

# **CHAPTER III**

## **On the Breach January - June 1868**

*“Reassure Mother Marguerite ... I will be on the breach.”  
May 12, 1868*

### **The Spiritual Teacher**

- **Retreats at Marseilles, Angers (Servants) Ghent**
- **Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul**
- **Forty Hours to Benedictine Sisters**
- **First Communion of Adult Workers**
- **Spiritual Correspondence**

### **The Good Shepherd**

- **Lantigni - Dialogue with Srs. Benoitte and Philomene**
- **Roquefavour**

### **Financial Difficulties**

- **Leclere Co., Pontifical Bonds, Ladies of Compassion**
- **Loans**
- **Construction in Angers**
- **Payment of St. Maurice**
- **Court case in Nemours**
- **Requests from Sr. Benoitte and Sr. Philomene**

*On the Breach*

*Jan. 1, 1868: Public conference: New Year's wishes to Jesus-Hostia.*

**2099**

**CO 2100**

***TO MLES MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD***  
(III 141/145 VI 10)

*Paris, January 1, 1868*

Very dear sisters,

I have a free moment, so I hasten to wish you a happy New Year as I did when I was a young man, and with a brother's heart.

God is giving us these years of grace, dear sisters. Let's make good use of them.

I am truly grateful to God for restoring your health. I do ask him to keep you well. You are the whole world to me, my only relatives and my heartfelt love.

I will leave soon for Marseilles. I will keep a day for you, in spite of the rigorous cold. It will be either toward the middle of next week or within two weeks, when I return from Marseilles. I will send you specific notice by dispatch.

I will bring you my gifts and you will give me yours.

I bless you, dear sisters, and embrace you fraternally in our Lord.

Eymard

True to my custom, I said the midnight Mass for you; and my gift?

**2100**

**CO 2102**

***TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL***  
(V 23/24)

*Paris, January 1, 1868*

Dear Mr. Carrel,

I have a few moments. I am hurrying to give them to you, to wish you a good and holy year in our Lord, a year as Mary's servant, an adorer of Jesus Christ, an apostle of His charity, in addition to being a father, spouse, and employer, happy in God's peace and trust. I will go to explain my New Year's wishes to you shortly.

I hope to be in Lyons, January 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>, at least for a few hours. You will have my promised visit which is overdue.

I embrace you wholeheartedly in our Lord, in whom, I am

All yours,  
Eymard, S.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Abbreviation for Superior.

Jan. 2 *Public Conference: Humility (Part II) Continuation from Dec. 26, 1867.*

Jan. 3 *Conference to the SSS Religious: Personal independence.*

## 2101

CO 2103

**TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET**

(VII 14/15)

*Paris, January 3, 1868*

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I will go to wish you a happy New Year on Sunday morning. I will arrive in Belleville at 6:00 a.m. If your coach is there we will leave immediately for Lantignie; I say, we, because a friend of Sr. Benoite who is going to Nice is asking me to bring her to All Saints in order to see Sr. Benoite on the way.

It is Mme. de Thievres with her son.

So, do not come to get us. We will arrive. I will tell you all my wishes and blessings in person.

My deep respects to Madame, to Sr. Benoite and Sr. Philomene.

All yours,  
Eymard

If the coach has not arrived by 6:15 or 6:30, we will go to the hospital for Holy Mass.

## 2102

CO 2099

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

(II 383/395 VI 2)

*Paris, January 1, 1868<sup>2</sup>*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I wish to renew all my wishes and blessings upon you. May God heal you, that is my New Year's gift. May your trust be equal to your responsibilities and your needs!

I share deeply in all your suffering, in all your trials, because I feel them very deeply. It's the grace of state and the blessing of God. However, we need to consider only God and his will. I am leaving tonight for Lyons and Marseilles.

January 4. I will stop at Lantigni one day to see what those poor women are doing. Oh! Can one be so blind, or tempted or confused!

I'm sending you the receipt from Mr. False. He was expecting 800 francs. I told him that we always thought it was 600. He'll accept that amount which is already quite high. Thank you for your 200 francs. I'll return them when I can.

The Nemours affair has been concluded. At this very moment, I received that announcement.

I bless you and all your dear daughters with my whole soul.

Eymard

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<sup>2</sup> This letter was begun Jan. 1, but completed on Jan. 4.

*On the Breach*

*Jan. 4 - Departure for Lantigni to visit Srs. Benoite and Philomene.*

**2103**

**CO 2104**

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

(V 71/76)

A.R.T.<sup>3</sup>

*Lantigni, January 7, 1868*

Madame in our Lord,

I am here in Lantigni. Tomorrow morning I will be in Lyons at noon, and at your home from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

I want to see you the very first, wait for me.

I will come to bring you my Eucharistic wishes.<sup>4</sup> I really want to see you. I could not write to you from Paris.

The little mother has been very ill.<sup>5</sup> She is better, she was able to go to holy Mass this morning. May God bless you and keep you in his holy love!

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

*Jan. 11 Public Conference: Preparation for Communion.*

*Jan. 15 and 23 - Visits to Father de Cuers at Roquefavour.*

*Jan. 18 - Around this date, beginning retreat to Marseilles community.*

**2104**

**CO 2105**

**TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS**

(I 28/29)

*Marseilles, January 18, 1868*

Very dear Father,

We must definitely take out a loan to settle our accounts on St. Maurice: make arrangements with Brother Marie-Paul or with the landowner's Credit for the amount due. We will be more at peace, because it is so hard to have debts.

I thank our Good Master for having freed us of Brother Claude. He was not honest with me; he hid things and more ....

Poor Brother Antoine! He was another proof of the rule that once a novice leaves, he should not return.

I cannot get to the bottom of things about Brother Francois of Angers.... He has good qualities but, I think, a weak mind! We must see the doctor, and if his illness might become serious, make the decision you believe to be the best.

<sup>3</sup> Abbreviation for *Adveniat Regnum Tuum*, Thy Kingdom Come.

<sup>4</sup> New Year's wishes.

<sup>5</sup> Sr. Claudine Guillot.

*On the Breach*

Oh! Dear Father, God has revealed to you the whole secret of religious life and even of the Christian life in this thought: sovereign mortification for the sake of one's duty first of all. - Everything is contained in that: it is the root of the tree, it is the sap of the virtues and true love for God. Without such mortification, there is nothing but self-love, which controls and spoils everything. Oh! Hold to that above all, in everything and in spite of everything.

God loves you: that is the direct line he has shown you, the *abneget semetipsum, the semper mortificationem Christi in corpore vestro circumferentes*<sup>6</sup>, life through death. You must really convince your novices of this basic law, and make them practice the letter of the rule in all its positive points.

The Good Master is blessing this retreat in Marseilles. He is sustaining me in my weakness. I am preaching three or four times a day, and I don't have any time to breathe. So, I got up earlier in order to write to you.

Oh! Let us pray very much that we may have good adorers! How scarce they are! Is it possible that our Lord can't find souls that belong fully to him, that are totally his!

I bless you, dear Father, as I am very fondly united to you in our Good Master.

Eymard, p.<sup>7</sup>

P.S. Your dear brother gave me 12 bonds upon my request. He doesn't think he can dispose of the rest unconditionally. We will talk about it.

**2105**

**CO 2106**

**TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS**  
(III 8/14)

A.R.T.

*Marseilles, January 18, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I was sorry to learn that you are ill. Take good care of yourself, because the rheumatism surely comes from the cold. I was sorry that I wasn't in Paris, as you may have lacked proper care.

I pray a lot that you may have some relief. I heard that there had been some improvement. May God be praised for it!

I'm consoled by the good attendance at this retreat. The good Master is sustaining my strength, I am fine.

The religious of Marseilles are well. I saw Fr. de Cuers briefly. He is happy. I will go to see him on Thursday.

I couldn't go see my sister, the weather was too nasty. I found Sr. Benoitte quite ill, but nothing serious. They are both quite unhappy; they suffer from their deprivation.

I still don't know when I will arrive in Paris. If I go to La Mure, it would probably be only a week from Thursday.<sup>8</sup>

I bless you, dear daughter. Continue to be the humble servant of our Lord, unknown and forgotten on earth, but known, loved and privileged by our Lord.

Eymard

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<sup>6</sup> the "deny oneself", the "always carrying in your body the passion of Christ."

<sup>7</sup> Abbreviation for priest.

<sup>8</sup> at Roquefavour.

**2106**

**CO 2107**

**TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS**  
(III 3/11)

*Marseilles, January 18, 1868*

Very dear Brother,

I am returning to you the letter of notification from Leclerc, in order that you may send it immediately to Mr. Chauveau, 84, rue de Rivoli. He has all the necessary powers. Your distribution of small amounts is fine; I suppose that you paid the rent first of all. If you cannot find anything for the Bloun loan, I will ask Mr. Guerin to lend us the amount rather than lose too much by it. Fr. Chanuet spoke to me about a loan at Foncier Credit at 4%. See him about it.

Fr. Billon will explain the cards to me. I don't think you can withdraw the money. I must be the one. Thank you for the good news about Miss Thomas. Everything is going well here. The retreat is well attended, the weather magnificent. I saw your sister several times and she is well.

You did well not to give money to that priest; it was beginning to bother me.

My fatherly blessing to all of you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. I notice that I am too late for Mr. Chauveau; but he must have been summoned, since he is responsible for this matter.

See him and ask him where things stand in regards to Nemours.

Send my letters here until next Wednesday. I am planning to leave Thursday for Roquefavour.

Ask Mr. Bloun for a few more days if necessary.

**2107**

**CO 2108**

**TO MR. AUDIBERT**  
(I 2/2)

*Marseilles, January 19, 1868*

Dear and venerable Mr. Audibert,

I have been in Marseilles for several days. I am planning to have the joy to go and pay you a little visit tomorrow, Tuesday. I will leave here at 7:50 a.m. Please don't disturb yourself in any way. I want to have the honor and the happiness of embracing you in the name of your dear son who is so fine, and in my own name, and to present my fond respects to his dear mother and brother.

I'm sorry that I can't see Madame, his sister.

See you soon, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard,

Superior of the Congregation of the S.S.S.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Abbreviation for Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

**2108**

**CO 2109**

**TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS**  
(III 4/11)

*Marseilles, January 22, 1868*

Dear Brother,

I am sending a thousand francs here enclosed. Pay the rent first. The rest can wait until I arrive. It was truly divine Providence that sent me this help.

I will arrive toward the end of next week. I am discussing the balance of the Bloun account with Mr. Guerin. A thousand and one difficulties [have emerged] about the reimbursement to the Sisters of Compassion! May God be praised for everything! The cross surrounds us, but God is above everything.

I bless you all and you in particular very paternally.

Eymard, S.

**2109**

**CO 2110**

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

*Marseilles, January 29, 1868<sup>10</sup>*

Dear Friend,

I am still in Marseilles. I will leave here soon for Grenoble and La Mure, then I will go to see you for a quick visit. May I ask you to have a dozen small photographs of my poor person printed immediately by the [same] photographer who did yours. I will go for them around Tuesday of next week.

I am so busy here I don't have time to pray; that's because I don't know how to flee to the mountain of God.

See you soon, good and dear friend. My best wishes to all your dear family.

All yours in Our Lord,  
Eymard, Superior

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<sup>10</sup> Published as Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>. The contents indicate January (Garreau).

**2110**

**CO 2111**

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

*Marseilles, January 29, 1868*

Dear Madame in our Lord,

No stranger, or unknown [person] will make me forsake an old acquaintance and a dear soul in our Lord.

I don't know anything about that young woman, nor do I try to ask her anything. I have never spoken to her about her past, nor sought to enter into her present; time will unveil it.

Dear daughter, remain as you are and do not worry about anything. We must keep silence and let the wind blow. If anyone brings it up to you again, ask them to say no more, because "he says," "she says," are often broadcast on the street.

I still don't know when I will leave. It will be soon.

Pray for me, dear daughter in our Lord. I bless you in his divine love.

**2111**

**CO 2113**

**TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS**  
(III 5/11)

*Marseilles, January 30, 1868*

Dear Brother,

Today, Thursday, I am leaving Marseilles. I will be at La Mure Sunday. Send my letters there only until Monday. Then I will leave from there for Paris. My migraine headaches take hold of me every day now. I think it comes from the south wind.

The transaction with the Compassion has failed. God be praised! It kept me here eight days longer. It is one more trial.

All yours,  
Eymard, S.

**TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON**  
(III 9/11)

*From Marseilles, January 30, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to you as I leave Marseilles. A complicated business matter kept me here an additional eight days, and I have to leave and it is still unsolved.

I wanted to write to you sooner. I was so engrossed during the retreat that I could not. Marseilles is almost like Paris, I am too busy there. Another reason that also led me to put it off was that I had a letter for you from my sister and I couldn't find it. Finally, as I am leaving, I've found the letter which I had lost, so I'm sending it to you.

I will go to see my sister on this trip and spend two days there. I will be there Saturday and Sunday. We will speak a lot about you, and from there I shall return to Paris.

The Good Master kindly blessed the eight day retreat in Marseilles. He did everything and really sustained me.

There are people in Marseilles who are very devoted to the Most Blessed Sacrament. I saw Fr. de Cuers and his Hermitage. God is lovable everywhere, and there more than elsewhere. He alone is lovable there; the place is so wild and arid.

At Roquefavour, I was reflecting that a religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament is well anywhere when he lifts up his good Lord in exposition and he is even better in a place where there is something to suffer for him.

I hope I will not find you ill, dear daughter, and that our dear Jesus, who is your life and happiness, replaced everything for you.

I knew that Brother Alphonse was better. I praise God for that. Fr. Chanuet is very happy with him and finds that he has a beautiful and generous eucharistic soul.

I read your entire letter and it really pleased me, except for your gratitude. I don't deserve it. On the contrary, I should do more for you. Perhaps I count too much on our Lord whom you love so much and who loves you with such great love. Your poor Father doesn't understand your happiness, but he can't take it away from you.

Your dear brother Joseph no longer understands you, his mission is finished. That is what we must seek in everything: God's mission through his creatures. Some crucify us, others try us, a few edify and help us. It is all for the greater glory of the Master.

I can see that he gave you great consolation and favors, dear daughter, during the beautiful Christmas holidays. You were well at the crib, and your place is even more beautiful near the Tabernacle.

Your two children are now adorers, and one day they will be apostles of the Eucharist. That is how you will continue to adore him, to love him, and serve him through your new eucharistic family until the end of the world.

Oh how blessed you are!

May you always be so!

Jesus is taking you to be his spouse. Live through love, always!

I bless you, my dear daughter, and offer you constantly to Jesus, you and all your loved ones.

Eymard

*Feb. 2 - Two days spent at La Mure.*

*Feb. 10 - Return to Paris.*

2113

CO 2116

**TO FR. HENRI BILLON SSS**  
(VI2/212)<sup>11</sup>

*Paris, February 12, 1868*

Dear Father Billon,

I was sorry not to see you again before I left. I asked the brothers to convey my best wishes to you.

