

CHAPTER III

**Chaintré - St. Chamond
Aug. 1855 - May 1856**

Substitute Master of Novices

Writer - Manual of the Third Order of Mary

Preacher - Parish Missions at St. Chamond

Petition to the Holy Father - Pius IX

Contacts with Church Officials

Dispensation from vows as a Marist

Convalescence at Mont Dore and Allevard

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Aug. 10-30 - To Mont-Dore for his health.

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CO 521

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 132/395 VI 2)

Mont-Dore, Paris Hotel, Puy-de-Dome, August 11, 1855

I am at the Springs at Mont-Dore, dear daughter. The doctor from Neris sent me here for my chest and sinus infection. I arrived last night.

The people here are cold, and I don't know anyone. I'm very much alone, which is what I wanted. However, heaven is above me, and the blessed tabernacle is at my side: I have all I need.

Pray hard for the serious question I mentioned to you. We haven't spoken with V. Rev. Fr. General about your plan, nor mine.¹ We will do all that when I return.

Goodbye, my daughter. My love to your dear sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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

Aug. 12 - Fr. Touche embarked at Marseilles for Rome.

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CO 522

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 133/395 VI 2)

Mont-Dore, August 17, 1855

I received everything you sent me, dear daughter. Thank you very much. I read your letter carefully with its spontaneous comments about my sharing. By sharing with you so fully and completely, I was showing how much I trust you and hope that you will really pray that God's holy will be done for his greater glory and love in spite of my natural hesitations.

If this plan has upset you, my dear daughter, be sure that it has been crucifying me for a long time: my natural feelings and filial fondness toward my beloved Society, toward my very kind colleagues and Superior, their goodness to me, my spiritual and physical weakness, all these things keep telling me not to budge. On the other hand, I don't want to fail to respond to God's grace, should he kindly choose me to labor and die for that beautiful Work in spite of my great limitations. I feel drawn to it, like a person who can no longer go back.

If I didn't tell you all that from the start, it was because I didn't know how it would be settled before Very Rev. Fr. General's visit. I had sincerely hoped for his consent, and had not thought it through any further.

Then also, it would have been a matter of conscience to tell you to give up the lovely idea of a house of Nazareth.

¹ The House of Nazareth for her; the Eucharistic Work for him.

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When God doesn't clearly show the negative side of an undertaking, but only its good side, we must continue the undertaking or simply wait.

So, my poor daughter, if this has caused you to suffer for a moment, let holy abandonment lift you up. Nevertheless don't get discouraged.

I believe that the sight of the Holy Face was meant to prepare you for what happened. Consider yourself fortunate to suffer what Jesus Christ sends you through love.

Your decision to write isn't bad. He is wrong to talk that way. Let us turn our eyes to heaven before considering the human side and taking action. I believe you did so.

The waters are going down fine. I'm told that the improvement of health comes only later. I'm not too bad. I'm going to write a few words to Miss de Revel. I was truly sorry I couldn't go to see her, but time was lacking. It was already something that I managed to find a moment on Saturday to go see you.

19. - Tomorrow, I'll say Mass for your dear mother (1). Keep the secret of what I shared with you. You've done so. That's fine.

All yours in J. C.,
Eymard

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

(1) Don't mark it down. Goodbye.

Don't speak yet about the separation of the two Works. Wait. Who knows what will be decided?

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CO 523

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 13/26)

*L.J.C.*²

Mont d'Or, August 18, 1855

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in Mary,

I am here at Mont d'Or instead of the springs of Vichy, Neris, etc., where they wanted to send me. It has been cold until now; finally, [we had] two beautiful days.

I am alone here, no acquaintances, no visitors, but our Lord is in a poor little room and I go there when I can, and it helps me.-

I was truly sorry I couldn't see you when I arrived. I was hoping it would be Sunday, but I didn't have enough time to go down to see you. It was 5:30 p.m. So then, the good Lord wanted this sacrifice. If I am not able to come to see you, I will have them tell you when I will return and when we could get together. I have many things to tell you, and I expect as much from you.

You have left me a long time without any letters and I remained silent while waiting for them. I had learned that you were at the Springs at Vichy.-

I will be here for another 8 to 10 days. The Springs are not making me ill, but I feel very sad. I have the joy of saying Holy Mass and that is a great consolation.-

Do pray for me, dear daughter, and believe me ever all yours in Jesus Christ.

Eymard, p.m.

² Abbreviation for *Louz soit Jesus Christ*. Praised be Jesus Christ.

Chaintré - St. Chamond Aug. 1855 - May 1856

Miss de Revel
rue Ste. Helene 13
Lyons, Rhone

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CO 524

TO FR. ERNEST NEGRE³
(V 1/2)

Mont-Dore, August 25, 1855

Dear friends,⁴

My silence made you worry. I couldn't write to you, since I spent most of my time traveling. I've been quiet here for the last few days; I needed it.

The Springs are helping me. God, in his divine goodness, seems to have given me this means of relief to ask me for a greater commitment to his holy service. And so it's also my soul's desire to work more and more for his glory and to win hearts to him. How good God is to use such a poor weak person! God doesn't need us; but when he wants to use our limitations and our nothingness for his glory, when he gives us the honor of suffering for his name... we are very fortunate. The essential thing is to be faithful to him. - Be very faithful to him, dear friends, and you will receive the hundredfold.

If your heart should fear the cross, if the devil is causing agitation, if the world is against you, look at the divine Prisoner, follow him in his life of love. Let us pray and God will be with us. Let us wait trustingly for the time set by Providence.

I am writing you this collective letter, since I don't have time to write to each of you.
God knows how dear your souls are to me.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Kindly present my respects to Miss Dalaca and her kind mother.

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CO 525

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 17/76)

L.J.C.

Mont-Dore, August 26, 1855

Madame and our dear sister in Jesus Christ,

I don't want to leave Mont-Dore without answering your letter. When I read it, I shared in your happiness and thanked the good Lord wholeheartedly with you for the outstanding grace he gave your kind mother.

I esteemed her before; now her soul is doubly dear to me. May God complete the work of his divine mercy and fill her soul with his ineffable consolations.

³ A seminarian.

⁴ Probably the group of seminarians who were waiting for the Eucharistic Work to materialize.

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Now about you my dear daughter. Your insomnia, your burdened spirit, your lack of memory, all show that your health is weakening. So, as much as you can, through obedience, take more sleep. It is essential to our physical life. Do it as a good work; organize things to be more faithful.

Holy Mass, the Way of the Cross, the rosary are enough vocal prayers. However, try to keep your soul in God's hands like a child at the loving disposition of its good Father seeking to please him in everything.

Be detached from all things and love only those which God loves. Choose only those which stem from his good pleasure.

You are very poor, that's true, very weak.⁵ What can you do? It's your condition, like a poor person who must beg and suffer and especially make peace with his rags and be at peace with himself. Do the same, and in the midst of this poor retinue, also keep your soul calm and joyful. See how our Lord loves you. He wants to dwell with you, not as he did with Zaccheus, but as he did with Mary, his divine mother. Be as attentive to our good Master as you would to a perfect friend who would come see you. That isn't enough, attend to Jesus as the divine Bridegroom of your heart, and this thought will inspire you with everything you ought to do.

When I get to Lyons, (I leave tomorrow), I will take care of your protege at Mr. Rey's.

May I ask you for the alms of a novena to Jesus Eucharistic when you receive my letter? Our retreat begins Sept. 2 until the 10th.

Good-bye, my dear daughter.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

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CO 526

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 14/52)

L.J.C.

August 26, 1855

My dear daughter,

I read your letter with much pleasure. At the Springs we have a lot of time.

Always praise the divine Goodness which heard your prayer for your good mother, but don't limit yourself to this initial grace. You have others to request. God loves to be petitioned, stormed by our constant trust. Your cousin will return,⁶ you must pray.

Now about you, my poor daughter.

1. Keep no secrets from your mother, if the propriety due to the person doesn't allow you to answer that. For your part, just know that you are not obliged to keep this secret from your dear mother.

2. The temptation to sleep during your prayer may come from the fact that you are not sleeping enough. You need from 7-1/2 to 8 hours of sleep.

As for the means you mentioned, I don't approve them. Have some vinegar and fresh water to wake you up. Don't be too upset with this temptation.

When sleep comes to paralyze your meditation, pray vocally, get some fresh air.

3. As for the little monthly retreat, when in an exceptional case you weren't able to finish it the same day, perform the exercise which was omitted on the next day and everything is taken care of.

