Sup. Soc. SS.

*Oct. 21 - Departure for Angers.*

*Oct. 23 - Healing of Mother Marguerite Guillot.*

<i>Oct 24</i>	<i>Conference Servants</i>	<i>Holy Communion, life, food, strength, perfection.No</i>
<i>date</i>	<i>Conference Servants:</i>	<i>Counsels, recollection of mind, heart and will.</i>

**1657**

**CO 1555**

**To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)**  
(II 312/395 VI 2)

*Angers, Saturday, October 24, 1865<sup>36</sup>*

Dear Daughter,

I'll go for holy Mass tomorrow morning.<sup>37</sup> I'm very surprised by what the Bishop is telling you. There was no question of ... nor for anything, his judgement was even favorable ... [4 lines erased]. Fr. Crepon was quite free to respond to such an insulting letter. What is the meaning of all those letters? ... Poor people! Soon, it will be the last straw.

<sup>36</sup> In 1865, October 24<sup>th</sup> was a Tuesday, not a Saturday. Troussier.

<sup>37</sup> He was writing from the monastery of the Fathers in another sector of Angers.

*The Mark of the Passion*

The Bishop had indicated several months to me, even 5 or 6 before making any changes. So, let people talk. Pray and keep everything to yourself in our Lord. It will all pass. If we must obey, we will obey with God's graces.

Don't invite Fr. Crepon tomorrow. The Bishop might be displeased by that.

Begin a novena for the most abandoned souls in Purgatory, for the Bishop and for inner peace: that's the best remedy.

I bless you in our Lord,  
Eymard

I saw Mr. Trottier; he will grant you full rights over half of the alley. He will make an agreement like the others, but for the time being it can't be touched because of your tenants.

**1658**

**CO 1657**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**  
(V 31/52)

*Angers, October 25, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,

I really share in your sadness and cross, and if it could help, I would pay a visit to Mr. d'Andigne and yourself. In this matter we must consider only what is appropriate and right, and not a personal desire. I know that you are generous and strong in major events, and that you know how to rise above weakness and sadness. You are doing so at this moment.

Continue to place your trust in God, surrender yourself entirely to his divine goodness which has never failed you.

Please, leave the future to God. - Thank him for the present good and trust that everything will turn to his greater glory....

You see how good it is to stay firmly united to God our Lord, to live by him, in him, through him. He will never fail you, he is ever our good Father and Savior. Human beings, on the contrary, even the most helpful or desired, are either barren or absent. - God remains with us, the divine Emmanuel whom you have with you at home. Adore him from every corner of your house, love him in all your works, praise him in all your interior states! Establish this continual extension between your heart and the divine Tabernacle, and this divine Lover of Angels, this eucharistic Prisoner of love will be happy.

I place you everyday on the holy Paten and I offer you, and your whole family, to God the Father through our Lord, in whom I am,

Madame,

Your respectful and ever devoted servant,  
Eymard, SSS

P.S. You must have received a letter from me a few weeks ago.<sup>38</sup> I had promised to send you a book, I forgot to do so, but will later. I don't know yet when I will leave again.

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<sup>38</sup> cf. Oct. 8, 1865.

**TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGBAULT (ANGERS)**  
(V 10/14)

*October 29, 1865*

Excellency,

I am happy to submit this third part of the Constitutions to Your Excellency, in order that you may examine, correct, and approve it if you judge it opportune.

I took advantage of the fine information you were so kind to give me which has the marks of experience and wisdom.

Excellency, I had promised to send you Fr. Champion for the Ladies right away. I could not, since I myself had to go twice to [the bedside of] my only sister, who is very seriously ill. I will send him when I return.

I had presented to Your Excellency the plan for a little foundation of Servants of the Blessed Sacrament at Nemours in the diocese of Meaux. The reasons that led me to present this desire were: the good which can come for certain people to be changed from one house to another, the need which even exists sometimes for this change; the natural opportunity such a foundation would provide for the separation, desired by Your Excellency, of the triannual professed from the novices, and finally, to raise one more throne to our Lord.

One favorable reason for this foundation is the offer of a building which would be very suitable for a community, given for this purpose by a single woman who would bring it as a dowry. Following the advice of Your Excellency, I accepted it for the Ladies. There were quite considerable expenses for the deed and for repairs, the total rising to 10,000 francs.

The benefactress is urging for the beginning of this foundation, and if we delay too long, I fear that it will be lost. - But Your Excellency will ask, "Do you have subjects, and subjects that are sufficiently formed?"

Yes, Your Excellency, we can, without harming the service of perpetual adoration of the house of Angers, take ten or twelve sisters on 32. As for the religious spirit, I dare to assure you that it exists in this community. I have been working to form them to the religious life for eight years. But can we find a qualified Superior? - I believe so, Your Excellency. When there is a good spirit, the practice of religious life, a bit of experience, God will do the rest.

Besides, it seems to me that a contemplative life, which has neither education, nor external duties as its purpose, needs women of silence, especially [women] of prayer, of interior life. Well, it's my consolation to assure you these qualities exist generally among the members of the Community.

Before I have the pleasure to see Your Excellency and receive your final answer, I have taken the liberty to present the motives of my request and I beg you to weigh them before God.

The Bishop of Meaux, whom I have seen, is willing to receive the Ladies if Your Excellency does not place any obstacles to it, which is my hope.