Be so kind as to arrange promptly for the return of this document. I am very embarrassed at being obliged to ask for this loan. If, at least you could sell your house, that would help us out of difficulty. Be assured, dear Father, that I have no wish to influence your decision in this matter: you have so often, and so warmly, offered us your support, that I cannot imagine your withdrawing this filial affection for the Society - your mother.

Please believe that my decision about your assets is unchanged. It is just that because of your offer, I was counting somewhat on the sale of your house to benefit St Maurice, of which you are co-owner. Brother Eugene ineptly made me spend not only 20,000 but 40,000 francs.

Dear Father, I'm afraid you forgot about the letter you had promised me that same day. You must guard against this tendency of yours to procrastinate all the time; it's most regrettable.

I am, in our Lord, dear Father,  
One with you from the heart,  
Eymard

2114

CO 2114

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I13/20)

*Paris, February 12, 1868*

Very dear Father,

Thank you with my whole soul for your kind letter and its contents!

The church is rising towards heaven! What joy! May you also be blessed because you paid for it dearly, and so good-heartedly.

I will come to see you either before Lent or the first week. I am so behind here in Paris! I stayed 10 days longer for the sad affair of the Compassion, and it is still not over.

We will sell Fr. Billon's house in Marseilles. It will provide us with 25,000 to 30,000 francs. I wrote to him again this morning. The sad Le Clère affair puts us in the greatest difficulty, and a refund on the Pontifical loan would make us lose too much. That is why I am pressing for the sale of Marseilles. However, believe me, very dear Father, I would prefer to lose the 30 francs on the bonds than to leave you in difficulty.

If I must wait to be able to bring you money, I'm afraid I wouldn't be ready right away. You will receive me just the same, won't you?

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<sup>11</sup> Addendum to a letter from Fr. Stafford.

*On the Breach*

I was very, very happy to see your good and wonderful family! what a wonderful father you have! and what a young mother! your dear brother pleased me very much, he is feeling better. What a beautiful home they have!

See you soon, dear Father. My best regards to the whole eucharistic family.

All yours,  
Eymard, Superior

**2115**

**CO 2115**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**

(V 47/52)

*Paris, February 12, 1868*

Madame in our Lord,

I've just come back to Paris. I'm writing to let you know immediately about my arrival. I haven't been able to go to St. Clotilde yet.<sup>12</sup> I was hoping you would be here. I am expecting you at the first opportunity, certain that you will not delay this trip, as soon as divine Providence makes it possible.

We really need you.

When you return, I will tell you about my trip to Lantigni. They continue to think in the same way; they wanted to establish a community in the mountains of Vivarais. I opposed it totally, because, having come out of the difficulty of Nemours, I don't want to commit myself elsewhere. I would need a very clear order from Heaven and from the wisdom which my position gives.

If you were living above the clouds and storms, always facing the beautiful sun, you wouldn't worry so much about the winds and storms under your feet!

Try to be like a blessed soul whose heart and life are in Heaven.

Don't feed the fever of fear and sadness; let it drop from starvation and everything will go well.

I bless you in our Lord.

**2116**

**CO 2117**

**TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS**

(I 52/54)

*Paris, February 13, 1868*

Dear Father,

It is also my turn to thank you for your kind hospitality and constant dedication to the glory of our Lord and the good of the Society!

We have so many things on our hands and the weather is so bad that I prefer to wait for Marseilles. To buy land is little, but to build would double the expense.

You are doing well where you are, for the moment. The land will continue to lose value as things are going so badly! We will not lose anything by waiting a little longer: that is my great concern at the moment.

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<sup>12</sup> For a Sermon-Collection in favor of the Work for First Communion.

*On the Breach*

I am sending you the letter that I am writing to the Superior.<sup>13</sup> If she accepts and pays the interest right away, we will leave it at that. If she continues to cause difficulties, then I will let Mr. Guerin initiate and proceed with the lawsuit. No doubt, Mr. Martini is waiting for the document, and I have done everything to stop it. They will discover that Mr. Guerin is stronger than they think.

Please bring her this letter yourself and wait for the outcome.

Regnum Coelorum vim patitur.

Regnum Dei pax et gaudium in Spiritu Sancto.<sup>14</sup>

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Here I found everyone at their duty and in good health.

To Rev. Fr. Leroyer  
Superior of the religious of the Blessed Sacrament  
7, Rue Nau  
Marseilles

**2117**

**CO 2118**

***TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)***  
(II 384/395 VI 2)

*Paris, February 13, 1868*

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

I've just seen our lawyer. He will represent you and us, next Saturday, at the meeting of the commercial court, to settle the Le Clre bankruptcy. Please send me immediately 2 pieces of paper stamped with 50 centimes. On the bottom of the page have these words handwritten by Chabert and Bourne with their names:

Bond for powers of representation at the Le Clre bankruptcy.

Here: Signature

I don't have time to write any longer. I'll do so later. The mail is pressing.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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<sup>13</sup> The Superior of the Sisters of Compassion who was causing difficulty over a loan.

<sup>14</sup> The Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence. The Kingdom of God means peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

**2118**

**CO 2119**

**TO MISS CLARISSE DE THOMAZ DE BOSSIERE**

(V 2/2)

*Paris, February 14, 1868*

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I am so far behind with you! I had begun a letter for New Year's Day; that letter remains unfinished and has become like a bouquet when the feast is over. However, let me tell you for my own consolation, Mademoiselle, that I really did wish you a happy New Year in my heart in God's presence, a year which in itself would be worth as much as a whole life.

The year which has just passed was also beautiful, since St. Anne<sup>15</sup> stands there with the flowers of youth and hope. What will it be like when the flowers receive the beautiful sun of springtime and summer!!!

How fortunate you are, Mademoiselle, to have the honor and happiness to be more than Martha at Bethany! more than John Mark the happy master of the Cenacle! You must love life so that you may have time like Solomon to enjoy the eucharistic temple which must become a throne of grace and love for so many faithful souls.

May God give you a long life, Mademoiselle, for his glory and our consolation!

I hope to have the honor of seeing you around the second week of Lent and telling you once again my regret and my devotion.

Please receive the faithful and very eucharistic wishes, Mademoiselle, from

Your very humble and respectful servant,  
Eymard, Sup. Congregation S.S.S.<sup>16</sup>

**2119**

**CO 2120**

**TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS**

(VI 22/22)

*Paris, February 14, 1868*

Very Reverend Mother,

Fr. Champion tells me that you wrote to me a month and a half ago. That letter must have stayed in Paris. I don't know what it contained since I left at the beginning of January to visit our houses in the south.

So I offer you my apologies. I am very sorry about this delay. I must go to Ghent to give the novena of reparation requested by Madame de Coutebonne, on the counsel of the Fr. Director of the Work, and if it is not too late, you can tell me or write to tell me the thoughts in your letter which may perhaps call for a reply?

I am very sorry to hear that dear Fr. Crepon is not well. He will be missed in the chapel, as people must like to hear him.

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<sup>15</sup> Foundation of the House of Chaussee de Wavre, Brussels, which she provided.

<sup>16</sup> Abbreviation for Superior of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

*On the Breach*

Perhaps he is feeling discouraged? He told me that he no longer preaches for lack of hearers. Really, I don't understand this in the case of souls who like a good preacher, for Fr. Crepon certainly has that quality. It is doubtless a test from God.

I commend myself to your prayers, most Reverend Mother. I do the same for you and your devout Congregation.

Please accept the religious sentiments, very Reverend Mother, of your respectful and obedient servant.

Eymard  
Sup. SSS.

**2120**

**CO 2121**

**TO THE MODAVE FAMILY**  
(VII 4/4)

*Paris, February 14, 1868*

To Mme. Modave

Madame in our Lord,

I was really sad that I could not see you again at the time of my last trip. I shared in your sorrow, near your dear patient. I prayed for your husband and for the two sisters.

I hope that our Lord has lightened your suffering and that everything is fine at this time. Dear Lady, I hope to have the consolation of seeing you around the middle of Lent on my way to Brussels. Take care of your fragile health. There is a long road ahead for the service and glory of our good Master.

May God fill you with his most fatherly consolations. In his divine charity, I like to say that I am, Dear Lady,

Your ever devoted,  
Eymard

*Feb. 15 - Around this date, a priest came to entrust him with a Host which had been profaned for several years.*

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 385/395 VI 2)

*Paris, February 15, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Your must send me the notes of Sr. Felicie and Sr. Louise. They should have put the writing and signature at the bottom of the page. If the forms aren't good, I'll write to tell you.

It is fortunate that Sr. Marie had placed the investment with the liturgical society; at least you won't lose anything.

At Marseilles, I saw Mr. Coste, I was pleased with him. He told me that he would go to Angers next May. I invited him to stay with us in Paris.

I carried out your errand with him for the Lieutaud sale. He told me that he would do everything he could.

Dear daughter, I can't tell you precisely the day of my trip to Angers. I must go either at the beginning of Lent, or around Passion Sunday. It will depend on a trip to Brussels.

I hope and ask for your healing. The illness you mentioned to me doesn't kill that easily. With a regular diet, a person can live for a long time.<sup>17</sup> Besides, our Lord and the Blessed Virgin have already healed you from so many other serious illnesses!

On my way to Marseilles, I saw Sr. Benoitte and Sr. Philomene. Sr. Benoitte is in the same state of soul and body. Sr. Philomene takes very good care of her. Those poor sisters are suffering, being so far from Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

No doubt the Lord is permitting such a trial for a greater good. They don't want to have anything to do with Angers where they would find what they need!

So Sr. Benoitte is without the Le Clre pension. See, dear daughter, how the good Lord has taken everything away from her ....

My thought was not conveyed to you correctly. I don't want a mixed order, but I would like to see eucharistic fraternities established around all the Tabernacles of the world, so that our Lord would have adorers everywhere. There is quite a difference between that and a convent!

Goodbye, dear daughter. I really bless you and all your daughters in our Lord.

Eymard

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

*Paris, Feb. 22, 1868*

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I would like to go to Lantigni to give you a reply regarding your lovely idea of a confraternity at All Saints, but it is impossible - a two-week delay - major business awaiting me - we had to greet one another from afar - and now we are ill with the flu - may God be praised!

---

<sup>17</sup> Her diabetes.

*On the Breach*

I surely like your idea to make your lovely chapel a center of devotion toward all the Saints and I was planning to find you as many relics as possible - As for establishing it canonically, that is difficult - it would definitely require the fervent and constant support of His Eminence with Rome.

If I could go there soon, I would try to help you with this precious project.

I was pleased with the few days spent at All Saints. Thank you for it; it is like a real family. Also please thank fine Mme. Blanche for me, tell her that I do not forget her, nor her dear children.

I was very happy to spend a pleasant evening with the family of St. Bonnet! It lingered like a delightful perfume, with ever growing admiration for the beautiful mission of Mr. de St. Bonnet.

Goodbye, dear Mr. Amedee. Always all yours in our Lord,

Eymard, S.

Mr. Amedee Chanuet

**2123**

**CO 2123**

**TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)**  
(U VI 8)

*Paris, February 22, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to tell you that I am sorry I was unable to return to Lantigni. Serious financial matters called me back to Paris. I was in Marseilles too briefly. God wills that I should ... [illegible word]. I really need it.

I am continually eaten alive here. God wills it. I spoke to Fr. Chanuet about your desire: he finds that there are so many obstacles that it must be given up because of the evil people in the village, he says, and brother Eugene who goes there misbehaves.<sup>18</sup>

I was happy to learn through Mme. de Thievres that you are feeling better - may God be praised! My sister and Nanette told me to tell you everything that is in their hearts. I had told them that I would be seeing you; they do love you.

Mme d'Andign is still at the Lion d'Angers. I am being requested in Angers from all sides. If I am not too tired, I will go around the first Sunday of Lent.

Mother is still quite ill. She has sugar diabetes - a mortal illness.

[cut in the page] ... you. It seems she was blind. I do pity her. Do pray for me. I am so sad and almost crushed! Our Lord is leaving me in a vast desert. No doubt I deserve it.

I bless you, dear daughter, until I can do more.

Follow your diet even during Lent.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

---

<sup>18</sup> He had a drinking problem.

**2124**

**CO 2125**

**TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON**  
(III 10/11)

*February 24, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter. Yes, go see your mother and father, and do not fast. Eat meat on the days when it is permitted. Take care of yourself and come back to us in better health.

Steal our Lord when you can. However, you will have to sacrifice it from time to time for the sake of peace in the family, because they cannot bear this burden which is so light for the one who loves Jesus Hostia.

Don't worry about me. I am feeling better. The pain in my side is decreasing, my cough is quieting down and my headaches disappear during the day.

I went to dinner today.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I bless you and give you a good Guide in whom I am,

Devoted to your soul,  
Eymard

**2125**

**CO 2126**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I 14/20)

*Paris, February 25, 1868*

Very dear Father,

I have had a bad flu for 10 days, with a sinus fever which confines me to my room.

I wanted to go see you next Sunday, but I can see it is hardly possible, and I don't know whether I'll be strong enough to preach the exercises of the retreat to the good Sisters.

However, I won't leave for Brussels without going to see you first because the question of our church in Angers passes ahead of everything else.

Determine all the spiritual questions by balancing the Lenten penance and human weakness: "*Justitia et veritas, misericordia et pax.*"<sup>19</sup>

May God sustain you, dear Father. Work and have others work: the spirit of God is one in what is beautiful as well as in the holy ones.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, Superior

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<sup>19</sup> "Justice and truth, mercy and peace."

**2126**

**CO 2127**

***TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)***  
(II 386/395 VI 2)

*Paris, February 25, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I have had a bad flu for the last 10 days and I've been limited to my cell. The flu has degenerated into a sinus fever.

I was hoping to come see you next Sunday, but I hardly think it will be possible. Then, I won't have the energy to give you the exercises of the retreat.

I thank God for this little retreat he is giving me. At least I have a bit of solitude ... [*three and a half lines erased*].

I'm asking God to heal you, dear daughter, and I bless you in our Lord.

I'm improving. Don't worry about me.

Eyd.

**2127**

**CO 2128**

***TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD***  
(III 142/145 VI 10)

*Paris, February 25, 1868*

Very dear sisters,

I am writing to give you news about myself. I had a good trip and arrived safely under the fatherly care of Providence.

My work had accumulated. Little by little, things are getting done.

This lifetime is a time for work, work which is often difficult. "You will eat your bread by the sweat of your brow", God told Adam and us.

God and our sins have sentenced us to the galleys of penance. But these galleys lead to heaven if we accomplish God's pleasure well, and do so for his glory. The Lenten season is here, the Church wants us to increase our prayer, do penance, and so imitate our Lord's fasting in the desert.

Do what you can, dear sisters, but don't fast, you cannot. You must maintain the little lamp of strength that God has given you so that it might continue to shine a while for his glory.

As for me, I had the flu which suited me fine because it gave me a bit of free time. But now it is leaving me and I must go back to my battle horse. May God be praised for everything.

I was very happy to see you a few hours, dear sisters. It is always too short for the heart, no doubt, but we must know how to make sacrifices even in fraternal affection when God calls.

Goodbye, dear sisters, do pray for me, and make us some stockings.