4. For your good works, continue as your mother does or approves. That is better.

⁵ Spiritually poor. To this wealthy woman and many others, he offers the example of materially poor people as an image of their relationship to God.

⁶ to God.

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5. As for little disagreements or frustrations, act as if you don't notice them. Be just as kind, thoughtful and gracious, and let God take care of everything.

6. Make a novena to the Most Blessed Sacrament for me, for my intention.

Goodbye, dear daughter, be happy with Jesus your Spouse.

Your devoted one in our Lord,
Eymard

Aug. 27 - Fr. Touche, in an audience with the Pope, presented Fr. Eymard's plan.⁷

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CO 527

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 102/145 VI 10)

Lyons, September 2, 1855

My dear sisters,

Here I am in Lyons. I've just returned from the Springs at Mont-Dore where I stayed almost 20 days. I don't know yet whether the waters helped me at all. I was told that the effects are felt only after a month. I was able to bear them, although they were very strong.

We are beginning our retreat today. It will finish next Sunday. Pray in order that I may spend it fervently.

I saw Mme. d'Aringue about her orphanage, and this holy woman promised me to take one of the two orphans in November. Thank God for this great favor.

The Miles. Guillot are quite well. I will leave you now because the retreat will begin shortly.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, p.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

Sept. 10 - Relieved of his obligations at La Seyne. Sent to Chaintr until Sept. 20 to work on the Third Order.

⁷ Letter of Fr. Jean Joseph Touche to Fr. Eymard:
J.M.J.

Reverend Father and friend,

During my trip to Rome, I carried out your errand to the Holy Father. Here, in God's sight, is what was said. "The Work comes from God. I am convinced of it. The Church needs it. Means should be taken to make the divine Eucharist known.

But I want the Marist priest to come to an agreement with his Superior and the local Bishop before beginning anything. I could give him the permission myself to begin, but the wisdom of Rome requires that the Superior General consent, and he will do so willingly."

My friend, let me tell you that the way in which the Pope expressed himself, I would believe that I was going against God's will were I to oppose it. Father, I can certify the above under oath.

I do want your work to prosper, the thought of it pleases me very much. I am, my dear Father and friend, your devoted servant and friend.

Rome,
August 27, 1855

Touche

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CO 528

TO FR. JEAN-JOSEPH TOUCHE, APOSTOLIC MISSIONARY
(VI 1/1)

J. M. J.⁸

Lyons, September 21, 1855

Very dear Father,

I am here in Lyons, recalled by an order.⁹ I was able to stay only two full days at La Mure; and in Grenoble I looked everywhere for a coach to give you at least a few hours, impossible. - I had to return to Lyons where I was expected on a set day, to inform my successor about the house of La Seyne. Fr. Denis is the one who will replace me. Good choice! I am happy about it; but since I'm not to return to La Seyne, even for the opening [of the school year], I had to put myself completely into the hands of Jesus and Mary with the future of divine providence.

I am here, I dare not say, on Calvary. I am not worthy of that, but in a state of trial, in a position of surrender to God alone. Please, dear Father, pray for me, but do not worry about my situation. I know your heart on that point; but, at this time you must not listen to it. Also allow me to tell you to do nothing for me, nor should you take any decisive measures which would have you renounce the title of Pastor, which Fr. Denis told me you have in the diocese of Dignes. That would be equivalent to depriving yourself of an income which the diocese owes you in so many ways.

When will I write to you again? I don't know. You understand that I must at least prove to be obedient, since I don't have the other virtues.

Goodbye, dear Father, God will repay you a hundredfold for all the good you have done for me during the past thirty-three years.¹⁰

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard¹¹

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CO 529

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 18/52)

Lyons, September 25, 1855

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I haven't had a moment yet to tell you all the joy I felt during the few hours I spent with your family: you understand it.

I am happy to thank God for healing our dear Mr. Tholin, whom I love wholeheartedly.

When I came here I found the answer I was expecting; it's a great comfort; it encourages the Work.¹² However, since we must pass through fire, and favor the bonds of unity and peace, we must wait yet awhile and pray a great deal. You can be sure that to become ardent coal, wood must suffer and be stripped of any foreign matter.

⁸ Jesus, Mary, Joseph.

⁹ from his Superiors.

¹⁰ Fr. Eymard first knew Fr. Touche when he was about 11 years old, at the time of his first Communion.

¹¹ It is strange that Fr. Eymard does not refer to the petition which Fr. Touche had presented to the Holy Father in August regarding the Eucharistic Work.

¹² Perhaps the letter from Fr. Touche. See the footnote to Aug. 27.

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I will stay in Lyons, and if you should ever come, I would be happy to receive you.

I forgot to take note of the Masses you gave me, satisfied with putting them in a safe place. Please tell me how many. Wasn't it 28? Greet Fr. Thivit, please.

I leave you in the sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

All yours,

Eymard, S.M.

P.S. My regards in God to your dear sister.

Mme. Tholin-Bost

Tarare (Rhone)

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CO 530

TO MR. DAUSSE

(VIII 1/1)

Lyons, Sept. 27, 1855

Dear Monsieur Dausse,

Here I am back in Lyons, still joyful after my pilgrimage to Notre Dame de la Salette and our providential meeting.

I told Very Rev. Fr. Superior General about your wish to go and stay a few days in our Paris house while waiting for your apartments to be ready. Very Rev. Fr. is happy to grant you this small favor, and he is pleased to be able to show you his affection in this way. He would have written to you himself, but as he is about to leave for Belley, he has asked me to write on his behalf.

Our good Father Morcel was very pleased with your remembrance of him.

If I am unable to see you when you come to Lyons, please convey to the good and beloved Father Lagniet all my happy memories of Belley.

I have the honor, dear Sir, to be, in our Lord, your devoted and loving Servant,

Eymard, P.M.

To Chaintr until January to work on the Manual for the Third Order.

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CO 531

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 135/395 VI 2)

Chaintré, October 25, 1855¹³

Thank you, my dear daughter, for your little notes. They will be useful. I haven't worked at the Manual yet.¹⁴ I must visit London, and I needed to prepare for it.

I saw . . . we talked a lot about the family and their child. She has strong reasons. She cannot give them up.¹⁵ You will receive a letter from Marseilles. It is a request I am making in favor of the child. He will be fine there. It is a correctional institution which has nothing dishonorable about it. There is one for prisoners and one for children of relatives. If the answer is favorable (you must open the letter), write it to Otherwise, write it only to me. In any case give me news about this matter, or send me the letter after having read it.

Dear Fr. Champion surprised me and made me very happy. Pray for both of us and for all. I hope to see you next week.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Rue du Juge de Paix, 17
Fourvière, Lyons (Rhône)

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CO 205

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 10/75)

Sunday

Madame,¹⁶

I thank you very much for your letter, and I thank God for having sent you in time to receive the last breath of your dear sister Directress.¹⁷ A beautiful soul. Heaven must have received her triumphantly. She was always a disciple of the Cross and a disciple of duty.

Since the Third Order is not known publicly, it cannot be convoked at the funeral; so there is nothing to do except to pray for our good sister.

I am alone at the Novitiate. My substitute is traveling. It's impossible for me to leave.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Madame,
Your ever devoted,
Eymard

¹³ The manuscript of the Servants read 23 (or 25) September or October (illegible). The postmark, however, was October 26. Also, the place of origin indicates it must be October (Troussier). In French published as Sept. 25, 1855.

¹⁴ Manual for the Third Order of Mary.

¹⁵ The children.

¹⁶ This letter was originally placed in 1854 because of the presumed reference to the death of Miss David. However, Miss David was Directress of the Third Order Virgins - not the married women. The reference to his position at the Novitiate makes this date (1855) more likely. Trans.

¹⁷ President of the Third Order

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CO 533

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 1/19)

November 5, 1855

Mademoiselle Mathilde,

I received your charming letter only yesterday. I praised God for it. His divine Providence has directed everything for your greater good and the good of everyone. Things happened as I expected ever since the day when I had the honor of seeing you all at Uriage.¹⁸ I was praying to God to manifest his will in this relationship. That is what happened. May he be praised!

For your part, Mademoiselle, you don't have to study the matter any further, but to prepare yourself for this holy state as a good Christian woman, praying to the Blessed Virgin, your good Mother, to prepare you for it, and to prepare the heart of the one Heaven has chosen for you; to St. Joseph, the Protector and model of Christian families, and especially to the Archangel Raphael whose mission you know to Tobias and Sarah.