Please receive my homage of filial respect with which I am in our Lord, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and devoted servant,  
Eymard, Superior

Angers  
October 29, 1865

**Oct 27 - Nov 3    Annual Retreat to the Servants.**

Oct 27            *Grace and glory, God's good pleasure and will, partakers of God's glory.*

Oct 28            *Inviolability of the vows, serve our Lord with joy.*

Oct 29            *The gift of self, direction, name of spouse.*

Oct 30            *Condition of spouse, simplicity with God, reparation.    Counsels, interior recollection.*

Oct 31            *Prayer, preparation for adoration, meekness.*

Nov 1 or 2        *Humility, obedience to the rule, void of self, "absque sui proprio."*

Nov 2 or 3        *Closing. After retreat - patience, confidence.    Virtues of postulant, novice, TP.*

**1660**

**CO 1659**

**TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS**

(I35/54)

*Angers, All Saints, 1865*

Dear Father,

I am writing to you from Angers, where I have been for 10 days. I came about the matter of the Knoll and the hospital. They had written to me that the hospice administration would soon sell the vacant property. I came right away, only to wait for the auction notice to be posted. There will be many difficulties, as I believe that the Mayor, the Pastor at the Trinity, and the School of Arts will do all they can to prevent us from having it. The Diocese will not do anything, but will be happy if we have the Knoll.

I'm getting information about everything, but I'm afraid that the Mayor is playing his dice: one of the administrators told me so. Finally, we will do all that we can.

If our Lord wants the Knoll, he will bless our efforts.

You know that the question of Brussels is settled. What we still need is the acceptance of His Eminence, and Rome's approval.

Miss de Meeus was very generous: a bond of 99 years for the church, the house and the church furnishings.

When will we go to begin this fourth Service for our Good Master? I would like it to be soon, but we must wait for God's moment and Rome's moment.

I saw your brother, your brother-in-law, and your holy mother. Everything is fine at your home. Your fine brother-in-law told me that this is the time when they have most work.

The house here is fine. I don't know whether the departure of the Prefect will change anything. The Bishop hopes so, for he was fine with the Bishop of Laval. We will see.

Nothing new about the compulsory sale in Paris. We are constantly waiting for news, or rather, in the hands of God and his holy grace.

The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament spoke much to me about you. They remember very gratefully your kindness towards them. They are the same as usual; their alley is still in the same status quo.

Goodbye, dear Father. My best regards to dear Fr. de Cuers, and to kind Fr. O'Kelly and to all the Brothers. Share my letter with Fr. de Cuers and thank him for his in my name.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**1661**

**CO 1661**

**TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS**  
(VI 15/22)

*Angers, All Saints 1865*

Dear Reverend Mother,

Thank you for your kind letter; all our Religious shared your joy and we have all praised God for it. Now comes the commitment. It will come in God's time, which we will make our own. Indeed there is something providential in this union of Works, born at the same time in two neighboring, friendly capital cities; in Rome at the same time, at the feet of the divine King's Throne, with the same sentiments - it all seems to speak of a spiritual relationship.

Thank you for the news from Malines. As soon as I have received the support from His Eminence, I shall send it to Rome.

I need no longer ask for the prayers of your community. It is now a mutual right.

I remain truly united in our Lord, very esteemed Mother.

Your devoted servant,  
Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS.

**1662**

**CO 1660**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**  
(V 32/52)

*Angers, All Saints Day, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,

On Tuesday I began a retreat for the Ladies, and it will be finished next Tuesday. There will be a ceremony of profession at 9:00 a.m. This is to invite you.

But I really would like to go to the Pontifical funeral for the General on Monday; I hope to find you there.

Today, this heavenly feast [is] the feast of our relatives and our brothers in Jesus Christ. One day it will be yours, for you have a place there which the love of our Lord has prepared for you.

We must desire Heaven because it is the possession of God, it's the perfect glorification of God. Then, there will be no more sins, no more temptations, no more obstacles to his love and ours. Beautiful Heaven! When shall you be my dwelling?...

May my heart at least be there, while waiting for the rest of this human baggage!

I am religiously in our Lord,

Madame,  
Your devoted servant,  
Eymard

**1663**

**CO 1662**

**TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER**  
(VII 17/19)

*Angers, November 3, 1865<sup>39</sup>*

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I am writing to reply to your good letter. I do not advise you to come to Angers, this very humid city because of its two rivers and [also] because of your pain.

The church of the Fathers is very drafty.

The first plan is still the best: go to Hyeres - they haven't had any cholera. It has also left Marseilles and Toulon, according to the letters I received. Your health requires that climate.

I will be here until the end of next week.

Everything is the same as usual.

I had spoken to you about Chigny. It is a boarding house for women at 300 fr. near Port-Boulet, via the train from Tours to Angers. But you may not like the company; I can't tell you to come.

I am entirely at your service, dear daughter, so then, believe in my fond dedication in our Lord.

Eymard

**1664**

**CO 1663**

*To Mme. Antoinette De Grandville (Nee Du Cornulier)*  
(IV 75/104)

*Angers, November 4, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,

I arrived in Angers a few days ago. I'm preaching a retreat in the cloister of the Ladies of the Blessed Sacrament. It will finish Tuesday.

Wednesday will be the Bishop's 50th birthday; couldn't you come to Angers? I'm expecting to leave on Friday. This time I cannot go to Nantes. I will be returning here toward the middle of December then I will pay my debts.

I'm leaving immediately for the funeral of the General de la Moriciere.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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<sup>39</sup> Fr. Eymard had written October instead of November, in distraction. The contents indicate it was November (Troussier).