Your brother,  
Eymard

**TO MME. LEPAGE**  
(IV 22/26)

*Paris, February 25, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am very sick. They were afraid it might be a chest infection. I have been confined to my cell and I still don't have the freedom to leave.

This grace of a forced retreat has done me good. It is calming my poor interior life which is always up in the air or on the road.

God has spared my poor head, so that I am able to think a little about him.

You are right to scold me about Tarare. Can you imagine that it happened twice that I missed the train I was supposed to get.

On my way, I came across people who delayed me. Were they doing it purposely, knowing my plan, since I had said goodbye to Mr. Carrel when I was due to leave for Tarare?

I couldn't put off my return to Paris for too long, so I left sadly, saying to myself: I will make a special trip from Paris and I will not stop in Lyons.

So then, you made a retreat. That's fine! But Jesuit retreats are like hot springs: they are tiring at the time, but later on we feel their good effects. Blessed be your resolution to spend an hour in silence each day. It will be the hour of the good Lord. You did well to stay until the end; to do otherwise would have been infidelity.

Dear daughter, I am stopping now. I bless you and your dear friend, my long-time friend. The newlyweds are happy with each other. I did scold Madame a little, but everything was already fine. They said they were happy. I will leave you, dear daughter. Let Miss Antonia consider this letter for her as well. I don't have the strength to write a second one.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**TO MME. COUNTESS DE THIEVRES**  
(VII 1/1)

*Paris, February 25, 1868*

Dear Madame,

Thank you for your bouquet, your kind letter and all your thoughts. I praise God to know that you are in good health, and I believe, in a good state of soul, in spite of your absurd thoughts, etc. They should all be treated like smoke, we open the doors to let it escape; like dust, we shake it without measuring it, examining it; like a bad gust of wind, a grain of sand, beware of it.

You received Communion 4 times in a row! That's a victory.

You must try to do that often during this holy season of Lent. You are weak, you need strength.

Ah! If only the heart could enjoy Jesus in his divine Sacrament. His service would be so much easier for you!

*On the Breach*

I would really like you to be convinced that our Lord has a special and tender love for you! Keep that mirror in front of you instead of the one which comes from your troubled conscience, and you will feel drawn to him.

Request your Lenten permission there, because it is a local matter.

I saw Mme. de la G. - The sermon will take place at Notre Dame des Victoires and she is willing to do the collection.

Saturday, I received her magnificent vestment. It is really the most tasteful of all those we have!

You might do well to try out little Joseph in a boarding school.

I engaged Mr. Lombard for you. He already has a double lesson for 100 fr. a month.

I have a photograph which was given me in Lyons. I am sending it to you just as it is, to show you my good will.

I have been very sick with a bad flu for the last 10 days and I am confined. I am taking advantage of it to write to you and to bless you paternally in our Lord.

Eymard

**2130**

**CO 2131**

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

(VI 3/7)

*Paris, February 26, 1868*

Dear daughter,

Send me immediately the note you say you have from Sr. Louise Chabert; we need it at once to establish her credit at liquidation.

Also, if her mother has not made a claim as creditor, you must now send me a sheet of paper marked 50 centimes for our notary, and write at the bottom of the page: valid for authorization - to defend my rights in the Leclerc liquidation (with signature). Since the mother will not be able to write all that, guide her hand, and send her Title Deed as well, as we have only 20 days' grace for that.

I bless you both in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2131**

**CO 2132**

**TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN**

(IV 17/19)<sup>20</sup>

A. We must know where mediocrity of spirit comes from.

The first is the worst: it's a scattered mind, a life which is too active. Nothing can cling to it. It's like the seed of the Gospel falling on the open road. The remedy is to bring the mind back to natural reflection by some reading or serious meditations which strike it and help it to be focused.

In general, it's better to choose a great truth than a pious feeling. The work of truth is to refocus our attention, reflection, and finally, devotion.

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<sup>20</sup> Notes of F. Eymard, following a conversation, written on the train at the beginning of 1868.

## *On the Breach*

The second source of mediocrity of spirit is mental boredom toward what is serious and positive. This illness can only be healed by openness to divine love, since it is based on discouragement.

The third source is laziness of the mind which fears to consider the truth.

The fourth source is when we counteract the grace, the attraction of the moment. The mind becomes closed and foolish. We must follow the need and light of the moment.

People are afraid to be powerless and so are off their path. We are neither natural nor supernatural. What can we do? Follow grace. Let the mind become accustomed to the truth which God's grace is offering. It takes a week or two for a truth to become natural and habitual, but we must make it the center of our piety and let everything converge toward it.

Be serious about the presence of God, the knowledge of Jesus Christ, a definite thought of some virtue, and you will have a center of strength and consolation.

Our Lord said: "Eternal life consists in knowing you, you the only God, and the one whom you have sent, Jesus Christ."

So, to know is life: God is light, truth, and then, God is charity.

B. As we are always going downhill when we use up our spiritual strength, and as our pious exercises only sustain us for a moment, from time to time we must have exercises of reparation and exercises to renew our strength for the extraordinary events of life. I mean: a weekly or monthly examen, in order to know what condition we are in. This examen bears on our graces, duties, sins and virtues. It is an examen of our situation and we must be faithful to it.

Above all, have good will based on God's grace and a very firm will to favor God over yourself, if necessary.

## 2132

CO 2133

***TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)***  
(II 387/395 VI 2)

*Paris, March 1, 1868*

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your letter and its contents. This is how you are becoming poorer.

I'm feeling better, but not enough to take the train. I'm too weak.

Please send me the title for Sr. Louise (Chabert) on Mr. Le Clère. No further claims can be made on the bankruptcy after two weeks.

I learned yesterday that Sr. Marie's money is secure and that the liturgical society will continue. I had sent Brother Frederic to the meeting to represent you.

I thought that Sr. Philomene had Sr. Louise's note. She wrote that she didn't.

I really hope that I won't go to Belgium without [an opportunity to] see you and Fr. Audibert.<sup>21</sup> If I can, it would be toward the end of the week.

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

Eymard

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<sup>21</sup> An opportunity to go to Angers where they both reside.

**TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)**  
(IV 74/75)

*Paris, March 2, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I have been confined to my room for the last 10 days, because of a bad flu or sinus fever. I've been quiet and a little to myself. So, it's a good thing.

I am truly sorry that I wasn't able to see Miss Belle, and then toward the middle of next week, I will go to Belgium to preach for nine days, if God gives me the strength.

In Lyons I was tired from so much preaching and errands, and I didn't notice it. You can see that I am a good soldier on the battlefield.

What good news that was about the return of Mme. Belle's son! Poor son! How much I prayed to God for him! Finally, he is back. May God be praised for this, a thousand times over!

I would have liked to send a note in your letter to dear Edmee; but it is surely too late! So then, we will see them in three months! 58 years old! Dear daughter, we are surely at the eleventh hour. Oh! If the clock of life could return to the first hours of our life, how much more spiritual we would be! But we must be satisfied with the few hours we have left to reach the high noon of Eternity.

Let's be very supernatural in everything! That's the compass of real life sowing the fruit of life for Heaven. That contains everything: God rewards nothing other than the life of Jesus Christ in us.

But how can we become supernatural? By a divine active charity. - What is this divine active charity? The cooperation of our will to the grace which is given us. It is our fiat in God, it is the loving adherence of our soul to God.

In a word, it's the love of God, the law, center and end of our lives. May God really grant it to us!

I was really sorry that I didn't go to see Mme. Mouly. I was on the way, but I was prevented.

So now you are with your dear daughter. She must be pleased to have her kind mother with her.

Goodbye, dear daughter,

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, Superior

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I 15/20)

*Paris, March 12, 1868*

Very dear Father,

The whole affair which kept me here concerns Miss Sterlingue. She went to Meaux to frighten that good old Bishop, saying that she was going to create the most scandalous trial against us, myself and the Mother Superior of Angers, that the Tribunal had returned her letters. She did the same thing at the Chancery in Paris. She frightened Fr. Lagarde with threats against us and with so many calumnies, saying that I didn't want to give her her money, that I wanted to keep her letters

*On the Breach*

when she wanted to burn them, that I had caused difficulty between her and her father, that I had wanted to take all her fortune, that I had poisoned her father, that I had made him crazy, etc., etc. - Hearing that furious woman's words, Fr. Lagarde begged me to provide him with some information, saying that the Archbishop was worried, etc.

I told him that the money had been deposited since November 23rd with our lawyer, Mr Chauveau; that twice, on December 8 and March 1st, Mr Chauveau had brought her money to her. The first time she went into hiding; the second time she refused to put the letters under the perpetual care of the notary, as had been agreed upon before the contract.

Her businessmen advised her to do as Mr. Chauveau wanted, but she didn't want to. Then he replied: "I am waiting for you in Paris, and the money is available there for you under the required conditions."

Miss Sterlingue tried to frighten us, as she did the first time, but it's over. I am ready for her. She also wants to involve Mother in Angers in a trial, but Mother should answer that she has given me the money, that I am the one to be contacted, that she isn't placing any conditions on the reimbursement, that it concerns me, that she had nothing to do with the contract. That is the state of the matter.

Miss Sterlingue had told Fr. Lagarde, the Vicar General, that if I didn't render her justice by Monday, she would have me subpoenaed. I am waiting for her, standing firm, convinced that God will not abandon us to the fury of this poor woman.

If nothing extraordinary happens, I will certainly come to see you Saturday night.

Please reassure Mother Marguerite: she has nothing to fear. I will be on the breach. Our lawyer is very good.

See you soon, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

P.S. At this moment I have just received the Sterlingue subpoena to appear three days from now before the President of the Tribunal of La Seine. We will answer with an offer through the bailiff. We will see the outcome, but I want to hold firm on our rights.

**2135**

**CO 2136**

**TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE**  
(IV 102/104)

*Paris, March 12, 1868*

Madame in our Lord,

I hope to go see you tomorrow evening, leaving here tomorrow at 9:00. I prefer to stop to see you on my way going rather than on my way back, because I'm always limited by many things.

I was ill for 2 weeks and traveling for one month. That's the reason for my silence.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2136**

**CO 2137**

**TO FR. BOUX, S.J.**

(VI 1/1)

*Paris, March 12, 1868*

Very dear and reverend Father Bouix,

Just a short greeting [which is] most respectful and even more devoted. I am very pleased about your decision and your letter to Father Leudeville. It confirms all I had said to him a few years ago about the so-called mission and revelations of Mr. de L. I had urged him to withdraw from that path, and I had succeeded. I thought the whole affair was over, when he brought me your letter.

I considered Mr. de L's house to be a Catholic workplace and nothing more. I felt I must tell you that, my dear and esteemed Father Bouix, since I am wary of bearers of revelations, either men or women, and today there are so many of them!

Father Chesnel left on Tuesday evening for Rome. He hoped to go and see you, and the Bishop too, but he didn't have the time.

Our house in St. Maurice has a true mission for that area. There are 15 to 20 heads of families who approach the Sacraments in a most edifying manner - at Christmas there were about 15. Now the women are the ones who are attacking the men who have been to confession.

But it will soon be Easter; perhaps we shall be able to get a few men to receive Communion in the Parish. Many will not have the courage, on account of the constant petty persecution against them.

I am afraid, also, that the young Pastor at St. Maurice may take offense at this, and especially his mother. It would be a pity, however, not to support this religious movement among the men, which is starting to increase. I am sending the Fr. Superior of our house in St. Maurice to His Eminence and to you, to get some advice. After Easter I shall come and wish you Alleluia!

Please accept all the sentiments of respect, affection and devotion - both new and old - most dear and revered Father, from your faithful and grateful servant.

Eymard, Sup. SS.<sup>22</sup>

**2137**

**CO 2138**

**TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)**

(VII 18/20)

*Paris, March 12, 1868*

<sup>23</sup> I will come back for your Easter duties. Do not cry about .... - No, no, he is with you. Think about God, about others, and little about yourself.

*March 13 - On the train to Angers via Tours.*

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<sup>22</sup> Superior of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

<sup>23</sup> Excerpt from a letter.

**2138**

**CO 2101**

**TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)**  
(IV 35/36)

*Paris, January 1, 1868<sup>24</sup>*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Yes, a good, holy, happy, joyful year! May it be your greatest year, the one which God has chosen to make you perfect and, consequently, happy!

On the train to Angers, March 13 - Dear Sister Anne, this date will show you that you have been really present in my eucharistic thought from the first hour. This letter remained unfinished because I left immediately for our houses in the South. I stayed there a long time, then I was ill. This is my first trip. I'm going to visit our house of Angers, where I must stay for about a week. After that, you can write to me in Paris. I will willingly say the Masses for your uncle who was so devout. He had asked me to receive him as a boarder. I had to refuse him, since I don't receive any. You are right, dear sister, we must pray for him, because not even a grain of dust can enter into Heaven.

I haven't spoken to you for a long time because I was under heavy crosses, and I still am. Pray for me, good and old Sister Anne, I really need it.

This little illness that lasted two weeks has done me good. It recollected me a little.

In your charity you may perhaps ask what are my crosses? I don't count them any more. They almost swallowed up my spirit, and even my heart a little. When I suffer well, I go to God better. Tell me some good news. If you weren't so far, I would come to see you; but in Mauron!!

Be at peace! If I return to Rennes, I will let you know.

Decipher my writing as best you can. I bless you in our Lord.

Dear sister,

All yours in Jesus Christ,  
Eymard, Superior

**2139**

**CO 2139**

**TO MME. LEPAGE**  
(IV 23/26)

*On the train to Angers, March 13, 1868*

Dear daughter,

I am writing to give you news about myself. I am fine, at least as much as one can be when recuperating from a complicated, serious flu.

This is my first trip. I am going to one of our houses in Angers.

If you weren't so far, I would surely go see you and your dear friend.<sup>25</sup> So you will have more proceedings, since justice has been jeopardized. Right must be obtained. This is a service to your adversaries and obliges them to pay back. Consider only your rights, and veil the rest.

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<sup>24</sup> Completed on March 13.

<sup>25</sup> Antonia Bost.

*On the Breach*

Continue to insist on your freedom and independence in order to serve God more peacefully. God has given you this freedom; protect it as his primary gift for your holiness. Struggle for it. Please, dear daughter, keep your heart and mind lifted toward your good Father and gentle Savior. Those who fly do not look at their feet.

We cannot always have happy feelings, but always be happy when our will is united to God's. Joy, peace, childlike piety: these are still my wishes for you.  
To you and to my long-time daughter Antonia, my dearest blessings in our Lord.

Eymard

I will return to Paris in a week. Give me news about yourself. I would like to have some.

**2140**

**CO 2141**

**TO BROTHER AIME FERRAT, SSS**  
(VI 2/2)

*On the train to Angers, March 13, 1868*

Dear Brother Aime,

Our Lord has exempted you from military service so that you can be wholly [given] to his eucharistic service. I praise him with you and thank him for it. When I return from Angers I shall come to see you at St Maurice and we shall see what is best for you.

God has loved you very much, dear brother, since he has called you to such a holy vocation, to serve his adorable person. Could we have a better Master?