As for interior sadness, spiritual desires for the religious life, it's only a natural sadness; it honors your state.

Later, I will give you some advice which might be helpful and will make you even happier.
May God pour out his blessings upon you!

Eymard, P.M.

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CO 535

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 18/76)

CH.,¹⁹ November 19, 1855

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

It's my pleasure to tell you that the Brother Director at Charlieu agreed to my request. He will keep my registration until there is a better place. So, let's remain peaceful at the feet of divine goodness in trust and gratitude.

The holy season of Advent is coming. Let us truly enter into the spirit of holy Church; a spirit of penance, of prayer, of longing for Jesus, in order that he may be born in our souls by his love and virtues. Let us join with the Blessed Virgin and long to see her divine Son; to see him, serve him and give him to the world.

Pray for me, my dear daughter, so that I may be a docile instrument of the kindness and mercies of God our Savior.

May God give you his holy grace, his holy love in all you do.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

¹⁸ Health springs.

¹⁹ Chaintré.

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P.S. Remember me to your dear daughter. May she always have the joy of belonging entirely to Jesus Christ.

Excuse this paper, it's all I have.

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CO 492

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 15/52)

Miss Stephanie

1855

My dear daughter,

Thank you for the news you have given me about your dear parents. It really made me sad.

We are praying. God is infinitely good. Alms triumph over everything. Your grandmother is so charitable!

I congratulate you for your treasure. You are now in charge of the chapel. That really pleased me.

Continue to receive God's gifts with joy and love. My dear daughter, look more at God's goodness than at your ingratitude. Live by gratitude as a poor person [must].

For your meditation, get the book: *The Soul Before the Holy Eucharist*, by J. B. Pagani, Paris at Louis Vives, publisher-editor, rue Cassette, 23 (1854).

Use this book for your meditation when you get it.

You make me happy when you say that you have no thoughts when you meditate. My daughter, remember that the best of all meditations for you is the one which the good Lord helps you to do in poverty, silence and surrender to oblige you to find all your wealth and interior action in his grace of love. Recite your prayers; but, for meditation properly speaking, it would be better to leave it aside or at least not to concentrate; it would tire you too much.

You would do well to obtain the *Manual of Interior Souls*, by Father Grou., Paris at Lecoffre, rue de Vieux Colombier, 29.

Goodbye my dear daughter, pray for me.

Eymard

539

CO 534

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 134/395 VI 2)

Chaintré, November 19, 1855

My dear daughter, thank you for your letter. Your simplicity and openness make me happier than if I were reading a formal and stuffy letter.

Indeed, you know how much I want what is best for you and all that I hope for your soul in our Lord. I really understand your moments of struggle, the little attacks of fever: on the battlefield, we do more than at times of rest. First of all:

1. I received an answer from the Brother Director at Charlieu. He will keep the child. That matter is settled. I wrote about it to

2. Fr. Favre spoke to me about your visit, about the Third Order house, that he had advised you to go to the Cardinal. I'm happy about that. He cannot take initiative in this matter, nor does he want to; he cannot give it its initial impulse. However, we can feel that he is pleased about it, that he even desires it. Now, how much support will he give to it? It's already a great deal to have his consent; if I had known that when I was in Lyons five years ago, I would have cast the net.

As for me, I advise you to go to His Eminence with Miss Chollet; she is prudent and discreet. If they don't consent to receive you, well! return in peace, the time would not be ripe. If you are badly received, continue to hope! All you need to do is present the request you made to Father General which he is referring to His Eminence.

Now regarding the personal issues. I love and hope for that house as such; my original thought hasn't changed. However, I will not establish this work on myself, nor on any other human protector; you can understand that only too well.

Not on myself. Not because of my plans for the Blessed Sacrament; no, since I am totally surrendered to God's will, my frame of mind is one of personal detachment. I even have the feeling that my mission is over in regards to that project, which is ever dear to my heart, that's true, but which I entrust to God's grace, and I beg him to choose another worthier person.

So, what you say about this idea being either a temptation or coming from God found me fully converted. So coming back to me, I don't refuse to write the rules for that house, nor to help it, in spite of the difficulties it will have.

Yes, I will do so wholeheartedly. However, when it comes to directing the details of it, I don't feel any attraction for that at the moment. Is that because I'm not very strong yet and dread the work? or from feelings I still have concerning the Eucharistic project? That's all possible. Nonetheless, since God must be our thought and will, when it comes time to take action, he will give me what I need.

I'm working to the extent I can and as much as I can for the Third Order Manual. Pray a great deal for me, for we are working in vain, if God isn't building himself.

I'm very happy about your few days of retreat. Go there from time to time; it will do you good. I would have liked the Gignoux house; it's important to be close enough to the motherhouse.

My daughter, look for God in everything, look for God's thought, will, and pleasure in each thing. Then, don't pay attention to those things which only come from human beings or human nature.

Goodbye, the mail is leaving.

All yours in J.,²⁰
Eymard

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CO 536

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 2/19)

Chaintré, December 3, 1855

Mademoiselle,

You honored me by informing me about your wedding with your cousin. I praise God with all my heart. Ever since Uriage, I felt that God wanted it, and my confidence was that his divine Providence would arrange everything.

²⁰ Jesus.

Therefore, Mademoiselle, you will be entering into this holy state of matrimony. Enter into it with the thought that this is where God wants you, confident that you will find your salvation there in a holy manner. It is holiness that makes a particular state sublime. Well, how many great Saints were given to heaven in the holy state of matrimony? What great and noble virtues beautified their beautiful lives! Take them as your models and you will resemble them.

Imitate your devout Mother. Copy her virtues and you will have taken a step in the perfection of this great state in the sight of God and the Church.

The trust that you have always shown me, and the affection I have always had for your dear family permit me to give you some advice, the advice I had promised you.

A spouse has three duties to fulfill: her heavenly crown must have these three flowers.

The first duty is toward God and holy Church. From the onset of your new position you must determine your duties of Christian piety, fidelity to prayer and the Sacraments. When a small bush is transplanted into a new garden, it needs to be watered...

No doubt your piety cannot be the same as that of a young person who is free to dispose her means and is still fed by the milk of devotion. Hers must be a strong and enlightened piety, a virtuous piety. Its purpose is to make her duties of state holy and must be regulated by them.

For the Sacraments, you won't be able to approach them often at the beginning, with all the work of a new household, returning visits, and extraordinary events. But when everything becomes calm and you have an ordinary routine, then, come closer to the God of goodness, who is the gentleness and strength of virtue, the life and happiness of a Christian soul.

Your second duty, the first after God, is toward the spouse whom God has given you. Surround him with respect, affection, and generosity: that is the sacred duty of a Christian spouse.

If you wish this friendship to be a happy and lasting one, then respect and esteem, gentleness and attentiveness, as a matter of conscience, need to be its blessed flowers.

Make it your rule never to allow anyone to lack respect and charity towards your spouse, for he must be your glory and honor.

Never believe the evil that a satanic tongue could tell you about him.

The third duty relates to your family life, your household and, if God gives you children, to bring them up yourself under your own eyes.

Keep watch over your household, guide your servants, let them not govern you. Show them a heartfelt trust, but never one that is blind and total.

Watch over their duties with the intention of showing them what is right and what is wrong, so that they may serve you with affection and conscientiousness.

You must especially keep watch over the expenses of the household; have them give you an account. It's a misfortune when servants become the treasurers of a household.

But I am wrong to enter into these details. Your mother will be more skillful than I.

You will receive and make visits: that is right. But don't obligate yourself right away. Politeness, propriety, ordinary kindness: that's enough at first.

Love your home and you will be happy there. A spouse has only one friend, her husband.

Let me stop here, Mademoiselle. I promise you that I will pray a great deal for you and your husband, whom I really would like to meet, and whom I already love because of all the good things said about him, and whom I already include in the one circle of affection for your family.

May God shower you with his blessings! And may Heaven ratify all those I desire for you in Jesus and Mary,

Your very devoted servant,
Eymard, P.M.

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

Chaintré, December 3, 1855

Madame,

I received your edifying letter and read it with joy in God's sight.

How good God is! Oh! If we knew how to surrender ourselves to the desires and graces of his divine goodness, how happy we would be! So you did let gracious providence prevail. See now how everything is progressing on the path of virtue and hope!

I am really pleased about the news you tell me concerning your two dear children. They belong to the Blessed Virgin. You consecrated them to her so often, that this dear Mother had to bless them.