**1665**

**CO 1664**

**TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)**  
(IV 76/104)

*Angers, November 8, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,

I received your note. It's impossible for me to go to Nantes at this time. I'm leaving here Saturday morning for Paris. If a few hours would be enough for you, tomorrow or Friday, I would be happy to help you. I really wanted to go see you; God didn't will it.

I must be back here for Saturday of the Christmas Ember Days, even a few days sooner. So, think about it. I was happy to see Fr. Richard: what a holy man! You are fortunate to have such a holy director. I bless you.

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

*Nov 9 Conference Servants: Patience and trust.*

**1666**

**CO 1665**

*To Mlles Marianne Eymard and Nanette Bernard*  
(III 135/145) VI 10

*Angers, November 9, 1865*

Dear sister,

I am writing to you from Angers where I have been for over two weeks. I bless and thank the Good Lord with all my heart for your improved [health] and ask him that you may have the strength and energy to be able to get up and return to your ordinary daily routine. I know that after being so sick and weak, one's strength doesn't return immediately; but be consoled, it is coming and it will return gradually. That was a very long retreat you made alone with God, dear sister.

You must have seen the vanity of this poor world and of life itself, except insofar as it is for heaven... Oh! illness is an eloquent teacher and a lesson of wisdom and virtue.

The Ladies are very well. They will make their foundation at Nemours for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Pray a little for this intention, because the devil is doing all he can to make it fail.

Miss Sterlingue has been here for a few days. She still remembers your kind friendship with pleasure. Everyone asks me to tell you their love, and you, too, dear Nanette.

Winter is coming, dear ones. May God help you! Take care of yourselves and avoid the changes in temperature.

I am well and I regret only one thing: that the days are too short to do all that I should.

All the Pastor's errands have been done. I didn't have time to send them to him before leaving. I will do so when I arrive.

I imagine that the Oddoux woman from Paris must be at La Mure. I have the funds for her trip. Let's hope that I wasn't tricked! I had given her a bottle of water for your eyes. Give some to Euphrasie Ravanat's<sup>40</sup> friend.

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<sup>40</sup> French Volume III - misspelled as Ravinet.

*The Mark of the Passion*

I bless you with all my heart, dear sisters,

Your brother,  
Eymard

**1667**

**CO 1666**

**TO MISS ANTONIA BOST**  
(IV 18/28)

*Angers, November 9, 1865*

Dear Mademoiselle Antonia,

You couldn't have made me happier than by making and sending me these lovely symbols. Thank you then, many thanks. I will keep them as a subject of prayer, especially those about the holy Eucharist. You should really create a little book of pictures about the Eucharist. I will come back to this later.

So then, you are a bit more "religious:" that's fine. Friendship will only be stronger and more heartfelt.

Protect your moments of silence and solitude: the soul needs them and God wants them to visit souls and converse with the heart which dwells in his love.

I still haven't done anything about your dear brother. I will do it when I return. I have been here for almost 18 days. I'm leaving Saturday for Paris. If Rennes were on my way, I would go to greet you on the way, but I can only bless you from a distance. The feast of the Presentation will soon be here: it is the feast of virgins. Give her [Mary] a lovely white and perfumed flower on that day.

Poor daughters! Purgatory is often painful and hard. But consider that it is only purgatory, and that, if it is endured well for God, it will win for God those poor souls which are far from him.

Goodbye, dear daughter in our Lord. I bless you and I am devoted to you.

Eymard

**1668**

**CO 1667**

**TO MME. LEPAGE**  
(IV 8/26)

*Angers, November 9, 1865*

Madame in our Lord,

I've been in Angers over two weeks. I'm leaving on Saturday for Paris.

I considered Rennes attentively from here, hoping for some voice indicating God would be calling me there for your sake. But I have several retreats to give these days, for two adoration [groups] in the city: Tours, and Angers in December.

I was sorry to miss your dear father: I had delayed my trip in order to see him. I had been waiting for him from Sunday to Thursday, the four days mentioned in your letter. Since he didn't come, I left the same day. It wasn't the right time yet. As you say, we will pray even more, nothing resists prayer.

*The Mark of the Passion*

I read your letter carefully.

I'm happy with your faithfulness to silence and the hours of solitude. Friendship benefits from it and the soul even more.

No, no, don't reproach yourself for this affection, this openness of heart. It is both good and helpful! The overflow is poured out, but the heart remains full of God and his love for your neighbor.

I am pleased with your heart's need for God, your need for the infinite, for divine goodness: these are proofs that your heart really belongs to God. God usually leaves sadness in a suffering soul so that this sadness may lead it to God. Then, when the soul has found a moment's relief with a friend of God, God replaces that sadness by a greater thirst for Him so that he may always be the only center of the soul. Yes, focus on eucharistic thoughts: they are the best because they spring from true life: ponder and carefully nourish these quiet feelings which move you. This is your good bread for the day.

God has no greater desire than to communicate himself to the one who loves him.

I will say the Masses for your good and holy husband whom I knew and who is often present to me, I often look at his picture.

I bless you, dear Madame, and I wish you all of God's gifts. In him I am,

All yours,  
Eymard

Mme. Lepage, nee Delys  
8, rue de Toulouse  
Rennes (Ille-et-Vilaine)

**1669**

**CO 1668**

**TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET**  
(VII 6/15)

*Angers, November 9, 1865*

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I am writing to you from here to tell you that you need the permission of His Eminence or his Vicar General to bless your chapel of All Saints. Be sure to indicate the titular and who is to bless it. Your dear brother does not need permission to baptize your child; he can do it.