Serve him most purely, dear brother, for himself and for his pure love. Be content with everything.

I bless you in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2141**

**CO 2140**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**  
(V 48/52)

*Tours, March 13, 1868*

Madame in our Lord,

I am now on my way to Angers. I will arrive there tomorrow. I expect to stay next week and give a little retreat to the Ladies. I hope to see you there. Give me news about your dear patient; I still think and pray for him.

Dear child, so close to Heaven! How fortunate to have finished his journey and be at the door of the Homeland!

I need to tell you so many things!

*On the Breach*

I almost thought that the hands of my life were going to stop.<sup>26</sup> God didn't find me ready, and that's true. So many faults need to be amended! So many duties need to be done well!

Pray for me.

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

All yours,  
Eymard

*March 14 - Arrival in Angers.*

*Mar. 15-22: Last retreat preached to the Servants in Angers.*  
*Mar 16 Opening - Jesus speaks to the heart in solitude.*  
*Mar 17 God has chosen you. Reception, tradition, foundation, perfection.*  
*Mar 18 All for the eucharistic service. The service and the society.*  
*Mar 19 Meditation, adoration.*  
*Mar 20 Reparation, pure love.*  
*Mar 21 Live, work, rest in the goodness of God. Dominant Grace.*

**2142**

**CO 2142**

**TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS**  
(III 6/11)

*Angers, March 17, 1868*

Dear Brother,

I received everything you sent me. Write to St. Maurice for me, so that Fr. Durand will come to Paris during my absence. It had been agreed upon with Fr. Chanuet if Fr. Dhe were to leave.

Have a good and holy feast day for St. Joseph's. I will arrive for the feast of the 25<sup>th</sup>. I'm preaching only twice a day, and that is all I can do, because I am still weak. My legs don't hold me well.

Everything is going well for the new church: it already looks good. It will be very lovely. They hope to see the roof finished by the end of June.

We will ask Fr. Audibert whether there is a way of obtaining white wine for Paris.

I bless you and all the good Master's family.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, S.

P.S. - While I am absent, have my mattress remade. It is so long since it was remade; and see whether others need to be done.

Mr. Chauveau has received everything for the Ladies. If you see him tell him that I prefer to have a trial rather than leave the letters in the hands of that raging woman.

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<sup>26</sup> Like a clock.

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)**  
(V 72/76)

*Angers, March 17, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I have been here in Angers since Saturday.

I am giving the retreat to our Sisters until Sunday. I will be in Paris by Wednesday, the Feast of the Annunciation.

I will still be there on Thursday morning. Then I will leave again for Brussels for 10 days, until Tuesday of Holy Week.

I don't want to deprive you. Really, you are depriving yourself! It would make me sad to take advantage of your charity at the expense of your needs.

Mother told me about your generosity, she needed it. You were her good Providence. I am very pleased to see this poor Mother again. It is because she was so upset about Nemours and Sr. Benoite that she has been so sick. She is far from healed, she seems to be a little better. My presence had a good effect on her.

Poor daughter! She suffered so much from the one who owes her so much! and who has been so ungrateful and uncharitable towards her mother! Oh! My eyes have been opened. The devil really tricked us!

Through charity, they had hidden so many reprehensible things from me! What a misfortune it was to have taken Sr. Benoite out of her obscure and hidden life! How much damage we did to her and she herself did! Since she is no longer a Servant of the Blessed Sacrament, I no longer believe in her grace, nor in her virtue, and it had even been a long time that she was off course, since Nemours, even since Angers. There was only one time when she was edifying, when she was in Paris.

I beg you, dear daughter, discontinue your relationships of trust with her, there is nothing to be gained. We should even see whether it might be better, at the close of the year at the boarding school, to tell her that you are no longer taking charge of Marie-Therese. Really, this poor Sr. Benoite would have made us responsible for all her relatives!

Do not invite her at all. She must learn through the facts that we do not approve of such conduct or behavior. These two poor sisters always try to lean on me, while I told them so often my desire and will that they should return to their vocation!

Yes, dear daughter, we will never forget March 13<sup>th</sup>! That beautiful day for our Lord and for you! Observe it well. I bless it, for it is God's day.

We are really praying for your dear mother; it is the moment to do so. The whole Society is praying for her, I give you all the adorations of the Society until she is healed or reaches her last hour.

I bless you, dear daughter, and our little sister Stephanie.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2144**

**CO 2144**

**TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN**  
(IV 18/19)

*Angers, March 18, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Better late than never!

You surprise yourself in the process... Surely, when nothing is regulated, we don't find time to do anything serious or of consequence.

It isn't necessary to regulate everything in detail: it isn't possible. But we should plan our day in the morning, foresee some major thing that must be done. Five minutes of preparation would be helpful.

I like your penance at twenty.<sup>27</sup> Later you will reduce it.

You do well to go with M.... When we become tired from running, we must rest to renew our strength.

It isn't the weather outside which is at fault, but poor windows which let it come inside.<sup>28</sup>

I am not forgetting Mr. Henry Belle, even less our Japanese and Chinese travellers.<sup>29</sup> Your dear mother and you are first in line and have the priority as the eldest.

And so I bless you, your little Gerard and all the family.

Eymard, Superior

P.S. I'll be here until March 23<sup>rd</sup>; I'll stay in Paris until the 27<sup>th</sup>; I will go to Ghent (Quai aux bois, 48) until Tuesday of Holy Week.

**2145**

**CO 2145**

**TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS**  
(I 53/54)

*Angers, St. Joseph, March 19, 1868*

Dear Father,

What you tell me about His Eminence favoring your plan for the property near the Prefecture is truly attractive. This is already a first sign from Heaven. Surely, we shall never find anything better in Marseilles. The whole question revolves around the expenses. You know that the motherhouse has the responsibility for Angers and St. Maurice, and cannot promise anything for Marseilles. If there were sure resources in view, at least to go forward without being presumptuous.... Therefore, dear Father, look into it, get a feel for it. Try pledges, ask about the exact cost of the land and the terms of payment, so that I might propose this important question to the Council of Superiors.

Please God, that Marseilles should become the most beautiful throne and the most powerful center of adoration!

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<sup>27</sup> Perhaps, the number of blows for the discipline. Ed

<sup>28</sup> He is speaking here of inner peace in the midst of difficulties. Ed.

<sup>29</sup> Her cousins.

*On the Breach*

When I return, I will look for Mr. Guerin's documents, or else I will request it in Brussels where I must go for Passion Sunday.

Everything here is the same as usual.

Today our Sisters had a ceremony with four postulants who took the habit, three who made temporary vows, and three with perpetual vows, the two Lotand ladies.

May St. Joseph give you his beautiful eucharistic gift.

My fondest affection in our Lord, to you, dear Father, and to your whole eucharistic family.

Eymard, S.S.<sup>30</sup>

**2146**

**CO 2146**

**TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS**  
(III 7/11)

*Angers, March 19, 1868*

Dear Brother,

I received your kind letter this morning.

I answered Fr. Lagarde this evening to tell him how upset I am. Is it possible that we would be treated so on the basis of an accusation made by such a person who is unknown to them! and receive threats!

I am convinced that Miss Sterl ... is afraid of a trial and that she wants to intimidate us through the Archbishop, but this trick will not succeed.

We must hold firm. I prefer an act of justice than this treacherous sword in the hands of a raging woman.

Please ask Brother Charles for a hundred and fifty copies of the explanation of the *Via Crucis*. Send them to me by mail.

My health is keeping up. Pray for me, I bless you all.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

<i>Mar 22 Conference Servants (Angers): Communion, a preparation for heavenly glory.</i>
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<sup>30</sup> Abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

**2147**

**CO 2147**

**TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS**  
(III 8/11)

A.R.T.

*Brussels, March 28, 1868<sup>31</sup>*

Dear Brother in our Lord,

I arrived here safely.

I am sending you the open letter from Miss Sterl.... It's time for this to end.

I will have Fr. Le Marchand come here. He needs a cassock. Have it rush ordered for him, and have him come immediately, as soon as it is made.

Fr. Crepon is a bit weary but not as badly as I had feared. He cannot stay in Brussels, he needs peace and quiet.

Tomorrow night I will be in Ghent.

Do pray for my weak condition.

I bless you and the whole family.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

*Mar. 29-Apr. 8 (?) - In Ghent?*

<i>Apr 9</i>	<i>Public Conference: Holy Thursday. The testament of Jesus Christ.</i>
<i>Apr. 10</i>	<i>Public Conference: Good Friday. The love of Jesus Christ.</i>

**2148**

**CO 2148**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I 16/20)

*Paris, April 10, 1868*

Very dear Father,

I informed you by telegram about the 3,000 francs I am sending you immediately. I know that you need 4,000. I'll send the rest as soon as possible. Or rather, as I think about it, I'll send you only 2,000 today, because the mail will not register a letter beyond 2,000 francs. I'll send you the other two (thousand) at the first opportunity.

I will reply to Mr. Dussouchay to tell him not to slow down the work: we will look somewhere else to find the necessary resources to finish the house of God.

I found Brussels doing quite well. Nothing has been decided about beginning the new chapel at St. Anne's. However, the Benefactress is firm in her decision to do it. She is putting one of her beautiful properties up for sale.

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<sup>31</sup> Listed as March 26, 1868 (Garreau).

*On the Breach*

Best wishes for the Paschal Feast.<sup>32</sup> You deserve it, because this was a difficult Lent.

Very dear Father,  
All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2149**

**CO 2149**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I 17/20)

*Paris, April 10, 1868*

Very dear Father,

I don't want to leave you with this debt of our Lord's for the Holy Day of Easter. Therefore, I am sending you 2,000 francs, which totals 4,000 francs. Our Lord, for whom every sacrifice is a debt of honor and love, knows that we would be happy to give him our shoes, our food and our life; but he repays us as a God does.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2150**

**CO 2150**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 388/395 VI 2)

*Paris, April 16, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letters and for the 500 francs for Baudin. I paid yesterday. I'm sending you the receipt here enclosed.

I didn't have a moment to answer you since my arrival here on Wednesday of Holy Week.

I didn't receive anything from Lantigni. I think that Sr. Emilienne must have told them about my categorical reply.

Poor children! I do pity them. It's the greatest cross among crosses.

The court trial for the letters is taking place in Paris. We prefer to have this trial rather than leaving them with that raging woman. Alas! see how far malice and greed can go!

A second trial instituting proceedings for the repairs of the mill against Brother Charles, as husband,<sup>33</sup> will begin at Fontainebleau. It will come to 7,000 francs. Since we don't owe them anything, we have to prove it legally; that is what we will do.

Do pray very much for us, dear daughter. Don't worry about us; this is the chalice we will have to drink to the dregs, but with the grace of God, the dregs will change to sweetness.

I bless you sincerely.

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<sup>32</sup> Easter.

<sup>33</sup> Brother Charles and Sr. Benoite had been married before separating to enter religious life.

I recommend you to good Fr. Crepon, who is so dedicated to you.

Eymard, Sup.

**2151**

**CO 2151**

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

(V 73/76)

A.R.T.

*Paris, April 17, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to thank you for your package. I received everything. May God repay you through his eucharistic Heart! If our Lord were not our center and mutual life, I wouldn't know how to thank you; but you don't want to hear this word, so be it! I will have another one in the presence of God.

St. Joseph, in his kindness, came to close your dear mother's eyes.<sup>34</sup> Our Lord came to visit her in the morning<sup>35</sup> and bring her with him in the evening!! What sufferings endured by this poor body and by this devout soul! It was her Purgatory. She loved God so much, and for so long, poor mother! I prayed a lot for her. I am happy to see that she lacked nothing. Good Fr. Durand, my old friend, was very good to her! Now we only need to complete her deliverance, if she still bears any dust from the journey. I assure you that she has the priority of my [prayers] here.

What can I say about your plan?<sup>36</sup>

I accept it wholeheartedly. Your parental home will become a Cenacle and you will dwell next to it like the Blessed Virgin at the Cenacle of Jerusalem.

Everything seems to be falling into place.

Fr. Durand, the Pastor, is my friend, and I am sure that he will be pleased to see us there and that he will even take the initiative to promote it.

His Eminence has never actually refused us, he only adjourned the decision. And as the Croix-Rousse<sup>37</sup> awakens neither jealousy nor ambition, they will let us go there without difficulty.

That, dear daughter, is my first impression. Does it come from God? I want it. I pass it on to you first and spontaneously.

Now, we will go to pray to our good Master, because the decision and the will are His.

Now, dear daughter, get some rest from so much fatigue. Yes, let total surrender to God and to his good pleasure be the rule and virtue of your life.

Rest your soul at his feet. Speak little and receive everything from his goodness and love.

I thank you, very dear daughter and Sr. Stephanie, for having written to tell me the details of your dear mother's illness and last breath. I would have written to you immediately if I hadn't been traveling in Belgium.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours in Him,

Eymard

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<sup>34</sup> She died.

<sup>35</sup> In Holy Communion.

<sup>36</sup> She offered her home for a religious foundation.

<sup>37</sup> Probably a section of Lyons.

*On the Breach*

As for the young man you mentioned to me, do as your husband would have done. As for little Therese, so be it! For the trip to Lantigni, consider in prayer what good could come from it. I am afraid that there will be some trap for your charity, because they are silent toward me. I would be upset if I didn't know the reason.

**2152**

**CO 2152**

**TO MR. LOUIS PERRET**  
(VIII 1/2 VII 14)

*Paris, April 19, 1868*

Very dear and respected friend,

I have many reasons to ask you to forgive me. I was on my way to go to see you when I was in Lyons, but as I was stopped along the way, time got away from me and by nightfall I was still far from you, and weary. I was very sorry. Our good Mr. Tissot would have had to pick me up and take me to you. I hope you will come to see your cell, and your brothers who love you as always.

St. Maurice (our novitiate) awaits you also.

I am returning your letter; I heard that Mr. Dausse has left for America. There's a piece of news! and I didn't see him before he left.

I would appreciate it if you would send me a copy of the Latin Brief for the Way of the Cross I sent you earlier. There was a great to-do over it at the Propaganda. The Holy Father is on my side.

We are all hoping to see you, dear friend.

All yours in Our Lord,  
Eymard

**2153**

**CO 2153**

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

*A.R.T.*

*Paris, April 21, 1868*

Dear sister in our Lord,

I received your 200 francs for Masses and we will not leave them idle.

Besides, I love both the uncle and his niece in Jesus, our mutual Master.

So you have been ill! poor sister! and you seem sorry to be back among the living! You are right! in Heaven there are no more sins! in Purgatory, the same! However, the divine Sower must harvest something from his little field! and God's great harvest is suffering; love [springs] from death.<sup>38</sup>

Have courage! poor Sister Anne! So much suffering is going to make you young again.

So when will you have this house of Thanksgiving? You are there paralyzing yourself and

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<sup>38</sup> French: *c'est l'amour de mort.*

*On the Breach*

doing nothing when you should at least be gathering stones for the building, which I would like to see and bless. But you must stay with your mother!<sup>39</sup> Yes! as long as God wills, and until the Angel comes to tell you! It is time!