As for the plans for Mademoiselle - I am respecting your secret. All I can tell you is that this young man is the edification of the Third Order and one of its most virtuous [members]. Add to that a forthright and polite manner and he also appears to have a very gentle temperament. - If he is a good son, he will be a good husband.

In return Miss Marie has all the qualities he could hope for and I assure you that she is worthy of the very best partner.

Let Providence act and everything will be for the best, but don't anticipate it.

It has been a long time since I have seen the dear family from Bramefaim and yet God knows how much I love it. But you know that we must let God say: Come here; go there.

I continue to pray always for you all. Do the same for me in your prayers - I am working for you.²¹ -

I leave you in the divine peace of our Lord.

Please receive and offer to your dear husband all my sentiments of respect and dedication with which I am in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, PM

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 19/52)

From the Estate of Chaintré²², near Macon, December 9, 1855

Madame,

I received your kind letter here, at our novitiate. I have been here for two months, working on a Manual for the Third Order. It was very hard to learn that Mr. Tholin hasn't recuperated yet. May God give this dear father back his health! That is my ordinary prayer; and may he give you also, the health which your whole family needs! So, be more careful toward yourself. I know that our Lord is watching over you and giving you strength.

²¹ He is working on the Manual for the Third Order.

²² Literally: castle.

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I don't know when I'll go to Lyons, so then, feel free. I'm taking advantage of my solitude to pray and work in peace and quiet. How happy I would be if the Blessed Virgin would accept my little work and repay me with some of that divine love which consumed her soul!

Before the Tabernacle, my offering is the same as yours. I ask our good Master to glorify himself since we don't know how to serve and love him as he deserves. I am trying to hide underground: I really would need to die in order to live by the risen life of Jesus; ask it for me from him.

Madame, I am leaving you at the feet of our good Master and I am, in his divine love,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, P.M.

P.S. My respectful regards to your very dear daughter, and my gratitude for her letter. I am waiting for the answer from Sydney.

Mme. Tholin-Bost, Negt²³
Tarare (Rhone)

543

CO 539

TO MME. CLAPPIER, TOULON
(V 1/1)

Madame and dear sister in Mary,^{24 25}

I have been wanting to write to you for a long time, first to express old regrets that I could not have foreseen, certainly expecting to return at least for some time to La Seyne. God did not will it. May his holy name be praised.

Finally, to tell you that I don't forget you, you and your dear family. It's a sacrifice for me not to see you anymore, and especially our dear beloved Mr. Clappier who was so kind and benevolent to me. Alas! Life is like that: our paths cross, we glance and say farewell. Oh! When shall we be in Heaven, all gathered in God's arms,²⁶ around our good Mother!

Fortunately, the days and years pass quickly, and that beautiful heavenly city comes closer and bends down to [meet] us.

What are you doing, dear Lady? Are you still ill, yours is an isolated and sometimes sad Calvary. Other times [you are] happy to be closer to our dear beloved Savior! It seems that he wants to keep you close to him in this world and in the next, since he is giving you this lot which is so painful to nature, but so glorious to God and so useful for our reward.

So then, always be patient and resigned on this painful path. Holy suffering is a flower of love; cry with Jesus at the [Mount of] Olives, but keep going towards his cross. Oh! In Heaven you will praise it, you will kiss this dear cross with love and gratitude. Carry it well in the footsteps of your good Master, and it will bear you on the last day, to its place of triumph.

I have a little solitude here. I am resting a little, and working on the *Manual for the Third Order*. Pray for me, dear Lady and dear sister, so that I might truly work according to God's Heart. So, it is also for you [that I am working]; you owe me this support which alas! I greatly need.

My fond and humble respects to dear Mr. Clappier. How happy I would be to see him again! My very fond greetings to dear kind Joseph, and to your whole family. You know that I am, in our Lord Jesus Christ,

²³ Abbreviation for Merchant.

²⁴ Wife of the President of the Tribunal of Toulon, 16 Place d'Armes, Toulon (Var).

²⁵ The postmark is dated December 16, 1855.

²⁶ Literally: bosom.

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Madame and dear sister,

All yours,
Eymard, S.M.

Mme. Clappier
16 Place d'Armes
at Toulon (Var).

544

CO 540

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

Monday, December, 1855

Dear friend and brother in the Lord,

I am feeling better though I am still very weak. I'm now getting up for part of the day. My best regards and greetings to Mr. Brunello. I am really sorry I cannot accompany him. Heartfelt and fraternal wishes to the two dear Fathers.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I opened the letter from Mr. Maunis lest it should contain orders from the Navy.

545

CO 541

TO CANON BRUNELLO
(I 5/181 VI 3)

*L.J.C.E.*²⁷

Chaintré, St. Jean, December 27, 1855

Dear Sir,²⁸

Thank you for remembering me, and offering your services so obligingly. I accept them wholeheartedly. I was going to write to Fr. de Geslin, chaplain to the army of transport, in order to ask him to obtain the following blessings for me:

1. For Fr. Laurent Cat, a canon of the diocese of Grenoble, and pastor at La Mure, a brief (parchment) for the Brigittine Apostolic Indulgences, at the time of death; for the faculties to bestow the scapular of the Immaculate Conception and for a brief to indulgence crucifixes for the Way of the Cross.

2. For Fr. Jean Baptist Guichard, priest of the diocese of Grenoble, the same. In addition, the faculty of bestowing the scapular of Carmel.

3. A respectable, devout and apostolically active family from the diocese of Lyons who founded religious establishments, requests the favor of having the Reserved Sacrament in their

²⁷ Abbreviation for: Praised be Jesus Christ Eucharistic.

²⁸ According to Fr. Troussier, this letter was written to Fr. Brunello.

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private chapel at Chenas. The name of the family is Lacours, from the parish of Chasselay. These three women live as in a community. They have a resident chaplain at their estate. The eldest is called Miss Cesarine. They will gladly pay all the costs entailed.

His Eminence the Cardinal of Lyons referred them to Rome for this blessing as he doesn't grant it to private homes.

4. For myself, please pray a little for me at the tomb of St. Peter, my patron Saint, that I may imitate his love for Jesus Christ. Also, that he may intercede for a mission I will be giving at the beginning of Lent at St. Peter's parish, at Saint Chamond (Loire). Please send these errands to me there, with your address, in case I should have others.

May God accompany you on this pilgrimage. I do so with my best wishes and prayers. I will pray daily that your hopes may come true according to the holy will of God. Don't be surprised that God's works require labor pains. God has his own ways, and a certain measure of suffering is necessary for life.

The work of zeal to which you have dedicated yourself is too beautiful not to cost something. I bless it and long for it, for the greater glory of God.

Thank you for your concern about my health. I am fine. I'm working without getting tired. I am back to my ordinary schedule. I even get up at 4:00 a.m.

Dear Sir,
All yours,
Eymard, P. Mar²⁹

546

CO 542

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 136/395 VI 2)

Chaintré, January 2, 1856

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to thank you for the notes about the Third Order, which you kindly sent me. They will really help me.

In addition to the two reasons you gave me, there is a third local one, which annuls the other two and solves everything.

Thank you for your [New Year's] wishes. I repaid you in kind at the manger, where I placed your sacrifices, sorrows and hopes. What issues forth from the manger is so gracious and especially so powerful! What saddened me was to offer up your poverty; however, in that place it became royal and divine, and so I did. Your Manual is progressing slowly, in spite of the fact that I do nothing but that from 6:15 a.m., when my meditation and Mass are over. When we are poor, it takes longer to pull our thoughts together and longer yet to write them down.

Pray for me always. I imagine that you will go to the Blessed Sacrament to find your spiritual gifts and that you will not forget me there.

I offer all your sisters my sincere best wishes, and assurance of devotedness.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

²⁹ Marist Priest.

547

CO 543

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 7/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

Maubel, January 20, 1856

My dear friend and brother,

I've just received your note. May God reward a hundredfold the mother and daughter who came to bring it to me!

I'm expecting a letter from Lyons in three or four days setting the date for my departure from here. I'm afraid I may have to stay until mid-February.

As soon as I receive it, I'll let you know. That kind priest doesn't come from Angers, but from Tours. Unfortunately I don't have his address here, I left it in Lyons.

I saw Fr. Audibert. He is still so kind and dedicated. However, he can't leave yet; he is waiting for me.³⁰

I'm happy to learn that the Ordinary in question is favorable toward us. Dawn is near.

So, if you were to go to Paris only at the beginning of February, we would write before then.