I will be happy to go see you and bless your whole family for the 15th. We will leave the 14th by direct train at 6:45 a.m. We should arrive at Belleville around 4:00 or 5:00 p.m.

Your dear mother is fine, I have just given their annual retreat.<sup>41</sup> She was the first to tell me that in spite of the joy she would have to see you all, she prefers to stay, especially because of the difficulties, since the Bishop doesn't want to give such permissions. In that, I saw the great virtue of your fine devout mother; she offered this pleasure to God.

See you soon, dear Mr. Amedee.

All yours,  
Eymard

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<sup>41</sup> To the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

**1670**

**CO 1669**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**  
(VII 4/20)

*Angers, November 9, 1865*

Madame,<sup>42</sup>

I am not writing about your difficulty and agitation; it's nothing. It was a storm! It's over, I hope. There was nothing positive in it; it was all negative, without any reason for it. In such cases, the recipient examines, and when he sees that things are functioning as usual, presumes that everything is fine.

I will get to Paris only late on Saturday. So then, come rather on Sunday or Monday. Write to tell me your hour [of arrival] in Paris, in order that I may wait for you. That is more reliable.

I bless you in our Lord,  
Eymard

*Nov. 10 - Return to Paris via Meaux to meet Bishop Allou regarding a foundation for the Servants at Nemours.*

**1671**

**CO 1670**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 313/395 VI 2)

*Paris, November 10, 1865<sup>43</sup>*

Dear daughter,

I've just arrived from Meaux. Bishop Allou is pleased to receive you paternally and unconditionally in his diocese.

I told him that you would be established for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. So, thank God; the good Master loves you, and serves you like a kind Father.

I bless you,  
Eymard

P.S. I didn't find any money. Pray. Will I find any in Lyons?

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<sup>42</sup> Excerpt from a letter.

<sup>43</sup> November 13, Archives of Servants and Troussier.

**1672**

**CO 1672**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**  
(VII 5/20)

*Paris, November 13, 1865<sup>44</sup>*

Madame,<sup>45</sup>

I was really sorry about your fruitless trip. I waited for you this evening, but I must leave tomorrow at 8 o'clock for Lyons. I will be in Paris next Saturday.

If you have a positive reply for Mr. Octave Ravache, I would be grateful if you would write him a word in order to help him to be patient.

All yours in our Lord

**1673**

**CO 1671**

**TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)**  
(VI 4/41 181)

*Adveniat Regnum Tuum*

*Paris, November 13, 1865*

To Reverend Father de Cuers,  
My dear Colleague,

Your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> instance has filled me with deep sadness. You must indeed be dead tired to be asking to be relieved of the service of Adoration. Certainly, your condition excuses you from it. I leave you free for adoration according to your strength, or rather according to your physical weakness and illness, as you say.

It isn't presently possible to replace you with a professed [priest]. We must wait until a profession gives us some. And then you know that we have to prepare a small group for Brussels, and you are aware of our poverty. If need be, Marseilles will contribute, as Angers is doing so zealously.

You handed over the organization of the House to the Rev. Fr. Leroyer as your Vicar. Yes, it is his duty to replace you. A religious cannot, of himself, be freed from obedience. A religious Superior is not like an officer; I would have preferred if you had written to me before you did this. In any case, I shall go to Marseilles. I haven't seen the house there for a year, and I shall decide myself whether I should replace you.

Since you are ill, dear Colleague, you have no responsibility, but I want them to consider you as Superior of the house. My dear Father, at 58 one is not yet old, and you know from experience that things can get better. We are asking this for you from our Lord. We all consider you as the servant from the first hour. Come now, dear Father, consider as a temptation your idea of withdrawing from the service of charity!

I remain truly united to you in our Lord.

Eymard S.

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<sup>44</sup> Published in French as Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. According to Fr. Garreau; Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>45</sup> Excerpt from a letter.

## 1674

**CO 1673**

*To Count Jean Raymond De Cuers (Fr. De Cuers SSS)*  
(I 157/181 VI 2)

*Paris, November 20, 1865*

Very dear Father,

During my visit to the house of Angers.<sup>46</sup> Fr. Audibert told me that we owe 600 francs for the candles. I told him that you would send him the amount of your October quarterly pension. Please send it to him directly. As you know, that poor house barely has any resources; we had decided together that your pension would be its annual income. If you find it more convenient to write to him so that your candle salesman from Angers would draw this amount from you, for reimbursement, there is nothing easier, Fr. Audibert said. This was his idea.

Nothing new about the Knoll. I am told that the public notice of sale will be made in the month of January. I haven't received the answer from Malines either.

Nothing has been said about the Boulevard yet. So everything is proceeding as usual.

I am praying our Good Master to give you relief, dear Father, and even heal you for his dear service.

I am in our Lord,

All yours,  
Eymard

P.S. -- We received the new postulant. He seems to have good will, we will see how he does.

## 1675

**CO 1674**

**TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS**  
(I 36/54)

*To Fr. Leroyer*

*Paris, November 20, 1865*

Dear Father,

We received the aspirant you sent us. He seems to be filled with good will, we will see how he does. We put him in the kitchen with Brother Francois.

Before leaving Angers, I visited and spoke with your wonderful mother. She is fine, her legs are a bit stiff, but she goes to church morning and evening, in spite of it. I also saw your dear brother, the priest. He is always very happy and working a great deal.

At the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday [celebration] of the Bishop on the 8<sup>th</sup>, many of your friends asked for news about you with fondness, especially the Pastor of Louroux and the one from Beaufort.