Do pray for me, dear sister; I need it immensely. Sadness is overtaking my soul with desolation. Fortunately, it doesn't show. Oh! How often I feel like burying myself alive in eucharistic solitude!

I remain very closely united to you in Jesus, who is ever and always love.

Eymard, Superior

**2154**

**CO 2155**

**TO FR. FAURE, PASTOR AT LAVALDENS, ISERE**  
(VI1/1)

*112 Bd. Montparnasse, Paris, April 22, 1868*

Very dear Friend,

I am longing to receive news from you. - Have you received my book? what do you think of it? Is your health adequate? Were your Easter celebrations lovely?

Are you still God's hermit? In the midst of the Babylon, so many times I envy you your mountains, the silence of your churches!

Where are we headed, dear friend? Evil has reached its climax. Famous and learned men, professors, students, all, everything is moving to war, the denial of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Church, of virtuous living, of honesty.

Revolution has taken place in people's minds; the time has come when it will be translated into deeds. Now we have reached universal heresy. Meanwhile people laugh, sleep, recreate when they should be weeping and seeking conversion.

I am like a man who is waiting only to be arrested and flogged, who tells God: it is only right and it is merciful.

Give me news of La Salette and of Miss Victorine. Tell her to make a novena for me - I need it - and you, dear Friend, have nothing else to do but pray up there and I, I hardly have time to do so. You must be charitable toward me and if you were to go to La Salette, think of me. Otherwise, I am fine.

Farewell, dear and good Friend in our Lord,  
All yours,  
Eymard

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<sup>39</sup> He imagines her response.

**2155**

**CO 2154**

**TO THE CARDINAL, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES**  
(VI 1/1)

*Paris, April 22, 1868*

Your Eminence,

His Eminence, your venerated predecessor, having kindly approved our plan to establish a Scholasticate House in Ixelles to encourage religious vocations in Belgium, I sought canonical authorization to do so from the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regular Clergy, sending along the letter of approbation from His Eminence of Malines.

His sudden death has necessitated a letter from Your Eminence as I learned in a letter from Rome. So, I humbly request your support and confirmation of our request saying: that the house is maintained by our own funds; and that it is properly constructed and well-situated to do good in a district which is deprived of a chapel.

I also wish to apply to Your Eminence for the dismissal of Vincent Bougaerts of Antwerp, a professed religious qualified in theology so that, by virtue of a special Rescript from the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regular Clergy, we may present him for Holy Orders.

I am aware, Your Eminence, of your benevolence towards Religious Groups. It pleases me that our two houses are under your paternal authority, and I trust that our religious will always show themselves worthy of it.

Kindly accept the sentiments of deepest respect with which I am happy to be, in our Lord,

Your Eminence's most humble and devoted servant.  
Eymard

*April 23 - Public Conference: Thursday in the Octave of Easter: "To abide in faith."*

**2156**

**CO 2156**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 389/395 VI 2)

*Paris, April 26, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Tomorrow I will go to St. Maurice for my retreat. Pray and have others pray for me. I have such a great need for a little recollection.

I will write to you later for your direction, and give you something which springs from greater recollection in God.

Sr. Benoite and Sr. Philomene haven't written to me any further.

In the Dialogues of Surin, read the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> book. There is some material there for reflection.

Receive Mme. Le Blanc as your daughter; hers is a beautiful soul, she is totally dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament.

*On the Breach*

I didn't study Sr. Marie's plan enough. It doesn't matter very much to me how it is done, provided the sisters have a free night each week. Consider whether it would come to the same thing by retiring sooner and rising later. With our communication system from the chapel,<sup>40</sup> we don't need as many people.

You could try Sr. Marie's plan. It's understood that 8 and 4 would count only as one of the two hours. However, I would really like that free night. I bless you.

Eymard

P.S. - Take care of your poor health. I heard that you aren't well. Please ask our Lord for an improvement for his greater glory.

If you received Sr. Marie-Joseph's summons, send it to me.

**2157**

**CO 2157**

**TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE**  
(IV 103/104)

*Paris, April 26, 1868*

Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for your little note. I'm addressing the enclosed letter in return. [Find your] delight in God. Those are fine, beautiful moments which give rest to the soul and strengthen it. In such moments of spiritual abundance be generous with God: that is the response that God wants to elicit from you.

You have no reason to fear illusions, but only too much self-preoccupation. Don't think of yourself, or very little. When we are in the presence of a beautiful scene, we don't look at ourselves. We admire it, we enjoy it.

I'll certainly pray for the poor brother you mentioned to me. He is blind since he doesn't see God and Jesus Christ our Savior.

On Monday, I will go into retreat at our Novitiate for 7 days. Pray for me; that would be true charity.

May God keep your good sister by your side! She mustn't go to rest, not even to Heaven. There's so much to do here!

I saw Fr. Superior, who spoke to me about your idea of a retreat. He seemed to me to be putting it off until a later time: the good Lord will decide.

I remain very close to you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eymard, S.

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<sup>40</sup> To awaken the following adorer.

<i>Apr 27-May 2 - Personal Retreat at St. Maurice.</i>		
<i>Apr 27</i>	<i>First Meditation:</i>	<i>Grace of graces</i>
<i>Apr 28</i>	<i>1st Meditation:</i>	<i>Graces</i>
	<i>2nd Meditation:</i>	<i>Eucharistic faith</i>
	<i>3rd Meditation:</i>	<i>Eucharistic vocation(Conf. to SSS novices)</i>
<i>Apr 29</i>	<i>1st Meditation:</i>	<i>Just cause: the mind-Thanksgiving</i>
	<i>2nd Meditation:</i>	<i>Gift of the mind</i>
	<i>3rd Meditation:</i>	<i>Silence(Conf. to SSS novices)</i>
<i>Apr 30</i>	<i>1st Meditation:</i>	<i>Humility and its enemy</i>
	<i>2nd Meditation:</i>	<i>Examen and nature of this enemy</i>
	<i>3rd Meditation:</i>	<i>Pride</i>
<i>May 1</i>	<i>1st Meditation:</i>	<i>Virtue of positive humility in Jesus</i>
	<i>2nd Meditation:</i>	<i>Contrition</i>
	<i>3rd Meditation:</i>	<i>Life of Prayer</i>
<i>May 1</i>	<i>Opening of the month of Mary: "We will honor Mary under the title of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament."(Conf. to SSS Novices)</i>	
<i>May 2</i>	<i>1st Meditation:</i>	<i>Nature of the sin of pride – contrition</i>
	<i>2nd meditation:</i>	<i>Serving God. Important Resolutions</i>

2158

CO 2159

**TO MISS ADELE MARTEL**

(V 1/2)

*To Miss Adele*

*St. Maurice, April 27, 1868*

Dear Miss Adele,<sup>41</sup>

I really loved your letter. You must always write to me with that same simplicity and good will. You promised me you would and so did I. I didn't answer you right away this time because I was in Angers and in Belgium, and then [I was] ill with a bad flu which made me very lazy; I am barely over it. - Nevertheless it was good for me, because illness brings us closer to God.

Well, have you become accustomed to your situation? I say yes right away, because you must not hold either to place, or village, or to any external thing, not to yourself, not even to passing graces: these all pass. You must hold only to God, to his holy will at each moment, because God loves you infinitely, as he is and desires only your greater good in everything and through everything. So then, everything that happens comes from Above, except sin. Every change in our life is determined from Above, the wind of the holy will of God is always beneficial for the sails of our little ship. We only need to keep the sails open and firm, and to look at Jesus Christ who precedes us. With that, you will always be pleased with God, not yourself, and with everyone in their divine missions toward you. You will always be happy then because God takes care of your affairs better than you [can].

You will always be free. When God changes your work you will accept it with pleasure, because what pleases him, pleases you.

So then, although that beautiful Carmel made your heart beat, now your heart will be God's Carmel. The beautiful religious habit pleased you, but now it [your habit] will be that of obedience, of your position. You went into the Carmel you had so desired, and now, from morning to night you will have to do what nature dislikes, deny yourself constantly, and do it as if it pleased you. If

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<sup>41</sup> Cousin of the Mlles Bourges.

*On the Breach*

you do this, dear Mademoiselle, I promise you that in God's sight you will be doubly a Carmelite.

I am beginning my retreat today.<sup>42</sup> Please contribute all the prayers and sacrifices you can so that I may do it well, and you will also benefit from it.

I bless you, dear daughter in our Lord, and I am

All yours, dear soul.

Eymard

**2159**

**CO 2158**

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

(III 143/145 VI 10)

*Saint Maurice, April 27, 1868*

Very dear Sisters,

I left you for a long time without any news about myself. I have almost always been traveling. I arrived a few days ago from Belgium, and then the Easter Season left me without a free moment. I came here today, for seven days, to make my retreat and rest a little at the feet of our Lord. It will help both body and soul. - My health is good. I had a little flu in February which I had to nurse, but I was not bedridden. The good Lord forced me into a short retreat and I was pleased about it.

Thank you so much for your letters. I praise God to see that you are well. Please take care of yourselves, don't neglect yourselves. I am and will always be your affectionate and very devoted brother. If you should ever be in straits, tell me. If I can do something for you, I would only be too happy to do so.

Continue to serve the good Lord well and take care of the dear persons whom our Lord has entrusted to you. We must always suffer a little for those whom God intends that we should help. Just obtain the permission to direct your disciples<sup>43</sup> from the Pastor, that is all you need.

You know him, his heart does not enter into it. Anyway, it doesn't matter, provided the good Master be served and adored.

Come now, dear sisters, always be pleased with God, with his divine Providence, and your heart will be at peace.

I shall not stay so long without writing to you. I hope to be a little more settled now.

All yours in our Lord,

Your brother,

Eymard, Sup.

*Apr 29 Conference to SSS novices: Preparation for Adoration.*

*Apr 30 Conference to SSS novices: On Humility as Truth, Faith, Love.*

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<sup>42</sup> It was the last of his life.

<sup>43</sup> Literally: daughters.

**2160**

**CO 2160**

**TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS**  
(III 9/11)

*Saint Maurice, April 30, 1868*

Dear Brother,

I will arrive Saturday evening, unless there would be any major reasons to the contrary.

Please inquire from Mr. Meignen, at the Worker's Circle, at what time their retreat is to begin.

If Fr. Le Marchand should arrive from Brussels, don't receive him in the house. It is another failed vocation.

Don't give anyone the cases for the Ladies, not by any order of theirs, nor to them personally, without me. There is another question to be settled with them.

I bless you abundantly in our Lord.

Eymard, S.

P.S. - It would be desirable that Fr. Grolleau go to Lantigni as soon as possible.

Open the Ladies' cases, and tell me whether the religious habit is there, etc.

**2161**

**CO 2161**

**TO FR. JULES GAYRAUD, SSS**  
(VI 2/3)

*St. Maurice, April 30, 1868*

*Adveniat Regnum Tuum Eucharisticum*<sup>44</sup>

Very dear Father Gayraud,

God and Holy Obedience are sending you to Brussels to begin your eucharistic Apostolate,<sup>45</sup> in the very place where the Great miracle of the Synagogue took place, and it was heard of throughout the whole world. Go, dear brother and Father in our Lord. Grace awaits you there, the glory of our Lord is calling for you, and there you will become a saint.

I am sad to be sending you away from us so soon, but God needs his soldier. He will complete on the battlefield whatever may be lacking in his military training.

Your house is "rue des 12 Apotres 2 bis." Fr. Cardot is Superior of the house, which remains under the direction of Fr. Champion.

Leave as soon as you are ready, and go via Maubeuge at 7:30 a.m., that is the best time. I hope to go to see you soon in Brussels.

If you wish to wait for me, I shall arrive on Saturday evening; otherwise, I give you the blessing of the Cenacle and of Pentecost.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, Sup. Cgnis SSS<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Thy Eucharistic Kingdom Come.

<sup>45</sup> Irregular capitalization as in original.

<sup>46</sup> *Superiorem Congregationis Sanctissimo Sacramento*. Superior of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

**TO MISS EMILIEENNE TAMISIER<sup>47</sup>**  
(VII 8/9)

*St. Maurice, April 30, 1868*

Dear Sister,

They sent me your little note. - I will be on retreat until Saturday. I will be in Paris Sunday. Although [I am] giving a retreat to the community of Fr. Le Prevost, I will find a way to receive you in Paris.

In our Lord, dear Sister,

Your devoted and respectful servant,  
Eymard

Miss Emilienne Tamisier  
14 Quai S. Symphorien  
Tours  
(Indre-et-Loire)

*Conferences to the SSS Novices:*

*May 2 On Contemplation.(Undated) To die daily.*

*May 3 Opening of a retreat to the Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul, Paris  
The Blessings of a Retreat in the Religious Life*

*The Service of God*

*The Religious Calling*

*Prayer: Necessity and Characteristics*

*Meditation, the Gift of our Intellect*

*Meditation, the Gift of our Heart*

*Meditation, the Gift of our Will*

*Does God Love Me?*

*Do I Love God?*

*The Love of Forgiveness*

*The Eucharist, Source of Sanctification in the Religious Life*

*Jesus Eucharistic, Model of the Three VowsHumility*

*Meekness*

*The Rule, Source of Sanctification for the Religious*

*Vows*

*May 6-8 Forty hours devotions preached at the Benedictine Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Paris*

*May 6 The faith that springs from love*

*May 8 Communion, a divine education*

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<sup>47</sup> at Tours.

**2163**

**CO 2163**

**TO FR. JULES GAYRAUD, SSS**  
(VI3/3)

*Paris, May 13, 1868*

Very dear Father,

I only have time to say hello and recommend good Brother Aime to your care.  
May God bless your Holy Obedience and confidence in his Holy Grace!  
I was sorry to be separated from you, but we wish only the greater glory of God, in Whom I am,

All yours,  
Eymard

**2164**

**CO 2164**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 390/395 VI 2)

*Paris, May 14, 1868*

Dear daughter,<sup>48</sup>

I didn't write to you while all the following were happening. I wanted to wait until it would be all over.

Tonight, Sr. Philomene is mailing the document for the powers of attorney stipulating 11,000 francs. I had them write to Sr. Benoit about a pension of 550 francs. Either she didn't understand, or she didn't accept that arrangement.

Sr. Philomene told me that they are not requiring it immediately, if it can't be done. I would have preferred a pension, while leaving you free to pay it off.

It seems that according to the law, an amount representing her rights must be stipulated.

It all makes my heart and soul sick. What! To enter religious life and leave with an amount one did not bring in! As if a religious, who has made a vow of poverty, could keep the gifts and money of the community for herself!

I really told Sr. Philomene what I think about such behavior. I told her that conscience and justice would require that they return all they had taken which belongs to the Community, especially the crucifix and painting from the Lieutaud sisters.

Dear daughter, please send to Sr. Philomene as soon as possible everything that belongs to her and is still in Angers. It would be better for you to get rid of them.

She left tonight for Lantigni.

Poor girl! She has changed so! She is very frustrated. I pity her: that is partly the work of Sr. Benoit.

Yes, dear daughter, I'm really praying for your healing. I want you to ask God for it through Our Lady of La Salette. She already healed you once and relieved you so many times!