All yours,
Eymard

Father de Cuers
rue Saint Saviourin 24,
Marseilles, (Rhone)

548

CO 544

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 6/181 VI 3)

L.J.E.

Thursday

Very dear friend and brother in Jesus Christ,

I was named Visitor for Maubel and I've just returned from the visit. That is why I'm late in answering you.

1. It seems to me that we must delay again as to the property you mentioned. Your stay with Fr. Dupuis and my present responsibility are setting things back until later; we certainly will not lack a house. When Jesus wanted to have the Eucharistic Supper, he decided on the day, and even on the Cenacle. Everything is going well, let's continue to wait.

Kindly withdraw the objects mentioned from Mont-de-Piete and bring them to us.

A thousand and one eucharistic salutations to dear Fr. Brunello.³¹

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

³⁰ literally: He is waiting for your servant.

³¹ Spiritual director of Fr. de Cuers.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 8/181 VI 3)

Belleville, February 13, 1856

Dear brother in our Eucharistic Lord Jesus Christ,

I am at the hospital here for a day, as extraordinary confessor, so I am able to write you a few words.

I had a long meeting with Very Reverend Father Superior General about the Work of the Blessed Sacrament, just as we had discussed; that is: 1. That I had not asked to be dispensed from my vows and that I don't believe I have an extraordinary vocation to ask to be freed from them; that he or the Pope are the only ones who could settle that point of law. 2. That I had labored for this Work with the conviction that he would give his support, either favoring it as a beautiful work, or adopting it, in its broad or specific limits, as something special, respecting vocations and its specific rules.

The Very Reverend Father General listened quietly and kindly. However, I could see that his intention was to tell the Pope that he could not consent to relieve me from my vows and to beg him not to do so, because of the Society. He told me secondly that he would speak to the Pope about the Work and that he would do what the Pope would say. So I used that as my starting point to tell him about my particular attraction, the good this Work would accomplish, the glory which would come to the Society because of it; that the Society had been the source and cause of several works of this type, and that God had made it a part of its existence. He listened to me attentively.

I told him especially that by lending me to this Work for two years, for instance, the Society would not be taking responsibility for it. It would allow time to see whether God wants it and to what extent.

Now here are my thoughts. Study the matter in God's presence.

We should write a request to the Pope signed by all the aspiring members and by the Bishop of Paris, if possible, or by his Coadjutor, or a Vicar General, and send it to Rome through the Nuncio in Paris. In this petition we would present:

1. the Work briefly;
2. my request;
3. the encouraging words of the Holy Father;
4. the request for me for two years or some specific time;
5. that the Superior General would speak of the Work to him when he goes to Rome; that everything is prepared. Then you would have everyone sign.

You understand that I cannot do it myself. We would need at least eleven signatures. Take those of the persons who want to belong to the Work, but who cannot come yet.³²

Goodbye. I'm leaving Saturday for St. Chamond. From there I'll send you the letter to the priest from Tours. I couldn't find his until two days ago.

Pray for me.

All yours,
Eymard

³² There is no indication that this was done.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 103/145 VI 10)

Lyons, February 15, 1856

My very dear sisters,

I am writing to give you news about the little Bernard girl³³ who was placed at the Providence of Mme. d'Hareng.³⁴ This fine lady told me a few days ago that she is doing well. It seems that she adjusted immediately to her new life.

For the one who is left at La Mure, we will do as follows: as soon as she makes her First Communion, Miss de Revel will find her a place in Lyons for a few months so that she can be admitted at the Patronage. She will be well situated there and she will learn a trade. Please tell me when she could make her First Communion.

I am very sorry to hear that Nanette still has colic pains and that she is not well. Take good care of yourselves, dear sisters, especially avoid getting your feet wet or cold.

I will leave tomorrow with two Fathers for the mission. Pray that God may bless our ministry. My health is good. I just arrived from a trip to Toulon where I went for visitation.

Believe me always in our Lord, very dear sisters,

With great affection,
your brother,
Eymard, p.m.

Here is my address until Easter: To ... St. Chamond (Loire).
Mar. 1-30c - Preached a Mission at St. Chamond.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 9/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

St. Chamond, at the rectory of St. Peter's, March 1, 1856

Very dear friend and brother in the Lord,

I'm waiting here for Father Renard's reply. I am at the Ladies of the Sacred Heart, at Marmoutiers, near Tours. I'll send it to you as soon as I receive it. I really would like to have news from you and know your feelings about my last letter. The Very Reverend Father Superior General left February 25th for Rome.

If your feeling is that nothing should be sent to the Sovereign Pontiff, letting Divine Providence take care of it: may God be praised!

The thought occurred to me to inform Fr. Touche. But I did not proceed any further, since I did not know your thoughts and whether you expect to do something or even whether you might be discouraged in the face of so many difficulties.

If that were the case, which I hardly believe, I would do like a sailor who has only one little

³³ Nanette's orphaned niece.

³⁴ Orphanage.

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plank left to save himself, and abandons himself to the temper of winds and storms, ever full of confidence in God's divine goodness.

I am suffering and hoping. I feel that our present Superior's feelings will be influential. They shall perhaps return triumphant. But if God wants this Work of love, it will fare the same as our Good Master's burial.

Once more, I am suffering very much but it consoles and strengthens me.

I haven't told you anything about the mission here: the first week, I wasn't too well, but I didn't stop. God's extraordinary strength is there when I need it.

This week also had its small problems. Nonetheless, I continue on, and I preach as if I were fine. God is blessing us.

We will be here until Easter. Write me a few words. I am really waiting and hoping for it.

All yours in Christ,
Eymard, P.M.

P.S. I am beginning the month of St. Joseph with the intention of obtaining the protection and help of this dear Saint, who loved Jesus so much, upon this Eucharistic Work. Join with me.

552

CO 548

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 10/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

St. Chamond, March 12, 1856

My dear friend and brother in the Lord,

I was grateful to receive your welcome letter. Since I have a few free minutes, I am hurrying to write a few words to you.

1. You may write to me here with complete openness until Wednesday after Easter.

2. Kindly return the copy of my letter to the Sovereign Pontiff as soon as possible. My intention is to write to Very Reverend Father Superior General in Rome, to explain to him the purpose and means of the Work, to have him read my letter to the Pope. In this way, it may open his eyes. If he is opposed now to giving me full liberty, he might give me temporary freedom. My purpose in writing to him is to prevent a decisive request from being made to Authority.

3. Fr. Touche has written me a fine letter encouraging me to dedicate myself to the Work.

4. I'm still waiting for an answer from Father Renard of Tours.

5. I would be greatly pleased to go to Carcassone or to Paris to see the holy and fervent Bishop of Carcassone. However, I think it would be easier to make our request for Paris. There would be less mistrust there.

6. God is sustaining me. Naturally speaking, I should be flat on my back.

Give me news about our children at St. Sulpice.³⁵

I have time only to embrace you *in osculo sancto*. [with a holy kiss]

Eymard, S.M.

Father de Cuers
Rue des Ursulines, 12
Paris

³⁵ The seminarian who had expressed a desire for this new Work.

TO FR. JULIEN FAVRE³⁶
(V 1/1 VI 1)

LJC St. Chamond, March 17, 1856

Very Rev. Father,

I was quite sorry that I couldn't see you before you left for Rome. God didn't will it. In return, we are praying a great deal for your successful journey and safe return.

The Mission at St. Chamond is giving us many consolations. God is blessing our prayers.

Fr. Ducournau is fine and always very zealous. Fr. Touche is working hard. People were very pleased with all his instructions.

As for myself, I cannot thank God enough for supporting me in the midst of all my efforts and vigils which are inseparable from a mission in progress.

I had promised you, Very Rev. Father, to give you the petition which I had sent to the Sovereign Pontiff. I only received it yesterday and I am sending it to you right away.

I don't have the plan for the projected Society which was presented to His Holiness. It is the same as the dominant thought in the petition.

It touched on the following:

1. The purpose: the sanctification of members by perpetual adoration; the sanctification of the neighbor by associations of adorers, retreats, and especially First Communion of adults.

2. Personnel: Three classes - religious eucharistic priests, brothers, associates. There would be two types of associates: Priests in permanent retirement and secular priests in the world.

3. The three simple vows.

As for me, you know my thoughts. I declare that this eucharistic project³⁷, which has been pursuing me for the last 5 years, did not arise from any problems with the Society of Mary, nor from a desire for personal perfection; but only for the greater glory of Jesus. It was suggested that I should seek to be freed from my vows to give myself fully to this Work; but my feeling that you would give me permission to dedicate myself to it for a period of time has led me to reject this suggestion, and I even like to think that if God doesn't find me too unworthy for this honor, he will have you incline toward this work of love.