I hope that God has blessed your great retreat for the Aggregation, and repaid you amply for your work.

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<sup>46</sup> Oct. 23 - Nov. 10.

*The Mark of the Passion*

Nothing new here: everything is the same as usual, except our Good Master who is ever new in his kindness and mercy toward us.

I am in our Lord, very dear Father,  
All yours,  
Eymard, S.

**1676**

**CO 1676**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**  
(VII 6/20)

*Paris, November 21, 1865*

Madame,<sup>47</sup>

I am on the road again, on my way to Tours until Monday. If I can help you, come Wednesday for sure, or later.

Thank you for giving hope to my young protege.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**1677**

**CO 1675**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 299/395 VI 2)

*Paris, November 21, 1865<sup>48</sup>*

Dear Daughter,

I've just sent Miss Sterlingue 2,500 francs. I'm sending you a thousand francs for your needs. It's a loan that I just made at the Bank for you. I still have a small amount on reserve for the sacred vessels, and a thousand francs on reserve for whatever you wish.

I'm leaving for Tours until Monday to give a retreat to the Ladies of Adoration.

I wrote to the Pastor of Nemours to inform him, and I requested his discretion.

I bless you ... and all your daughters.

Eymard

*Nov. 21-27 - Eucharistic Retreat preached to the Women's Adoration Group in Tours at the Cathedral of St. Gaitien.*

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<sup>47</sup> Excerpt from a letter.

<sup>48</sup> The manuscript reads August 21. The contents of the letter indicate it was written November 21. (Garreau)

**1678**

**CO 1677**

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

*(II 314/395 VI 2)*

*Paris, December 1, 1865*

Dear daughter,

I saw Nemours yesterday. Miss Sterlingue tells me that we should come only on the 6<sup>th</sup>. So, leave only in the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup>, to arrive in Paris on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup>.

There are departures for Nemours at 8:00 a.m., at noon, at 2:00, and at 6:00 p.m.

I will take care of the altar, except that you should bring two altar stones, the linens, and the vestments from Angers.

Whether things are finished or not at Nemours, we will have Exposition on the beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception.

I am afraid that your packages didn't arrive at the train station in Orleans. Try to check it out at the station in Angers to speed it up.

I bless you.

All yours,  
Eymard

**1679**

**CO 1678**

**TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS**

*(VI 16/22)*

*Paris, December 1, 1865*

Very esteemed Mother,

I was committed to a city retreat for the Christmas season. I will get a replacement; you may count on me. It is only right that I should give you this first sign of confidence and dedication.

I shall arrive the day before. I have only the time to add that I am, in our Lord,

All yours,  
Eymard

*On November 21<sup>st</sup> His Eminence's letter and mine were sent to Rome.*

**1680**

**CO 1679**

**TO MR. ADOLPHE BLANC DE ST. BONNET**  
(VII 4/4)

*Paris, Dec. 2, 1865*

Very dear Sir and friend,

I prayed and cried with you over your dear holy mother! I knew and loved her. She was so worthy of respect and love!

You were such a good son! This separation must have cost your heart very dearly!

But the fruit was ripe and her crown complete. Heaven was claiming its property and our Lord his victory. Your good and holy mother! Every finite reality is finite; it is infinity which is beginning and will ever be renewed in the bosom of God.

I ask God to keep you for [the service of] his Church and for your family of friends, dear Sir. You are sowing in a modest way [the seed of] your most beautiful grace and truth; I only see your day rising. I wish it could be the same as it was for Joshua: Sol sta contra Gabaon.<sup>49</sup>

I can only pray for you, for Madame and your dear daughters.

Believe me, dear Sir and friend, all yours in our Lord,

Eymard, S.

Mr. Blanc de St. Bonnet  
Lyons

**1681**

**CO 1681**

**TO MADAME BETHFORT**  
(VII 1/1)

*Paris, December 3, 1865*

Dear Madame,

I have owed you a letter for a long time and the time never comes. Finally! Here it is a bit in haste.

I saw your dear daughter not too long ago. She is well, very reasonable and responsible. You will love her even more when she has the joy of returning to be with you. I congratulate you for having such a good daughter.

We spoke together about a wine merchant in Paris. I was supposed to write to you about it. I think he would buy all your wine.

I believe he is very honest. He is Mr. Garcin, Rue Frochot, 10. Please send me your exact prices, with a little wine for this Gentleman to taste. My address is Rue fg St. Jacques 68 - or send it to the Gentleman.

I would be happy to render you this small service, and all those of Heaven and earth.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Lady,

Your ever devoted,  
Eymard

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<sup>49</sup> The sun stood still at Gabaon.

*The Mark of the Passion*

To Mme Bethfort  
at Jambles via Givry  
(Saone and Loire)

**1682**

**CO 1680**

**TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)**  
(I 158/181 VI 2)

*Paris, December 3, 1865*

Very dear Father,

I am sending you your pension sheet, so that you may return it with the reference, which cannot be done legally in Paris, but only in Marseilles, with you present for the deed. Angers really needs it.

Miss Meeus is insisting that I go to Brussels to preach the usual Christmas retreat on the 17<sup>th</sup>. I see that as a good and easy way to see and prepare, on location, whatever will be necessary for the foundation.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, I received a very complimentary letter from His Eminence of Malines. I sent it to Rome to support our request for approbation.

I think I will begin this foundation myself, as we have done the others. I will bring with me either Brother Henry, who will then be a priest, or Fr. Viguier, with a few brothers.