I bless you sincerely in our Lord.

Eymard

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<sup>48</sup> Text from a copy by Mother Marguerite, not from the original.

**2165**

**CO 2165**

**TO FR. GROLLEAU, ANGERS**  
(VI1/2)

*Paris, May 14, 1868*

Dear Fr. Grolleau,

I have advised Sister Philomene to send you the powers of attorney stipulating 11,000 francs, and as she told me, they will not be demanded at present.

If the Sisters in Angers think that they should not, or cannot, accept this condition, I think we can persuade Sister Benoit to settle for a life annuity. You still have the title deed in case of difficulty.

I was very sorry I could not go and say goodbye to you, but I hope you will stay with us again another time.

Consider me as one of your family.

Believe me, in our Lord, dear Father,

All yours,  
Eymard

**2166**

**CO 2166**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**  
(V 49/52)

*Paris, May 15, 1868*

Madame in our Lord,

I thought I was ahead with you, having written last. However, you asked me for a word, and here it is. First of all, I always read your infrequent and short letters carefully (except the last one).

I understand your interior state, a bit by analogy, and I sincerely and frequently sympathize with you in the sight of God. At least, you have your solitude and your solitary chapel where one hears only the echo of one's prayer or one's tears, and I don't have that. You have our Lord for yourself, alone, and he always welcomes you, watches over you and blesses you as the hostess of his Cenacle. But I, I hardly have time to see him, or my mind is so agitated! Pity me more than yourself, and I will repay you. But at all cost, keep our Lord in his Ciborium of gold and fire. If he should leave you, follow him, but you will keep him. There is a great spiritual secret that I will share with you: eliminate interior agitation by forgetting yourself and others even more; then begin to praise our Lord and try to please his Heart by the beauty of his own graces, the wealth of his merits, those of the Blessed Virgin and the Saints.

Make yourself so beautiful and so good that he will look at you with indulgence and recognize himself in you.

I must tell you that on Thursday, June 11 (Corpus Christi), we will have our collection at Notre Dame des Victoires.

I will give the instruction at 4:00. I don't have any tickets, I would like to have some printed. - Would you have one as a sample? If only you were here! God didn't will it. I understand and appreciate your reasons and just motives. God didn't will it. We must say: May his holy Name be blessed!

*On the Breach*

Pray for us and often for me.

In a month's time we will have First Communion for our 40 workers.

I am waiting for news about you, especially for a eucharistic flower. In our Lord, Madame, I am,

Your respectful and devoted servant.

**2167**

**CO 2167**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**

(I 18/20)

*Paris, May 16, 1868*

Very dear Father,

I had to send Fr. Gayraud to Brussels to replace Fr. Crepon, as each house has only the bare minimum: two priests. We are only three here, and consequently very tight, for I must often be absent and then we can have only two Masses. It's true that Fr. Durand is in the novitiate, but we cannot withdraw him beforehand. So you can see our difficulty.

We may have one more priest at the Feast of the Trinity, that's true: Brother Frederic and a deacon, Brother Marius. But how can we let such a young priest go into the ministry so soon when he still has some Treatises to study?

Here is what I am proposing for your two scholastics: Fr. Gilles, who is a professor here with us, and who would be so with you. We wouldn't say that he is a priest. He would make his adorations like the brothers. He is a good priest, has a fine temperament and would really help the brothers. He said holy Mass after his initial fault; since his Bishop didn't want to take him back into his diocese, he sent him a document to that effect. If you don't want him, then you will have to find a professor in the city at a set price, and we will help you with the cost.

I am negotiating to sell a few Roman bonds for Angers. I am waiting for the outcome of the negotiations to write to Mr. Dussouchay.<sup>49</sup> I am so far behind with him, but I trust you must have given him my apologies.

There are times when one doesn't know where to turn! and that often happens here.

My only hope is to see your church finished quickly, and I would willingly do the impossible for that to happen.

I'm very sad about good Mother Marguerite's illness. The Blessed Virgin, who healed her so often, will surely heal her again: she is so needed!

Don't get overtired in this heat, dear Father. Your courage always makes you go forward without consideration for your strength. No doubt it's for our Good Master that you give yourself so joyfully.

Believe me in our Lord, dear Father,

All yours,  
Eymard

P.S. Fr. Crpon seems better.

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<sup>49</sup> The contractor.

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 391/395 VI 2)

*St. Maurice, May 18, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,<sup>50</sup>

I came to spend the day at St. Maurice. I'm taking a moment to write to you.

I understand your sorrow about Sr. Benoite more than anyone, and you understand mine also. How pitiful! How does she settle her conscience? Oh! How is it that our eyes were not opened sooner, you and I? When we begin to esteem someone it is difficult to believe what we see.

Let us say that God allowed this difficult trial. Notice that she left dissension wherever she went; that isn't God's spirit. Then, what about this self-importance? She alone was noticed, esteemed, loved and you know what resentment she had for those who judged her severely (or better, truly)!

She didn't want to return to Angers, because some there did not like her. What is the meaning of all this which left her neither humble nor sincere? Miss Houdon was right; that is my opinion.

Goodness! Let us thank God for the crosses and blows we received, we were so blinded! Don't be angry with yourself, poor daughter, for having brought her. You loved the Society and you thought you were serving it well.

It seems that you haven't read the 9th chapter of the third part of the Dialogues of Fr. Surin. You must get it.

Yes, may God be praised for everything! Be patient and have confidence!

Now, would it be better to give her a pension, or the 11,000 francs? I was leaning toward the pension, in order not to burden you. But it isn't urgent, since you have the document in hand.

We can not count on the money left by Sr. Camille any longer. Mr. Chanuet has been completely turned.<sup>51</sup> Well! May God be praised again!

They no longer write to me from Lantigni, no one. Sometimes I would like to thunder my indignation against such behavior. It is better to wait for the moment God will indicate.

I'm praying for your healing, dear daughter. If I could, I would go to see you. I'd like to bring some money for the church.<sup>52</sup> That is what is holding me back at the moment.

Please, let us not bite the cross, nor the thorns, but kiss them, because they bear Jesus Christ, our good Master.

You must adore and receive Communion on your bed of suffering; that is the altar of God's glory at this time.

Let's drive away the mosquitoes that sting, and stay calmly at the feet of Jesus or in one of his beloved wounds.

I do bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

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<sup>50</sup> Taken from a handwritten copy by Mother Marguerite, not from the original.

<sup>51</sup> Mr. Amedee Chanuet, the brother-in-law of Sr. Philomene.

<sup>52</sup> The church of the Fathers under construction in Angers.

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

*St. Maurice, May 19, 1868*

Dear Madame and daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to you from our novitiate house where I came to spend a few days, since I had been extremely busy because of two retreats, etc, etc.

Your dear daughter hadn't told me about the death of the poor brother. I learned about it in your letter. Oh! The vanity of life, of youth and of honors! It all evaporates like smoke!...

So your poor nephew has died! I hope and I believe that he died with contrition and forgiveness... There are graces for a happy death, as there are some for good actions. The grace of a happy death is a grace of mercy. God prepares souls for it long in advance. We can feel ourselves dying or weary of this world. Before falling, when he saw the danger he surely must have recommended himself to God, all the more fervently because danger was imminent and God was there. Then the Blessed Virgin did not fail him. His mother had prayed to her. For myself, I believe he has been saved.

Would you please send me his photograph? It would make me pray for him even more. If you only knew that it takes very little to save a soul! So we must praise his mercy.

Now about you, dear daughter.

You are in solitude now, that means closer to the good Lord because you are closer to yourself, more with yourself. Open wide the doors and windows to chase away the smoke of cities and crowds. When the smoke is chased away, close the blinds to enjoy and breathe in God.

Read much in the beginning, especially until your soul can live from truth, your heart can enjoy it, and your life can become fruitful under the beautiful sunshine of grace. Spend a half hour in loving prayer mornings and evenings.

Then admire the beautiful stars, the flowers and the fruit of the field which obey the laws of divine Providence.

Now, good and eldest daughter, you must definitely work at gentleness of heart. Jesus said: "Learn from me that I am gentle of heart."

If I didn't know that you have your faults, I would almost say that you are working very hard at becoming supernatural, since our natural feelings revolt from time to time, and so foolishly. Oh! What miserable self-love, what a traitor it is! Peace comes only through war; make war upon it.

Now about Miss Edmee.

I thought I had written to her. However you make me question it, I am doing so through you. Since she told me in her last letter that they might return to France, I may not have written. May God be praised for the return of Mr. Belle. He was in danger in every way.

Goodbye dear daughter, we are getting old. We must hurry to take advantage of the lamp which is lighting the rest of our path.

This thought struck me this morning during my adoration:

We are now on the last stretch of life and we let ourselves be distracted by meaningless things.

I bless you with all my soul in our Lord,  
Eymard, S.S.S.

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

*St. Maurice, May 19, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I couldn't write to you by the time you had indicated, so I'm doing it from here, from our novitiate, where I came to spend a few days to prepare myself for the feast of the Ascension. The feast of the Ascension is such a beautiful feast for me!

It's the day when I began a retreat in Paris to examine at the feet of our Lord whether he wanted me to labor for the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament. That was on May 1, 1856.

It was truly the Ascension for me! Because I didn't deserve that our Lord would look at me and choose me for such a beautiful, such a great Work, which needed a saint, a learned man and a prince at the service of such a great Master.

It has now been eleven years since that date. So many graces received, and so many deficiencies in me!

Oh! our Lord wanted to prove once more that he is the one who is everything, that he can do everything, and that the weakest and most vile instrument in his hands is the one he prefers.

And so dear daughter, on the holy day of the Ascension, please pray for the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament and for its poor Superior.

Now about you.

I was really sorry to learn about the death of your relative, Mr. Giraud, substitute in Lille. Although he died suddenly when he fell, he had time to recommend himself to God, since he saw the danger for 8 kilometers, an act of contrition is quickly made and at such a time it is well made. Then, it's the month of Mary, to whom his devout mother prayed so much!

We must really pray for him; I am doing so, since he is your relative and I knew him.

So then, you saw Msgr. Mermillod! That is a great grace, that you benefited from it is even better, and so thank God for it. The saints who reflect something of the gentleness and goodness of our Lord are like a proof of how excellent the sun is - of which they are just a few rays. But rays pass, the sun remains, and you can receive this sun every day. You are very rich and very strong; but we must constantly rewind the watch of virtue and even of grace. We use up everything.

Do it, dear daughter, and take as a royal virtue inviolable fidelity to the service of Jesus.

Serve him through your generosity and not through your feelings. Serve him at your own expense: then you will truly love him. I bless you as he loves you.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, PSS<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Abbreviation for Priest and Superior of the Society, or Priest of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

*Adveniat Regnum Tuum Eucharisticum*

*Paris, May 19, 1868*

Mademoiselle Edmee

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,

Your dear aunt<sup>54</sup> has shared your letters with me. I read them in the presence of our Lord and I thanked him for the graces he has given you.

I can see that he is your director of love and Providence.

Let yourself be led within by his divine Spirit, and externally by his fatherly Providence following your grace and total gift. Often repeat the *Introit* of the third Sunday of Lent.

Always remember these rules of direction:

1. When your soul gives itself to God as you have, the service of God becomes a set state, virginal love for our Lord becomes the heart's sovereign law. The glory of God, the purpose of all our actions, is legitimate and pleasing to God only according to the law of duty, or fidelity to one's interior spirit, which inspires us to do what is good and what is better.

2. Once our gift has been made, our state in life under vow, our rule of life determined, all external graces must adjust to this state, to this rule, as means [to it]. External works have value only as an exercise of this state; and if they are contrary or foreign to this state, they must be set aside. God cannot contradict himself. We do not ask a tree to give us fruit other than its own kind.

3. Once a person has determined a direction, a principle for their life, this direction only applies the laws and rules of their spiritual and personal vocation, it shouldn't be submitted to the decision of others. It relates to one's state. If God changes the state, this principle of direction ceases.

However, since we must never hold back the work of grace, and especially God's plan for us, we cannot be the slaves of a state which is not vowed, or of a given rule, because God is always the God of the heart.

In a new situation, we must begin by praying, by holding to what has been done, by testing the new spirit, judging it even by the interior proof of peace and divine strength, wait for obedience if possible, and finally only give in to a two-fold insight and a two-fold sign of holiness.

4. Finally, and I thank God for helping you understand the following rule:

In your condition, as I know you, let yourself be the last to judge God[ 's will] and the works and matters proposed, because in many ways your grace and attraction leave you free because you cannot and ought not give or promise anything other than what is free, and finally because, as a spouse of Jesus, Jesus must say the last word.

Therefore, you did well regarding the offer made by Msgr. Delaplace. Now listen to a little advice:

Nourish yourself on our Lord, on his spirit, his virtues, his evangelical truth, on the contemplation of his mysteries. Do not leave him. He said: "If you abide in me and my words abide in you, everything that you want will be done."

Place yourself not in the rays, but in the sun, and you will have all the rays in their essence.

In everything you do, discover the bread of life of Jesus, and then nothing will weaken you. May your faults, even your sins, be purified and rectified, like the rust on a sword thrown into a fire instantly disappears by its sudden impact.

Dwell more in the light of God's goodness than in his sweetness. Light is the knowledge of his perfection, of the details and motives for his love, his gifts and his manifestation to mankind.

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<sup>54</sup> Natalie Jordan.

*On the Breach*

Be happy when Jesus shows you the reason for his goodness, his love, his virtues, even, or rather, especially for the trials and sacrifices which he imposes on one he loves.

Dear daughter, study, study our Lord, and try to understand him, to discover his secrets, the motives of his heart, and you shall be thrilled.

Always go towards his heart: this source and happiness of life. Give your neighbor the flames of your devoted heart, but leave this heart in the heart of Jesus, and you will have nothing to lose, nothing to fear.

Then, when you write to me, let your thoughts flow and always do so with simplicity, for we love the morning light.

I bless you in Jesus, our common center and Master.

Eymard, SS

*May 20 - At the Community chapter, he related his interview with Father Favre at Chaintre on Apr. 22, 1856. Conference to the SSS Community.*

**2172**

**CO 2172**

**TO MME. LEPAGE**

(IV 24/26)

*Paris, May 20, 1868*

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

It has been so long since I have written to you! It seems to me that it has been even longer since I received any news about you!

I am finding the time long. Tell me how you both are.

I saw Mr. Bost with the heart of gold and his dear daughter, who had been awarded her wonderful diploma. They are going to see you and are happy about it, and I for them. Don't you have any plans to travel to Paris? If Rennes weren't so far, I would go see you with the spring flowers during the beautiful month of Mary.

I believe that you both enjoy good health, except for a few little thorns, which protect the flowers of Paradise.

In your last letter you were telling me that you no longer feel any consolation in your devotions, nor do I. Now is the time to serve God for God's sake, by the faithfulness and dedication that come from love. Dear daughter, if you don't have any consolations, you have what is worth more, the strength and peace of trust in God. Hold on to these two possessions at any price, for they rise above the waves of the sea and clouds of this life.