I stopped a collective petition which would have been supported by a Bishop, to ask the Pope for a written word to request me from you [for this work].

My feelings are always the same: I am, it's true, entirely disposed to serve this beautiful Work, but without worry or anxiety. Notice, very Rev. Father, that the great associations of Works for the Blessed Sacrament which exist in France were all founded either by a Marist or under the patronage of the Society. Isn't that a great consolation for the Marists?

Now that God has given you an excellent Director for the Third Order in Fr. Martin and that he is pleased with this beautiful mission, doesn't it seem that God is leaving me free and that the temporary permission which I am requesting could not [do any] harm, since it would be both a rest and a mission of zeal which obedience would be entrusting to me?

Forgive me for this new presentation. I would blame myself if I had not done so at this time when you are treating the major questions of the Society.

I don't need to tell you, Very Rev. Father, with how much trust and religious detachment I place my soul before you, ready to accept whatever your zeal for the glory of God and your wisdom will determine.

³⁶ Superior General of the Society of Mary.

³⁷ French: pensée eucharistique.

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Please excuse the ramblings of this letter. Since I am pulled on every side, I only have time to say that I am,

Your son,
Eymard, Marist

554

CO 550

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 11/181 VI 3)

Thursday, 1856

Dear brother in our Lord,

Everything is on its way to Rome and is arriving there about this time. May God accompany and bless this new attempt. I did it as freely and respectfully as I could.

Deep within my heart I experience hope and trust. God led them to find an excellent Director for the Third Order of Mary which they wanted to entrust to me. I won't need to excuse myself from it. I am freed from all responsibilities. I didn't know that Father Juillard is with the Sisters of Reparation. I don't have any contact with him. He must be under the direction of Father Colin, if we are to judge from the past.

Concerning Mother Superior at the Reparation,³⁸ I haven't written to her. I will not write to her yet through prudence and also in order to study things carefully. What is essential is to avoid binding ourselves. This question must be discussed in person. If I go to Paris during the month of May, everything will be put on the table.

I would have liked to know: what are Bishop Lucquet's present thoughts? What you yourself think of uniting with the Reparation, and especially whether the Archbishop or his Coadjutor are favorable to our project in itself, and to the persons who gather around the Reparation.

I haven't received anything from Father Renard. He must be dead; I'm going to write to the Superior at the Sacred Heart.

Today is Holy Thursday!

Oh! How I asked our Lord to accept this little guard of honor, to gather it around him, to bless it and adopt it!

I'm sure that this was also your prayer.

You will still have enough time to write me a long letter here. I'm staying until the middle of next week.

Goodbye, dear friend, someone is waiting for me.

All yours in the divine Host,
Eymard

Father de Cuers
Rue des Ursulines, 12
Paris

³⁸ Mother Marie Therese (Theodelinde) Dubouchè.

555

CO 551

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 137/395 VI 2)

St. Chamond, Thursday, March 20, 1856

I have a few minutes, my dear daughter, and so I write to thank you for your kind thoughts. Since I didn't have a moment to answer you, I did so in God's sight. We are pressed from morning until ten or eleven o'clock at night. My health is not bad. God is there with his strength.

1. I have fifty Masses for Fr. Champion. I'll have the others, I hope...

2. I'll write a word to Miss de Revel. It seems that Fr. Superior General has given it some thought, he had told me that he would send Fr. Huguet away before leaving for Rome.

3. I really regretted Miss ... lack of discretion. I hadn't discussed anything further with her, how sad!

4. As for yourself, don't worry. The one who will work with me for the Third Order is a saint. ... It is Fr. Martin, Superior of Digne, at the major seminary; keep that to yourself.

You will hear from me soon. Pray to St. Joseph for me at this time, and if you can, go spend a day at adoration.

I have renewed my sentiments of Adoration (of God's Will) and of obedience to Fr. General in Rome. He must be receiving my letter just about now.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
rue du Juge de Paix, 17
Fourviere, House of the Carmelites, Lyons (Rhône)

556

CO 552

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

*Holy Thursday*³⁹

Mademoiselle and very dear sister,

I read your kind letter most carefully; I was sorry I couldn't answer it at once - we are rather like the Apostles who didn't have time to eat.

I had asked our Lord to go to the end, and in his kindness he granted it. My poor body is dragging, but grace makes it go on, and the good Lord often carries it like a Father.

I don't feel too concerned about what happened with Fr. Huguet. It's a good lesson, and a point of order worth clarifying; but what does sadden me is his way of behaving with you and with Miss Guillot. - If he knew the suffering it is causing Fr. General! You were right to act as you did with regard to admission. A Director should stay aloof from that so as not to exercise a despotic reign which is often a painful responsibility. I am not at all in favor of receiving Miss Decailles. As she is 28 years old and has decided not to marry, you may, however, see whether she is suitable. I personally would rather wait until this point about admitting young girls is settled properly.

³⁹ Postmark: St. Chamond, March 20, '56.

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It isn't certain that Fr. Huguet's Retreat for the Ladies will take place. Something may be decided first.

Be always negative for what is bad and rich in the mercy and infinite goodness of God. May his Holy Will be the staff of your old age, your daily food, and your repose morning and evening. - How happy one is when one is content with that!

God blesses our poor words; - we can truly say that God has chosen infirmity and nothingness to make his love shine forth.

Goodbye, dear, good daughter. You know that in life, death and eternity I am

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

Mademoiselle de Revel
rue Ste Helene
Lyons, Rhone

557

CO 553

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

(I 12/181 VI 3)

*L.J.C.E.*⁴⁰

Feast of the Annunciation, Lyons, March 31, 1856

Dear friend and brother in Jesus Christ,

I couldn't finish my letter at St. Chamond, so I am starting it over, here. I closed the mission a bit tired, it's true; but well enough to hope that a little rest would soon renew my strength fully. God's grace surely accomplished everything. I was able to work as much as the others, which consoled me immensely.

I thank God for your thoughts which are exactly the same as mine.

I saw Father Colin here and we spoke a long time about our dear Work.

I told him plainly that:

1. We would never put ourselves under the direction of women, and he agreed to this.
2. We don't want to bear the name of Reparation, but rather Religious of the Blessed Sacrament. We wish to embrace the Eucharistic idea in all its aspects.⁴¹ It was agreed, in fact, that the title of Reparation isn't a good one.

3. We want [to include] the active and contemplative aspects: active, to spread the Eucharistic circle through Associates, to undertake retreat work, the first Communion of adults, and later the Association of retired priests.

Then, he thought that perhaps there could be two works, his and ours, although it would be desirable to have only one; that if we didn't want to join with the Reparation Sisters, we could still help them with our support, etc.

I answered that when I receive the permission or freedom to do so, we could study the possibility of merging; that we are not at all opposed to it, but very sympathetic to the Reparation; that it's necessary to wait for the major decision from Rome. Father Colin said that it would have been better to ask purely and simply for a dispensation from my vows. I answered him that we had wanted to exhaust all means of possible reconciliation and harmony first and that we would see about it later.

⁴⁰ Abbreviation for *Loue soit Jesus Christ Eucharistique*, Praised be Jesus Christ Eucharistic.

⁴¹ French: toute la pense eucharistique.

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This long conversation left me with the understanding

1. that they wanted to lay down the law and impose preconceived ideas upon us.
2. to consider us as novices, seeing the core-group of the Reparation as a work already in progress. Well, a core composed of a layman and Fr. Juillard doesn't deserve that title yet. Father Colin told me that Fr. Juillard is returning to the estate where he is stationed and that he is in Paris only temporarily.

3. I'm afraid that Father Colin's influence would squelch our ideas with his original vision. He assured me that we would be the Superiors, but I don't see clearly.

It seems to me that as Priests, it's up to us to take the lead and not to depend on the laity; that we should rather protect our freedom than sell it or [feel] bound just for the sake of existence.⁴²

So I approve your way of doing. Continue that way.

The prayers of so many Holy Persons, and the belief that this is the final trial, give me much hope, I feel confident. At St. Chamond, I found two future novices. I saw Father Dupuis who still has the same intentions, once his church will be finished, and it shall soon be so. (in October.)

I have a great desire to see Bishop de la Bouillerie and kind Father Hermann in Paris. I pray that God will make this happy meeting possible.