I am recommending all that to your prayers, as well as our two candidates for ordination on December 23.

I saw the Archbishop of Paris. Please tell me how subjects are ordained in Marseilles and by whom.

Is the Bishop of Marseilles better? Can he accept or give a dimissorial letter?

We really prayed for you, when Fr. Leroyer wrote that you were very ill. I hope that the acute pain has passed.

Believe me in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,  
Eymard, S.S.S.

**1683**

**CO 1682**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 315/395 VI 2)

*Paris, December 4, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Please tell Miss Prou that it's impossible for me to give her a retreat in the month of December. I must go to Brussels on the 16<sup>th</sup>, about the foundation. It is impossible for me to put off this trip.

I am expecting you on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Leave your things at the station. We will go for them.

We will certainly pray for you.

I bless you.

Eymard

**1684**

**CO 1683**

**TO MME. FELICIE DE COUCHIES (NEE RATTIER)**  
(VII 8/9)

*Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, Dec. 4, 1865*

Dear Lady in our Lord,

I did not write to you because I was hoping to see you at Fajj. Now, it is almost too late. I am writing to you at both places.

The foundation<sup>50</sup> will take place on Dec. 8th, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Ladies<sup>51</sup> will arrive the day before. Your mother's heart will find her daughter,<sup>52</sup> and the Good Lord will find a good adorer.

The chapel will be blessed at 8:00 a.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup>. This means that you have a special place.

Everything will be done quietly, without invitations. We will be able to speak freely. Excuse my brevity, dear mother.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**1685**

**CO 1684**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**  
(VII 7/20)

*Paris, December 7, 1865*

Madame,<sup>53</sup>

I will expect you at Dreux next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. I will leave Paris on Monday to go there by nightfall. I am sorry that my time is so short, I would have greeted you in passing, as well as your family. Please ask your dear son in my name to find a position for Mr. Ravache as soon as possible. He accepts wholeheartedly whatever he can find for him; and when the time comes to put him under orders, he will be happy to be under him, and so will I.

In our Lord, Madame, I am your ever devoted,

Eymard

*Dec 8 - Foundation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament at Nemours followed by a retreat preached at Dreux (precise dates unknown).*

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<sup>50</sup> Of the House of Nemours.

<sup>51</sup> Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

<sup>52</sup> Sr. Philomene

<sup>53</sup> Excerpt from a letter.

**1686**

**CO 1685**

**TO MLLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 136/145) VI 10

*Paris, December 16, 1865*

Very dear sisters,

I was absent from Paris for quite some time, that explains my long silence. I've just preached three retreats in different places. I hardly had time to breathe. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, I had the joy of opening a new Cenacle for the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, near Paris, at Nemours. Sister Benoite is there with twelve religious. Good Mother Guillot is also there for the moment. She is hoping to go see you if the weather is not too bad and if she is not too tired.

Never worry about me, God is taking care of me. Nothing happened to me. Besides, there is no more talk of cholera in Paris, and when there was, we hardly worried about it.

I truly thank God, dear sister, for the improvement of your health. It is coming very slowly, but then it is coming. Take care of yourself while the winter weather lasts.

The Child Jesus will go to see you, and he will give you his good gifts. Love him dearly.

And you, dear Nanette, you are entirely given to charitable deeds. You hardly have time to pray, but be consoled, we will do it for you. It is for God that you do so.

I won't stay so long without writing to you. Tomorrow I'll be giving a retreat in Brussels, in Belgium, where we will be making a foundation. But I will be here for Christmas.

I bless you in our Lord.

Your brother,  
Eymard

*Dec 16-25 - To Brussels to preach a Christmas Retreat.*

**1687**

**CO 1686**

**TO MR. RAVANAT**  
(III 1/5)

*Paris, December 16, 1865*

Dear Mr. Ravanat,

The foundation of the Sisters of Angers at Nemours took place December 8<sup>th</sup>. Sr. Benoite is Superior of the second house. So then, if God inspires you to go there with your two dear daughters to serve God more peacefully and fervently, your place is all ready. You would be like the father of this new family, and they would honor you with this title. I think it would be easy for you to rent your house and your shop. Besides, I would like it to be soon.

I would be obliged if you would write a word about it to Mother Superior, Madame Guillot, at Lyons, rue du Juge de Paix, 17, at the Carmelites where she is at this time, and to me in Paris, rue Faubourg-Saint-Jacques, 68.

You would surely be happy there, and your dear daughters, also.

I am very affectionately in our Lord, dear Mr. Ravanat,

All yours,  
Eymard

*The Mark of the Passion*

Mr. Ravanat-Taillandier  
La Mure (Isere)

**1688**

**CO 1687**

**TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS**  
(I 8/29) VI 2

*Brussels, December 20, 1865*

Very dear Father,

Please look in my cell for the letter from the priest from Magny which I had asked you to read. Send Brother Eugene to the Picpus novitiate to seek information, unless you go yourself. If the information is good, write to tell him to come for a retreat.

On Friday, send Brother Marius to Angers for the ordination of Brother Henry. Give him one or two forms for half-fare, put number 81 at the top and mark the place where the two bulletins are taken from. Sign for me, if you don't find any already signed: the stamp is on my table or my dresser. I will get there early Sunday.

God is blessing this retreat. It was useful for me to come here to see and prepare things.

Pray for the one who is affectionately united to you in our Lord.

Eymard, Sup.