Never give up daily Communion - that would be like giving up your place at the family feast of God's children.

In this matter we shouldn't consider our unworthiness, nor our dryness, but rather our weakness, the loving invitation of our good Master and the company of our dear Mother.

So continue to go to the holy table, as long as you can still drag yourself in spite of your pain. That is the sign that you are expected. You will return from it like the paralytic of Siloam.

Always keep your heart uplifted and joyful, keep a light spirit toward your troubles, but ever singing of his [your?] love in this life and forever in the eternal Kingdom.

A thousand and one blessings from God and Miss Antonia's family, Antonia, the silent one.

I bless you as one.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

*On the Breach*

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

**2173**

**CO 2173**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**  
(I 19/20)

*Paris, May 24, 1868*

Very dear Father,

Yes, grant that holiday to your community: it will do them good.

I wish I could tell you the exact day when the money will be paid to the contractors. Again today I begged Mr. Rosemberg, the director at Rothschild's, to sell some<sup>55</sup> for us for a sufficient amount; he promised he would. In addition, I have another important person who is looking into it, the Count of Sussex. I assure you, very dear Father, that I will bring you all that I can, as soon as I succeed in getting it. Unfortunately, Mr. Blount, the banker for the Pontifical Loan, did not keep his word to us.

You will be happy to have a real royal feast for our Good Master. Here we are choking in our prison. Solomon saw the last stone placed on his famous temple and rejoiced over it. It will be the same for your zeal and dedication toward Angers, dear Father. You are a real Father for those dear children!

May God sustain you and give you the hundredfold of his grace.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**2174**

**CO 2174**

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)**  
(V 74/76)

*A.R.T.E.*<sup>56</sup>

*St. Maurice, May 25, 1868*

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to you from our Novitiate House where I came to rest a few days at the feet of our Lord.

I didn't answer you right away, since I would have told you: I approve your charity for 500 francs. You are and you have been pleasing to God to act in this manner, because this person deserved it.

Please don't put yourself in [financial] difficulty for Angers. I know that these poor Sisters have their crosses and especially this last one by Sr. Benoite which hurt me. To claim what has not come from one's own property, to keep objects of the community knowing well that they were not

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<sup>55</sup> Some bonds.

<sup>56</sup> Abbreviation for May your Eucharistic Kingdom Come.

*On the Breach*

hers, to appropriate gifts made to the community; and then to say that she is a rejected victim, when she is the one who did not want to return, alas! how much that has hurt me! Provided, at least, that God not be offended and that he may save their souls! that is what I am constantly asking of him.

I am suffering so much from palpitations again! - Let it pass, provided alas! that salvation may remain in their soul.

They do not write to me, nor do I to them. Should they do so, we wouldn't be able to come to an understanding.

So now I come to you, dear daughter.

Please, take care of your health, avoid any excitement or difficulties which are not presently necessary. Do this because to exceed your strength would be equivalent to exceeding the holy Will of God. Besides, you have a good reason, your state of health.

As you must be besieged with requests for help, money, etc., do whatever is necessary without any further permissions, whatever is appropriate to your social and family situation. For yourself and your dear daughter, do whatever is helpful at the moment. Become broad in applying this spirit of the rule.

Don't bind yourself for new works of piety. We must learn how to limit our zeal, to set boundaries even in what is good. Every good thing is fine, is beautiful and useful in itself, but it isn't good for everyone. The decision comes from grace, situation and virtue.

Mr. Colon's house is fine. I am familiar with it. That good woman will be well there in every way.

Then, when you can, hurry to come to Vichy. You really need it. If I can, I will come there to visit you, if you like.

Yes, try to rest in God, at the feet of our good Master, in silence, resignation, and adoration of his holy and ever gracious Will..

It isn't a matter of working, but of resting, of coming closer to our Lord, of breathing his air of grace, goodness and love. Calm and peaceful rest renew our exhausted strength so well!

I hope that our Lord and his holy Mother will restore Mother Marguerite's health.

I had proposed a pension of 550 francs to Sr. Benoite, rather than the 11,000 francs that she is asking. It seems to me that the pension is preferable, except for the possibility of buying it out.

May God be praised for everything and glorified through all sufferings.

Give us some news about yourself, when you can, dear daughter. It consoles me in our Lord.

Eymard

**2175**

**CO 2175**

**TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD**

(V 45/52)

*A.R.T.E.*

*Saint-Maurice, May 25, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I came to spend two days in our novitiate house. I am writing to you at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament, because fortunately my cell is in line with the rays of his throne.

So then, you are suffering so much? poor daughter! I could foresee this would happen after so many nights of insomnia, and so many vigils! But since God wanted you to be caring for that dear patient,<sup>57</sup> no doubt he wanted some of the consequences which are a bit difficult for poor human nature.

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<sup>57</sup> Her father who died.

*On the Breach*

So, dear daughter, it is a wise rule to take care of your neuralgia without worrying about the rest, because suffering determines the condition of your life. So, don't scold yourself for being useless. On the contrary, your life is very worthwhile in God's sight.

Unite yourself to God by offering this situation. The pious thoughts that come to you from time to time are dew from heaven. Perform only your necessary exercises of piety (and no more). Yes, try to calm down your exhausted nervous system. Take some codeine syrup. It helps me a lot when I have insomnia. All druggists have some.

You did well to follow the Third Order retreat a little. It is a grace of introduction to the Blessed Sacrament.

P. ... is a man of God. He helps souls a great deal. He seeks only God.

The gentle morning dew helps every little plant, no matter where it falls. It always comes from Heaven.

I wish I had some opportunity to travel in your direction to come to see you. My soul longs to see you, you have had so many trials!

I bless you, dear daughter, with the finest blessing of the Most Blessed Sacrament to which I give and consecrate you constantly as his own.

Eymard, S.S.S.

**2176**

**CO 2176**

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

*(II 392/395 VI 2)*

*St. M, May 27, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I've just received your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup>. I'm writing to answer it.

1. If the Blessed Virgin doesn't heal you, you must go to Vichy. Your health belongs to the family.

2. Sr. B. has withdrawn her niece, that is done. She understood her position in regard to those ladies.

You would do well to give Sr. Benoite's address to the father of the little one. She has the child. Prudently keep silent about the rest; it is up to him to do what he wants.

3. The vows at Nemours were always under the Episcopal authority of Angers, for the Bishop has forgotten that he had consented to the foundation. In any case, I never thought otherwise and I always considered the Sisters of Nemours as daughters of Angers.

Well, I am the one who is involved, not the professor at the Sorbonne, who has neither the mission nor any knowledge about it. I would really like to know him. No doubt he answered as we would answer a sick person who complains about an illness which is unknown to us.

Didn't the Sisters renew their vows into my hands at the last retreat?

Tell them that their vows always were of the Society and for the Society.

4. You do well to protect Fr. Champion. They are leaning on him now, because they feel condemned by me.

I wrote to him. He answered me that they would quote him to the contrary.

See how these women are stirring up and disturbing the world with their personal questions! Poor heads! God delivered you from them. It's one cross less!

Nothing new about the two trials; they are proceeding normally since there is no other way. However, the letters are still hidden; we do hold to getting them and we will hold to it.

5. Let Fr. Grolleau's zeal and devotedness work in your favor. I'll read Sr. Marie's notes. Be patient about the future house.

*On the Breach*

6. Strive to eliminate feelings of irritation against anyone. Strive even harder to forget them.

We must regain our serenity and freedom of spirit, to be simply and clearly present to everything.

Let your spirit feed on the glory of God in your diverse physical and spiritual states. God replaces us when he is using us for something else. We serve well, only where God has placed our work and our bread.

God replaces sacramental Communion by communion with his presence of grace and love. However, we must desire the first, because Jesus and the Church so will it.

I don't know when I'll go to Angers, perhaps soon. I am negotiating the sale of a few Roman bonds. I'm praying to God for that. See you soon then, dear daughter, if God so wills.

I bless you and order you to request your healing from our good Mother before the end of her beautiful month.

All yours in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. - Fr. Dauphin, the Superior of the Marists in Paris, introduced a fine young woman to me for you: 34 or 35 years old, a skilled seamstress, in good health. She seems to be very virtuous and a spiritual person.

I'm evaluating her. I saw her twice. It might be a hidden treasure. However, we must wait. I'm considering her humility, self-denial, and mortification in little things.

**2177**

**CO 2177**

**TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS**

(III 9/14)

*A.R.T.E.*

*St. Maurice, May 28, 1868*

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter. God enabled you to have a good trip, I had asked him for that. So you are now with your aunt; be with her like an angel of prayer and consolation. There is nothing more to do for personal self-denial except to raise one's eyes to heaven frequently and send up Calvary's incense. It always receives the first welcome.

God truly wanted that trip, it enables you to see things first hand.

I understand that you can only observe, and that your position is delicate, even painful. However, that is the law of prudence: remember that no one is as arrogant as a servant who becomes a necessity or who believes herself to be so.

How long will you remain on this Calvary? Remain there, dear daughter, as long as duty or genuine charity requires it at the time. If this situation should become prolonged, it would surely be better to return.

Stay united to God especially by means of your spiritual practices. Read my good little book, I hope that it will greatly help you. I will leave for Paris. I am feeling the same as when you saw me on Sunday, I continue to have heart palpitations. I think it is just nerves. Migraine headaches threaten and then go away. It is caused by the heat. - On Sunday, our candidates for ordination will begin their retreat, pray for them. I never cease doing so for you, dear daughter, and I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

*On the Breach*

Miss Theodorine Thomas  
1 rue des Gobelets  
Saulieu (Cote-d'or)

2178

CO 2178

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**

(V 50/52)

A.R.T.E.

*St. Maurice, May 25,<sup>58</sup> 1868*

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to you from St. Maurice, where I have come to spend a few days of peace and quiet.

Don't worry about my letter, it was forgotten: God willed it so. I was writing to you about crosses, you had your share!

Do you know what people do when they swim during a storm? They try to keep their head always above water and to close their eyes against the waves. Always keep your heart turned toward divine submission. Close your eyes in order not to see the horrors of the waves, and cry out to God: He will surely come! Then when you are suffering in every way, and when everything is a cause of suffering, thank God for purifying you, sanctifying you through human beings, so that you may make amends for yourself and for others.

However, the essential thing which should never weaken is to act through pure faith in mercy, in the goodness and power of God; to serve him nobly for Himself, for his Will and his glory by the sacrifice of one's comfort and happiness, the loveliness of his service, of his gentle consolations, of that healing assurance that he loves you and that his love is satisfied with you. - You have often been quite privileged but it is better to give than to receive.

See how kind our good Master is. He stays with you, in your home, at your side, in spite of the will to take it away. I admire how well you were able to defend it, and obtain the gift beyond all gifts. So keep it carefully and don't worry about future difficulties and limits. You have him, you possess him, forget the rest! You only need to enjoy this possession; he will know how to defend himself.

Our collection will still take place on June 11th. I will preach at 4:00 p.m. I didn't have the tickets printed. They told me that it would be useless. I will have them announce it in the "*Semaine Religieuse*" and in a few newspapers.

I don't know when I will go to Angers; perhaps soon. It depends on a sum of money which I must withdraw and take for the church we are building.

I leave you with our Lord your only possession and say, Madame, that I am,

Your respectful and devoted servant,  
Eymard, S.

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<sup>58</sup> Published as May 25 - Father Troussier indicates May 29.

**TO MISS ADELE MARTEL**

(V 2/2)

*St. Maurice, May 29, 1868*

To Miss Adele

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Do not get discouraged about writing to me, even though I do not answer right away. At least I answer immediately in God's presence. I pray especially according to your state [of soul] and the needs which your letter expresses. Then, always write your real thoughts to me: at least it is natural and simple. Besides, you couldn't do otherwise.

I may not tell you anything that you don't know already, dear daughter; but you will know it better, since both of us will know it.

It is good to render an account of our soul from time to time. The devil cannot hide in the folds, nature doesn't have a chance to get drowsy, and grace benefits because it is perceived more clearly.

Live from day to day, dear daughter, and you will accomplish your duties much better, accomplish the sacrifices of the journey better by telling yourself: "It will be over tonight."

Besides, there is a great law of holiness which is ever true, ever good and ever powerful in works: the law of the Holy will of God upon us. We find our special grace of sanctification in this present and personal divine will, and this special grace is attached to every hour, every action. When the time for action has passed, this grace has also passed.

Now listen carefully to my advice, dear daughter: 1. You are a religious of the love of Jesus. Carmel has given way to this personal vocation: act according to the meaning of that beautiful name!

2. A master feeds his servant: so receive Communion every day. Imagine how hard your work would be if you did not eat the bread of life! Eat in order to be able to work.

As you are the traveling spouse of Jesus, protect your fidelity to his honor and love. Let him console and strengthen you. Give him the glory of everything.

Always be gracious in the presence of duty; pleasant towards your parents and your friends; pleased with everything and everyone, since God wills it so.

But give priority to prayer: it is the morning provision of manna for the day, your orders for the whole day; and doing so, you will spend a good day. And then, put me in the budget of your prayers; I need them so!

I bless you very eucharistically in our Lord, dear daughter,

Eymard, Superior

<i>May 31 Public Conference: Pentecost, glorious birth of the Church.</i>
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**2180**

**CO 2180**

**TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS**  
(III 10/14)

*Paris, June 2, 1868*

Dear daughter,

I received your letter this morning. Thank you because you understand our sadness and our prayers.

You will have to drink the chalice to the dregs, since God is the one who is offering it to you; but drink it as a true disciple of the cross, because that particular one will never return.

I do understand your disappointment. I expected your generosity. Feed the fire of grace with prayer and spiritual reading, in order to find consolation in God.

This morning I went for your La Salette water. I am sending it to you immediately. You will receive it by the same mail. I found two letters under your door; I am sending them to you.

Have courage dear daughter, it is time to work for God and for him alone. Keep working for his glory.

Be assured that we don't forget you in our weak prayers.

In Jesus,

Dear daughter,  
All yours,  
Eymard

**2181**

**CO 2181**

**TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS**  
(III 10/11)

*Paris, June 2, 1868*

Very dear Father,

Impossible for me to go to Saint-Maurice. Replace me. Our Lord had you begin the retreat. He is the one who will help you to continue and finish it.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, S.

**2182**

**CO 2182**

**TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON**  
(III 11/11)

*Holy Trinity, June 7, 1868*

Dear daughter in Our Lord Jesus Christ,

I am writing you a few words to carry out my promise and calm your worries. I've been feeling well for the past two or three days. I've returned to my schedule since Thursday.

Our ordination was very edifying. It took place in Versailles. We have one in minor orders, one deacon, and one priest.

This morning Brother Frederic said his first Mass at 8:00 a.m. I assisted him. He said it well and with piety. Good Mr. T[enaillon] attended it, he is well. I wanted to keep him for dinner; he already had another commitment. Your daughter is looking forward to seeing you. I believe she will eventually overcome that temptation. It is my hope, because her salvation will find grace and strength therein.

And you dear daughter, what are you doing? Everything God wills and as he wills. No doubt you are yearning for the Blessed Sacrament which also keenly desires you. But duty! your major duty called you there!