In a few more weeks we will see the triumph of the holy will of God or his holy cross.

I will stay in Lyons. Nevertheless, I need to go to Chaintré to rest a few days.

All yours in J.C.,
Eymard S.

You could write to me at Miss Guillot's, marked: P.E.

Father de Cuers
Rue des Ursulines, 12
Paris

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CO 554

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

(I 13/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.(personal)

Chaintré, through Macon, April 22, 1856

Very dear friend and brother in our Lord,

*"Quid retribuam Domino pro omnibus quae retribuit mihi? Calicem salutaris accipiam: et nomen Domini invocabo... Dirupisti vincula mea: tibi sacrificabo hostiam laudis, et nomen Domini invocabo."*⁴³

*Gratias Deo qui dedit nobis victoriam per D.N. Jesum Christum!*⁴⁴

This morning at Holy Mass, in choosing an optional prayer, I came upon the following:

"Deus, qui diligentibus te facis cuncta prodesse: da cordibus nostris inviolabilem tuae charitatis affectum: ut desideria de tua inspiratione concepta, nulla possint tentatione mutari."
*Secret: "Deus, qui nos ad imaginem tuam sacramentis renovas et praeceptis: perfice gressus nostros in semitis tuis: ut charitatis donum, quod fecisti a nobis sperari, per haec, quae offerimus, sacrificia facias veraciter apprehendi."*⁴⁵

⁴² Alternate translation: or limit it by a way of life.

⁴³ "How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the Lord... You have loosed my bonds: to you I will offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call on the name of the Lord." Psalm 116: 12, 16, 17.

⁴⁴ Thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

⁴⁵ #29 To ask for charity. --

The Gospel of the feast of St. Soterius and Caius reads: “*Ego sum vitis, vos palmites: qui manet in me, et ego in eo, hic fert fructum multum: quia sine me nihil potestis facere.*”⁴⁶

“*Si manseritis in me, et verba mea in vobis manserint: quodcumque volueritis, petetis, et fiet vobis.*”⁴⁷

At 9:00 o'clock this morning, Very Rev. Fr. Superior General came into my room. We went outside. After treating several unimportant matters, the important eucharistic question came up.

Father said to me: “I thought about your question. I consulted Father Jandel, Father Alphonse and Bishop Lucquet. All three told me that I should not, that I could not give you permission to be involved with this Work, nor dispense you from your vows.

I wanted to speak to the Pope about it, but during the time of my visit, I completely forgot it. No doubt God permitted it.

Therefore, we must settle this matter. Either you put this aside or you must leave the Society. But if you leave, I will not dispense you from your vows, I must not. They told me in Rome that the Pope would always refer this question back to me and that you would not be given your freedom.” So then I prayed and thought: this is the moment of the decisive struggle. My God, help me. I answered: “Father, the three persons in question could only answer about a point of law, but not about the facts. They cannot judge my interior, nor my attraction of grace. I was not part of the examination.”

“But on what do you base your conviction? where are the divine proofs of your new vocation?”

- “I have neither miracles, nor visions, nor anything outwardly extraordinary. God has been drawing me strongly to this Work, especially for the last two years. This grace has been at work in my soul for over four years. I have fought it, I have feared it. I was afraid of the cross, of difficulties, of suffering. I admit that by asking only for a temporary permission and keeping my bonds with the Society, it was primarily through affection for this dear Society, and then through natural prudence, in order always to have a refuge to fall back on. Well! Father, I see that God is asking me for a complete sacrifice, that I burn the ship I wanted to keep. I abandon myself entirely to his grace, it's over. I have decided.” – “You will leave the Society, then?” – “Yes, Father.” – “But your vows?” – “I beg you to release me from them yourself, so that a relationship of friendship may at least continue between us.” - “I cannot.”

“Well! I shall see the Bishop.” – “But he cannot.” – “I know that Bishops can dispense from simple vows. It was said in Rome and Father Colin confirmed it for me. Since you don't want to [do so], I respect your feelings, but I've decided to take this step. My decision is made.”

Then, after more conversation: “Reflect, be careful.”

- “Father, I have prayed for so long. I've begged our Lord, the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, not to allow me to stray, to fall into illusion; I would rather die. But I continually feel that I am being pushed, drawn by the cross, suffering, to become manure for the tree.”

- “Well, since these are your feelings and you have decided, I don't want to leave you in difficulty, nor abandon you.

I will free you from your vows, and I do free you.

I'll give it to you in writing.”

Deo Gratias.

The mail is leaving now, until tomorrow. Keep this for yourself alone and for your companion. Be strict about this, please.

“O God, who, for those who care, make all things good: give our hearts the unchangeable love of your charity: so that these longings, born of your inspiration, may not be swayed by temptation.”

The Secret Prayer: “O God, who renews us in your likeness in the sacraments and precepts: make our steps perfect in your ways: so that the gift of charity which you made to be hoped for by us, through those things which we offer, may you truly make use of as a sacrifice.”

⁴⁶ “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.”

⁴⁷ “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.” John 15: 5, 7..

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 14/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

Tuesday, April 22, 1856

Dear brother,

I am writing again to continue about the great question. When Father said to me: "I free you from your vows," I was moved to tears and I answered: "Thank you," and for a moment we remained silent.

The matter had been judged, my natural self crucified, but grace had triumphed. Suddenly I felt a great and sweet peace descend into my soul. My heart was happy. God consoled me in my weakness.

After a few remarks about my future dealings with the members of the Society, I said to him: "I will always love the Society as a mother, and I will seek its welfare as much as my new position will allow. My contacts shall be prudent and we would especially not receive any Marists who might want to come with me, unless it be with your free consent, and even then we would be careful. If among the subjects who present themselves, there were some whose call were rather to the missionary life, we would direct them to you."

"Now," I said, "since we are parting on good and friendly terms, will you allow me to seek your advice, if I should need it?" – "With pleasure," he answered.

We agreed that I would stay here about 10 more days to replace the Master of Novices, who is leaving for a trip, and also to finish the Manual for the Third Order. It will require another 8 days of work. Then I will go to meet you in Paris.

In the afternoon, when I went with Father to the train, he said to me: "Consider whether it might not be well for you to stay until the General Congregation of the Society. It should take place in a month and a half. I could say a few words about your Work and your departure, and perhaps everything would be better that way. It is more for your sake and in your interest that I make this proposal."

I was afraid to bind myself, to expose myself to the onslaught of friendship, to natural feelings of affection. I answered: "Thank you, Father, for your suggestion. I cannot promise anything. I need to pray. I am afraid it might put me in an embarrassing and unreal position." – "But no one would know about your decision until then. I would keep it secret. Nor should you say anything until you leave." – "I will study it in the presence of God, and if I should decide to do that, I would first ask your permission to go to Paris to see how things are developing and how we will get organized." He gave me permission to do as I chose. So then, my good brother, keep strict silence about it except with Mr. Thomas, if he is with you!

How good God is! This very day I was to be renamed Director of the Third Order, the decision had been made. It has been postponed indefinitely.

They had also thought of having me visit a few houses, and God settled the matter: may he be praised and glorified!

I was forgetting to tell you that when I was explaining my feelings, I told him: "I know that I am going to the cross, and to suffering, but what are ten years of life, more or less, provided that God's Work be done. Someone must serve as manure for the tree. It is too great an honor that God should choose me."

After all, if I suffer, I will do and say like someone who is in a bad marriage: I wanted it.

At dinner, God strengthened me, with the words at the end of the public reading: Imitation of Lamennais, Chapter 35: Reflections: "Be on your guard not to expect a rest that cannot be found here below, etc...." and at the end: "the Spirit and the Bridegroom say: Come. And let him who hears, say: Come. Behold I come. So be it. Come, Lord Jesus."

Chaintré - St. Chamond Aug. 1855 - May 1856

Now, very dear brother, let me tell you what God has done in me, and how he prepared me for this terrible struggle.

I don't mean the vow I made at the beginning of October: to make the Stations of the Cross daily and offer everything else for the souls in Purgatory, for a year. During Lent, I offered my anguish and my work to God.

When I sent my letter and my petition to Rome, I had a strong presentiment that it would block an erroneous or opposing move; that is what happened.

After Easter, I often meditated on the 39th chapter of the First Book of the *Imitation* and it helped me very much.