**1689**

**CO 1688**

**TO HENRY BILLON SSS (LATER FR. BILLON SSS)**  
(III 1/2 VII 1)

*Brussels, December 20, 1865*

To dear brother Henry

Very dear Brother,

God wanted this sacrifice from us. It cost me a lot, I would have been so happy to impose my hands upon you! Good Father Audibert will do it for himself, for me, and for the whole Society. Everyone is praying for you, and I as much as I can. The affection I have for you is united with the hope of having a good adorer and apostle, and the joy of our good Master's greater glory.

So now you've reached the sacred priesthood which will bring you only graces, surrounded as it will be with the graces of the Society and adorned with the benefits of religious life. That is the true royal Priesthood.

Therefore go forward confidently, dear Brother. I say more; go toward it with joy, for you are going toward the greater love of God.

Today you are brother Henry, but Saturday you will be Fr. Billon.

May God pour out his favors upon you, just as I bless you with all the affection of my heart.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, S.

**1690**

**CO 1689**

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

*Brussels, December 20, 1865*

To Sister Mariette.

Dear sister,

I am writing to greet you briefly from a great distance.

You must be very happy to see your dear sister and mother, and I am very happy for you all, because it is so difficult for her to be absent!<sup>54</sup> Profit well by it.

So your poor sister Jenny is very sick! Poor daughter! She will have a beautiful crown in heaven, for she was always very candid, very pure ... [4 lines erased]. I love her very much. She will always have her place as a sister and daughter in the Society.

You are the mother of the sick and the suffering. Always be very kind, and God will substitute your charity for your piety.

I bless you, good daughter, and wish all of you my first New Year's wishes and a special place in the court of our King Jesus.

All yours in Him,  
Eymard

*Dec 25 - Return to Paris from Belgium.*

**1691**

**CO 1690**

**To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)**  
(II 316/395 VI 2)

*Paris, December 26, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for visiting my sister. She must have been very happy and Nanette as well. Thanks again.

I am receiving letters from Nemours, they will explain why I allowed Fr. Champion to stay. What he says is true. I think that it is a satanic trial for the Society. I would be desolate if I didn't put my trust in God.

Get some rest. It is better to take a day or more and not risk being sick.

I wasn't able to go to Nemours, because I was overwhelmed with business.

I thank your dear sister for her little note.

I bless your kind sister Jenny, you and Sr. Mariette.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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<sup>54</sup> Mother Marguerite was in Lyons visiting her sisters.

**1692**

**CO 1692**

*To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)*  
(II 317/395 VI 2)

*Paris, December 28, 1865*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter. Yes, that is only prudent, wait until you are better, because I prefer your health over the joy of seeing you back sooner among your daughters.

Please bring me some fur soles: two or three pair, no more.

Try to see Miss Zenaide de St. Bonnet, on rue Sala, across from the Poor Clares; she needs to see you. I think you would help her and could console her over the death of her mother.

I will try to go to Nemours to see you there.

I bless you in our Lord,

All yours,  
Eymard

**1693**

**CO 1691**

**TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS**  
(I 37/54)

*Paris, December 28, 1865*

Very dear Father,

May God repay you with a thousand new gifts and graces for the Eucharistic wishes which you were the first to offer me.

Knowing how your zeal for the glory of the Good Master is so great and full of dedication, how much you love this small but dear Society, and what kind and cordial affection you have for me, though I am unworthy, I can only ask our Lord to bless such warm and generous feelings and use you for the Lord's holy struggles.

Never has a cloud existed in my soul between you and me. Where would it come from? True fraternal charity cannot have any. It is therefore a white ray, pure and on fire. Oh! Dear and loving Father, believe me, the thought of you in my soul is like that ray. I have too great an appreciation for your sincerity and affection in our Lord. See how necessary your presence is to Marseilles! And also how God is blessing you and consoling you there!

I am very happy about the good news of dear Father de Cuers' improvement. He must be controlled a little in his austerities, especially, don't let him work beyond his strength. That is what the Good Master wants, honoring his suffering by our patience, obtaining many graces for us in that way.

It seems that in Angers it was magnificent and very touching. Father Billon said his first sung Mass with deacon and sub-deacon on Sunday. There was a large crowd with an impressive general Communion. He also sang Midnight Mass with equal solemnity. Brother Chave was honored to be given first place in the ordination; he said the Gospel with the Bishop.

Fr. Audibert preached at the cathedral for Christmas Vespers. God blessed his words. Here we also held and sang the Offices. Brother Francois prepared a lovely creche for us.

*The Mark of the Passion*

I came back from Brussels Christmas night. Since I was not needed there, I preferred to come back to my own religious family.

The Brussels retreat was not very well attended morning and evening. There were enough people for the afternoon conference. The reason was precisely because of the King's birthday, which was celebrated for two days.

Many good things are being said about the young King; but his father is leaving him a sad inheritance, as he ended with government actions similar to the life he had lived since the death of his holy wife--that is, by scandal. In Flanders, no one wanted to hear any more about it: that is the real situation.

During my stay, I prepared all that I could: beds, tables, small utensils, for there is nothing else except four walls, and justly so.

Miss de Meeus is really very kind. They are happy to see us come. His Eminence received me very well. There is much glory to be sown there and to nurture for our Lord. Everyone remembers you well and with gratitude.

Miss de Meeus has set up the cloister and, I assure you, it is strict; almost too much so, but it is prudent.

When shall we go? When Rome responds; but in Rome things proceed as in the universal Rome, each has to wait his turn. But then, on our part, everything is done. It is all in God's hands.