On Sunday, the Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph, the third Sunday after Easter, during my thanksgiving after Holy Mass, I felt very recollected. God was asking me to sacrifice not my desires, nor my dedication to the Work, but to enter into a holy detachment and surrender to his holy will with a firm decision to be submissive whether the Sovereign Pontiff forbade it, or said that I should pursue it. I sincerely promised this; then, after this sacrifice, God asked me for a second one: to believe myself unworthy to labor for this Work and to surrender it to him: I did so. Since then, I have tried to struggle against any afterthoughts of self-defense, of choice of means, etc.

However, when Fr. General arrived yesterday, I felt a strong urge to sacrifice everything, then my feelings cried out, afraid, preferring easier means. This morning, God did everything: "*dabo vobis os et sapientiam cui non poterunt resistere.*"⁴⁸ Three days ago I had begun a novena to St. Joseph and now the resurrection has come. I told Fr. General that we did not intend to be Reparators, nor dependent on Fr. Colin nor the Reparation.

I'm waiting here for a letter from you. I will probably be the one to open your letter. However, through Prudence, speak in a veiled manner.

In a moment of self-offering last week, I said to God: "My God what a consolation for us, if we could begin, as formerly the Apostles did and in union with them, by entering on retreat in the Cenacle on Ascension Day; receive the spirit and graces of our vocation on Pentecost day, and begin our Eucharistic ministry on the Holy Day of Corpus Christi." And see how everything is being readied.

If Mr. Thomas hasn't arrived yet, write to him to come for the Feast of the Ascension. I'll try to arrive on that day or the next. Prepare a cell for me, but pray and pray very much.

I embrace you in "*osculo sancto*" and I have the right to call you doubly my brother in the love of Jesus and Mary.

All yours,

Eymard

Priest⁴⁹ of the Blessed Sacrament

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CO 556

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 138/395 VI 2)

L.S.J.C.

Chaintré, through Macon, April 23, 1856

I have just a moment, my dear daughter, to write and give you news about myself. My health is not bad; I would even say that it is good. How good God is!

I hope to finish the Manual of the Third Order soon. I expect to have only eight or ten days more of work. May God bless it!

⁴⁸ "I will give you words and wisdom which they will not be able to resist."

⁴⁹ Literally P. of the Blessed Sacrament. In French, this could mean either Priest or Father.

Chaintré - St. Chamond Aug. 1855 - May 1856

I've seen Rev. Fr. Superior General, he was very kind to me. I hope that everything will turn out for the greater glory of God.

I am making a novena, and I would need my large relic. Kindly send it to me, in a plain wood box, at the following address: To Mr. Perier, director of the Creche station near Macon, - Don't add anything else and don't pay the postage. I have an understanding with that good man. I would like to have it for Sunday. If you have any errands, put them all inside.⁵⁰

I saw ... and her fine mother I read the letter you received from the Brother Director. We are looking for a way to bring this to a close. It won't take long, about a week. That poor child, what a pity! We will try Citeaux again by means of the imperial Procurator. I received the final answer admitting Nanette's little niece with the sisters of St. Vincent de Paul, at St. Chamond. I sent it⁵¹ to my sister. It's a great blessing and favor. I'll write to Miss de Revel to thank her.

I'm in a hurry. In a few minutes I must give the conference to the novices. Please continue to pray. I do so wholeheartedly for you and your dear sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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CO 557

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 15/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

Chaintré, April 25, 1856

Dear brother in J.E.,

I just received your letter. God is providing me with an opportunity to reply immediately.

My decision still holds to leave on the last day of April, and arrive on the beautiful day of Ascension, the first day of May! of Mary! The day the disciples went to the Cenacle.

I still fear a scene in Lyons at the time of separation. I must go there Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. Continue to pray much, so that God's grace may sustain me and enable me to triumph over everything, or rather, to die to everything.

When I see how the good Lord led everything and triumphed over the greatest obstacles, I say: God wills it, God wills it!

Now what shall I advise you? Continue to maintain silence until I arrive.

If only the room next to yours is not rented, hold it for me.

I would have liked to go to the countryside to spend the ten days in the Cenacle; but I understand, it's too soon. I have a friend at Leudeville, near Paris, who has a chapel in his home. We will discuss that together.

In the meantime, keep your weapons at hand and let God take care of everything else.

I am still firm in my decision to refuse Fr. Superior General's offer to stay here another month and a half. I am afraid of my weakness, the devil and affection. So I will burn my ship: may God help us! And Mary!

All yours in J.M.J.,
Eymard, P.

⁵⁰ the box.

⁵¹ the reply.

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

(I 16/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

Chaintrè, April 27, 1856

Dear friend and brother in our Lord,

I am responding briefly to your letter, which I received today. Thank you for having told me about Very Rev. Father General's trip to Paris. Therefore I will advance my trip to Lyons. I've just written to tell him that I want to go to Paris for the Ascension, to make my retreat with Mary and the Apostles in the Cenacle; that I would go to lodge with you and that you are near the Adoration.

As for accepting to stay a month and a half for the sake of unity and peace, I think it's better to settle the matter. I'm going to Lyons with this feeling. If God changes it, he will show me when the time comes: it is my duty to leave everything behind. I fear more obstacles later than now. Remember that peace and harmony come after the war, not while it lasts.

This morning I was meditating on these words from the Imitation, Chapter 37, Book 3: "*Quanto celerius hoc agis, tanto melius habebis; et quanto plenius et sincerius, tanto mihi plus placebis et amplius lucraberis.*"⁵²

I hesitate to inform Reverend Mother about my arrival, because I am afraid of indiscretion towards our house in Paris. Then also, our Superior General is quite upset with the Reparation because of matters with Fr. Juillard, Fr. Colin, etc., some oversights, contacts, etc. I am telling you that, so as to maintain our independence and to improve matters little by little. My inner feeling is that everything will fall into place later, but this is the time of struggle now.

Do not write to me here anymore. I wouldn't have time to receive your letter.

Pray very much, dear brother; I must still pass through the Garden of Olives. What is waiting for me in Lyons? The cross. May I bear with love this cross of humiliation and suffering. We must suffer a little for such a beautiful Work.

So, act toward the good Mother as you deem appropriate.⁵³

All yours in J.M.J.,
Eymard, P.M.

⁵² "The sooner you do this, the better you will feel for it; the more wholehearted and sincere your surrender, the more you will please me, and the greater will be your gain."

⁵³ Mother Marie Therese, at the Reparation, where Fr. de Cuers was lodging.

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CO 559

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 17/181 VI 3)

Lyons, April 29, 1856

Very dear brother in J.C.,

I'm leaving tomorrow for Paris. I'll arrive either at 5:00 p.m. by express train, or at 10:30 p.m. Wait for me.

You may inform the Rev. Mother about my arrival. Everything went well with Rev. Fr. Superior General. We are still friends and he will pray for our Work.

Until tomorrow.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, P.

Fr. de Cuers
Rue des Ursulines, 12
Urgent Paris

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CO 560

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 139/395 VI 2)

Lyons, April 30, 1856

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm leaving for Paris to make a retreat and to consult. So, I have ten more days for reflection, prayer and immolation.

Continue your prayers for me. I want only God, his holy will, his glory. If, in his divine mercy, God should let me feel that it is not my place, nor his good pleasure, the question will be closed for ever.

Please believe that it isn't just an opinion of mine, nor a desire for a more perfect vocation. It's a hesitation of conscience: a fear of being unfaithful to a grace and a cross.

I left dear Fr. Favre with that thought, and it consoled his heart: he is so kind and so sensitive!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
House of the Carmelites
Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 15/26 VII 17)

Lyons, April 30, 1856

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in our Lord,

I am writing to ask you to pray for me. I am off to make a ten-day retreat in Paris, and to consult an outside person. This is the final test I must make to settle my conscience. That project⁵⁴ you know about was merely an attraction at first, but for four years it has become a question of conscience. I would think myself unfaithful and ungrateful not to have done what I did; now comes the decisive test. I trust that the Divine Mercy will not forsake me in this serious circumstance, and will not let me stray in the desire which has guided me, the desire to do only his will, quite prepared to leave everything or return if a ray of grace and light (unfinished)

Madame de Froissard,⁵⁵ the good protestant Lady who is a convert, has written to me about a young man she is helping - her nephew, the son of Mr. Monod. But I can do nothing about it, at least for the present. A more serious examination would be needed on both sides, - indeed from the side of the person concerned. I would have written to her, but I have forgotten her address.

Believe me, ever in our Lord,

Yours faithfully, (illegible word)
Eymard

Mademoiselle de Revel
rue Ste Helene, Lyons

⁵⁴ French: pensée.

⁵⁵ Crossed out in the original as above.