I leave you, dear Father, at the feet of the Divine Master, and I am,

All yours,  
Eymard

**1694**

**CO 1693**

**TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC**  
(VII 14/17 VIII 26)

*Paris, December 28, 1865*

Mademoiselle,

It has been such a long time since I have had news from you! Now, New Year's Day is approaching when everyone gets in touch, but I am writing first, to send you my wishes, which are fully Christian and ever the same: love the Good Lord dearly, serve him in your holy life; surrender yourself to his divine goodness in everything; live from day to day; then, be simple and peaceful in this frame of mind.

Ask the Good Lord for my gifts,<sup>55</sup> I really need them. I feel overwhelmed by business matters and weak in virtue, if at all, because I act more as a robot than as a director of work.

I have not been able to sleep lately. We are preparing a foundation in Brussels. I recommend it to you before God.

I want to come to Lyons and see you there, but when? I still don't know. It will always be with the same joy and the same eagerness.

Believe me in our Lord, dear sister,

All yours

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<sup>55</sup> Spiritual gifts for the New Year.

**TO MME MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN**  
(IV 10/19)

1865<sup>56</sup>

You are called to a life of union with our Lord. He is the one who wants to direct you by coming to dwell in you.

Human beings can do nothing of themselves. They are inclined to evil and can commit any crime unless God sustains them. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself without remaining attached to the trunk of the vine, so we cannot bear fruit unless we remain attached to Jesus Christ.

Oh! if we could understand these words of St. Paul: "It is no longer I who live, it is Jesus Christ who lives in me," and this other: "Jesus Christ must grow in us until we reach full maturity."

Yes, Jesus Christ has a spiritual birth and development in each person. He wants to glorify his Father in each one of us. Let us then say like John the Baptist: "He must increase and I must decrease."

In order for him to dwell in us, we must dwell in him; we must respond to his call.

Let us give him not only our heart, but our mind. God hasn't asked for this sacrifice from everyone: it's too difficult. He only asks for their heart: "My son give me your heart."

It is only from a small number that he asks for their mind, intelligence, judgement: "Whoever wants to be my disciple, let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me." It is easy to give our heart, but to give our thoughts, our judgement, our intelligence, that is a more difficult sacrifice. It is like being stripped alive. It costs a great deal. We can't understand God's thoughts; but later, what light he gives us! His wisdom blinds us.

How can we attain such divine union, you may say. You have complete freedom on the choice of means, rather, use everything to obtain it. Let everything speak to you about God, and yourself speak about God to all those with whom you are in contact, pray to him for those who don't know him, ask him to be like the virtuous people you see, not to be more beautiful [than they], but to serve him better.

Don't let the thought of God remain abstract. Always bring your heart into it. Remain especially in praise and thanksgiving. Be constantly happy to repeat: "How good God is! He alone is good!"

Also use concrete helps to think about God; for example, when the clock chimes, and give yourself a penance if you fail. Our body must be treated like a slave.

Don't remain in the abstract, make positive resolutions. During two or three weeks concentrate on the same fault to be corrected, the same virtue to practice. You may not always have the opportunity to practice the opposite virtue. You could always make positive acts of it and ask it from God. In everything, even in the smallest events of life, we must see the Will of God, and let ourselves be directed by it with love.

For prayer, have a book you like and read until some thought strikes you, in order to avoid spiritual laziness which prevents you from knowing yourself.

Be on guard against temptations of zeal; the result would be that by thinking of others, we neglect ourselves.

<sup>57</sup>My daughter in our Lord, practice these maxims; it seems to me that they will always suit you. It's quite evident that the root provides life and strength to the tree, but in a hidden way because it must work in mystery and peace.

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<sup>56</sup> This letter has no date: probably Paris, 1865. It seems to be a summary of a conversation. The first part is a copy in the handwriting of Mme. Giraud-Jordan. It is written in Fr. Eymard's handwriting beginning with the words: "My daughter, practice..."

<sup>57</sup> Here begins Father Eymard's own handwriting.

## *The Mark of the Passion*

To create great power, steam and chemical gas are condensed, followed by a powerful explosion.

Well, it's the same in the spiritual life: charity, the virtues, external works are and must be only branches, the same is true for vocal prayer. The life of these works lies entirely in recollection, in the union of the soul in God. It is its nourishment, its life and strength. That is why you must come closer to God in prayer, listen to him, rather than always speak to him, be recollected in homage at his feet rather than perform acts of generosity where the soul ordinarily puts aside its recollection to become scattered by sentiments that are foreign to it.

The activity of the soul is often our great enemy. It seems to warm our piety, but this ardor is often artificial and debilitating. True spiritual activity is the one that takes place in God, or near God, because the soul unites itself through charity to its end and immediate grace. That is why nothing is more active than the true love of God, because it is the action of the flame in its hearth.

Apply yourself carefully at becoming spiritual (interior), my daughter, that is, to living with God, to working in union with God, to be happy in God.

Then his light will be the inspiration, the motive of your thought and the rule of your judgements.

Follow his divine Providence, like a trail of personal kindness, and you will be surprised to see how much God is concerned about you, even preoccupied.

This view of Providence, of goodness and love is the soul's greatest happiness, and constantly renews our feelings and insights. It's a little like Heaven!

So watch over your thoughts, let them be God's and let your heart be its echo and fruit, because to see God is the law and measure of love, love of virtue.

I will also send you a little book and one for your dear mother. I believe that she is still at Calet.

I thank God with you for the news you give me. You can see the realization of these words of the Prophet: "I placed my trust in God and it will not be in vain."

Goodbye! I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard, P.S.