May God bless you and bring you back in better health.

I bless you abundantly in our Lord.

Eymard

**2183**

**CO 2183**

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

*Feast of the Holy Trinity*<sup>59</sup>

Do not set aside holy Communion because of worries over the past - under pain of penance.

You must know that:

1. Loathing for one's duties is never a sin.
2. The Will of God at each moment must be the sovereign rule of life, as shown by necessity or what our state in life indicates toward our neighbor.
3. When God has replaced a devotional exercise with a duty [that springs from] charity, for example, visitors to welcome, the exercise of piety has been replaced by something better.
4. A doubtful sin - is not a sin.
5. A doubtful duty - is not a duty.
6. A state of agitation - is a temptation. Let it pass and wait until the cloud passes. Or, if you must do something, think: if I didn't feel this turmoil, what would I do? Well then, do it.

Let yourself be led by the grace of the moment - go to God in freedom - recollect yourself in his love.

May Jesus bless you!

Eymard

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<sup>59</sup> Probably 1868.

**2184**

**CO 2184**

**TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS**  
(III 11/14)

*Paris, June 8, 1868*

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

Your letters console us over your absence, and would make us double our prayers were we not already devoted to you. So, Brother Frederic is now a priest. He is writing you a few words. Yesterday, he said his first Mass with piety and edification. In the evening I preached about the Priesthood: how God prepares and forms priests, and what priests must do for his glory. Now Brother Marius is a deacon and Brother Vincent from Brussels is in minor orders.

The good Master is increasing his little family imperceptibly. It will be blessed if it may always please him.

We took the material for the canopy from your apartment. Fr. Frederic will have it sewn by a relative who came from Marseilles for his ordination.

You are still on the cross, dear daughter, do stay close to Jesus crucified. You are proving your love, and your virtue will come through wounds and blood. Yes, when your natural feelings could explode, put the hand of grace over them and hold them firm. Better to stifle them than to let them take the upper hand. Oh yes, it costs an agony and a death to maintain a virtuous silence.

Now I will leave you. I am going to St. Maurice for a day, to give them the monthly retreat. - May God bless and console you, dear daughter!

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

*June 8 or 9 - Monthly retreat at St. Maurice.*

*June 11 - Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Preached a sermon at Notre Dame des Victoires to raise funds for the First Communion of Adult Workers. He also preached for the Octave of the Feast.*

**2185**

**CO 2185**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 393/395 VI 2)

*Paris, June 12, 1868*

Dear daughter,<sup>60</sup>

I received your two letters. Thank you. Today I wrote to Fr. Grolleau about the advance I had requested from you when I was at St. Maurice when I had had time only to send a dispatch. I explained it to him.

I knew how Providence had helped you. I had written about your difficulty on that matter.<sup>61</sup>

If there is no answer from Lantigni, they want the 11,000 francs. Those women no longer write

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<sup>60</sup> Taken from a copy handwritten by Mother Marguerite, not the original.

<sup>61</sup> Perhaps the help received from Mme. Gourd.

*On the Breach*

to me, I can't impose myself. I'm sending you your list with a few notes.

Be generous for the small things.

Brother Charles is the one who put the case which I brought from Angers on the train. Have a Sister write them a letter and tell them to claim it at the Belleville Station.

I gave Sr. Philomene Sr. Benoite's watch.

I pity those poor women so! They don't see, they only see from a natural point of view. Oh goodness! Yes, we have our faults, but it is God's Work we should consider, his service.

They thought we would found a convent where they would be in charge. The good Lord preserved us from that mistake and misfortune.

I believe they have a certain degree of faith which excuses them and I forgive them even more. I would like to see them in their proper grace at the service of the Master.

Obey your doctor and your Superior, especially as regards Vichy, if they hold to it. Your health does not belong to you. We must take care of the mount for the journey and turn the wheel of obedience.

Illnesses are retreats of grace for Superiors; it is their time for rest in God. God is then the Superior of the house, and things only function better for it.

I bless you, dear daughter. As soon as our bonds are sold, I'll go to Angers. That's all I'm waiting for.

All yours in our Lord.

**2186**

**CO 2186**

**TO FR. GROLLEAU**  
(VI/2)

*Paris, June 12, 1868*

Dear Father Superior,

I wanted to write to you on Wednesday, but the preparations for Corpus Christi kept me so busy that I did not have a single moment.

I found myself caught up in a request from Fr. Audibert - urgent. He was not in Paris, and he needed 7,000 francs. I had sent in some shares to sell on the Stock Exchange, but since I was not in Paris, and the matter required a waiting period of several days, and knowing from the donor to whom I had written about the demands of Sister Benoite, that she had sent the 11,000 francs, I sent a telegram to Brittany to tell Fr. Audibert to ask Mother Marguerite for an advance of the 7,000 francs, as they were required by midday. Please forgive me, dear Father Superior, for not approaching you directly at once, but I was afraid of being too late. I shall bring them in a few days.

I had a visit from Sr. Philomene's uncle, who came to ask me many questions to which I had already given an answer. (It was Mr. Rattier). So as not to upset things, I cut it short and said that the whole thing could perhaps be worked out later. This fine gentleman is a very good Christian, but he is distressed to see his niece leave. He will certainly be writing to you. I wanted to let you know that I said nothing definite. The Ladies of Lantignie<sup>62</sup> no longer write to me; they have understood my position very well. I am sorry for them, I pray for them. They are confused about their situation in relation to the Mother-House in Angers; - after all, they were simple religious, under the laws and order of obedience. The house is in peace since their departure.

I hope, dear Fr. Grolleau, that I can come to Angers soon. As soon as I have sold our shares, - and that will be within 10 to 15 days I believe - for I have to stay here for the Octave of Corpus Christi.

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<sup>62</sup> Sisters Benoite and Philomene.

*On the Breach*

I am writing to Fr. Champion about the pictures and the Christ; I am confident that he will immediately order the Ladies to give back what does not belong to them.

Fr. Champion could not give them away without my permission, and I could not give away something which was not given to us. That is the simple truth we must teach the Ladies.

Believe, dear Father Superior, the affection and devotion of your servant,

Eymard, Sup.

<i>June 13 Public conference: Worship and love.</i>
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**2187**

**CO 2188**

**TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE**  
(V 51/52)

*A.R.T.E.*

*Paris, June 13, 1868*

Madame in our Lord,

Here is the result of the collection:

Sermon	450 fr	
Lady who did the collection brought		<u>1100</u> fr
total	1550 fr	

So now we are rich to clothe our little children. The Pastor at Madeleine promised me a sermon in his church next year.

I hope to go to Angers toward the end of June, God willing. I will bring some money for the church we are building. I am going to sell a few bonds. I am very happy to give our Lord the money that belongs to him, since he is the only Master and we are only his poor servants.

As for you, Madame, keep this good Master with you; do not let him leave you at any price. - There is a Tabernacle at the prison, in the hospitals, in parishes of unbelievers, and you are our Lord's Bethany.

I approve what you tell me about concentration and indifference, as a result of suffering and virtue which is constantly sacrificing itself.

If you could relax by looking at flowers, your beautiful countryside, the visit of some Angel from Heaven, you would do well. I wish that for you. What misfortune ... (a line erased).

**TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS**

(III 12/14)

A.R.T.E.

Paris, June 13, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for today's letter. I was expecting to have news about someone's death, this thought is pursuing me today. I am praying for your aunt: in fact, it is unexplainable. God is allowing her to make expiation; she is receiving many graces. It is a time of mercy for her, greater, perhaps, than we can imagine.

You are also suffering very much, dear daughter. God wants it for his glory and your greater good. You have never tried to lessen a sorrow or a cross that comes from God, for fear of being unfaithful. Although suffering may be great, naturally speaking grace is victorious. God is victorious. Let the fulfillment of God's will be your compass. Let your heart bear the brunt of your service. Don't worry about your thoughts, nor your helplessness. Fire lives by its heat, not by its light.

Often go to God as he is, by his means, his deeds, and you will be in the right ambiance.

We had a lovely feast for Corpus Christi: we sang a beautiful Mass. Fr. Crepon preached at Vespers, and I at Notre Dame des Victoires for the Work of First Communions.

Collection	450 fr.
From my collector, Mme. Marechal	<u>1.100--</u>
Total:	1.550 fr.

You can see how we must be grateful to God. In the evening at 7:00, we had the procession. Tomorrow we will have a second one. I don't say: if only you were here! we truly miss you! come home! We must desire that you be where God wants you, where the law of duty lies.

How blinded the Good Master let us all be at the time of your Aunt's crisis! He wanted you to be near her. Take care of yourself; if you need anything, write to us.

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

All yours,  
Eymard

P.S. I am keeping the paid invoice for 14 fr. 10. Don't worry about your aunt's vow, her condition dispenses her from everything.

I just received a letter from Nanette; she tells me that my sister caught pneumonia on Monday, however, she is no worse. She writes as follows: - Fr. Stafford asked me to tell you that the canopy is finished.

Miss Theodorine Thomas  
1, rue des Gobelets  
Saulieu (Cote-d'or)

2189

CO 2189

**TO MILES MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(VI 9/10 III 145)

Paris, June 13, 1868

Very dear sister,

I was sorry to hear that you aren't well and that you had the chills on Monday. May God comfort and cure you! You are so courageous. When you notice that you are losing strength, look after yourself, take some thick soup and eat some meat - the doctor's decision is sufficient.

Then make a novena straightway to the Supreme Doctor, at Notre Dame de la Salette; and if I can come to see you, we shall go and thank the good Mother together on the Holy Mountain. Write to me, dear Nanette; otherwise, I shall be anxious. Please. The good Lord likes to visit his own with a few little crosses. They are the flowers of Calvary.

Please, dear Nanette, be good enough to ask the brother of our Brother Aime if he received a parcel containing some tobacco for the Pastor, and if he gave it to him.

Since he hasn't heard anything from the Pastor, I am afraid he is still waiting for it and it may have been lost.

Miss Thomas has been with her sick aunt for 3 weeks, and Mme. Tenailon has lost her brother. I remembered you to them.

Many blessings, dear sisters. Take care of yourselves, and if you need anything, write to me.

Your loving brother,  
Eymard

P.S. Tell the Misses Cros that Mr. Baron, their nephew, is well. I expect him tomorrow.

2190

CO 2190

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

Paris, June 14, 1868

Dear Father,

I am very happy that you visited good Fr. de Cuers. He must have been touched by this mark of fraternal affection. It pleases me very much that you come to his help, for he deserves it.

I can see that Divine Providence continues to watch over us: some leave, others come to replace them at the service of the Good Master. It will always be so: *Multi vocati, pauci electi. Beatus qui non fuerit scandalizatus in me*,<sup>63</sup> in Jesus who is so poor and so neglected.

There are so few vocations who come only for our Lord!

Our novitiate has a dozen novices, among whom are five scholastics.

So Brother Frederic has become a priest, Brother Marius a Deacon, and Brother Vincent from Malines is in Minor Orders. The Society is growing slowly, but it is growing toward our Lord.

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<sup>63</sup> "Many are called, few are chosen. Blessed is the one who is not scandalized in me."

*On the Breach*

What a joy for me to think that, on the feast of Corpus Christi and during this royal octave, our Lord will be truly honored and glorified in the houses of the Society. Please God that we may count Eucharistic thrones by the hundreds! We do what we can here in our little chapel; we preach every day.

As for the note from the Ladies of Compassion, if those Ladies agree to make a new one, I will agree to cancel the first: they cannot be offended by that. Mr. Martigny confused the issue. If they should annul the first note, we would have to make one for Mr. Guerin for the amount that is due to him. Send me the model, and I will sign it here.

What has happened to the rent that Fr. Billon was supposed to receive? Could it be only at the next feast of St. John?

The Bishop from Constantine came to see me. He is a very apostolic and very simple Bishop. I venerate him, but I will not grant his request for a Lenten preacher at Constantine.

Be happy and glory in the royal feast of our God and King, dear Father.

All yours in his love,  
Eymard, S.S.

**2191**

**CO 2191**

**TO MISS ADELE JULHIEN**  
(VII 2/2)

*Paris, June 14, 1868*

Mademoiselle, very dear in our Lord,

Finally, you decided to write to me! Thank you, because your letter pleased me. I do thank our Lord for the tonsure received by your dear, devout nephew!<sup>64</sup> This proves that he is truly in his vocation and that he is esteemed by his Superiors. May God bless him and lead him to the Holy Altar soon, for the glory of God, the good of souls and your consolation.

I would like to hear that you are in good health. That requires that you should avoid any upsetting reactions, any anguish about others, be a little stronger against external winds and storms.

What I desire most is that you would place your trust in God for the future. Sleep quietly in the hands of divine Providence! Be joyfully devout in the service of our Good Master, [you are] the virgin of his heart and the happy servant of his love. Be merciless and strict about the past, forbidding yourself a broad view, firm conclusion or even just anger. Baptism erases everything; the second baptism increases its merit.

You must do so at any cost, without any pretext. You know very well how dear your soul has always been to me, that I asked God for your healing in order [that you might] serve him better and for a long time.

So then, let your love for our Lord be youthful, rediscover the joy of the Springtime of life. - You are white, why darken this beautiful flower? You are the beloved of our Lord; discontinue your crying and rejoice in his divine goodness.

May God keep you and always be all in all for you. My very fond regards to your dear Anais whom it pleases me to bless with you.

Eymard

*June 15 Public Conference: Worship and trust.*

*June 15 Public Conference: Corpus Christi: Public Worship.*

<sup>64</sup> First step to priesthood.

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

A.R.T.

*Paris, June 15, 1868*

Mademoiselle Antonia

Very dear sister in our Lord,

I myself certainly deserve the accusation I made to you several weeks ago. However, I assure you that it isn't forgetfulness or indifference. I don't know how time flies [so fast] for me. How could I forget what has been given by God and rooted deeper by time?

I'm not waiting to hear your accusations face to face. I prefer to circumvent them.

Trust me. Have devotion to holy absolution. Find a few rays of light and warmth if there are any on your sacramental journey: some consolation from God if he sends you any. But now you know the way to Heaven; you know our Lord is<sup>65</sup> with him and pleases him. Your spiritual schedule has been outlined, your state of life is settled.

Well, just go forward and, if there should be some unexplored paths, some impenetrable darkness, some people who misunderstand you or leave you confused, find out why from God and from me.

You know that I am slow [to respond] when things are going well. I will be prompt when you are suffering and in need.

I am very happy that you will take that little trip with your fine friend. Body and soul will both benefit [from it]. I am waiting for you.

In this same mail I am writing to your friend from Nancy.

With all my soul I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard, SS

**TO MME. LEPAGE**  
(IV 25/26)

*Paris, June 15, 1868*

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I am expecting you either the 25<sup>th</sup>, the 26<sup>th</sup> or the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, as you let me hope. I would be so happy to see you again! It has been so long since my trip to Rennes!

You know that Allevard is like a home to me. I know many people there. I have a good friend there, a doctor, who is as devout as he is knowledgeable - Mr. Laure. You would only need to use my name, I raised his son<sup>66</sup> and I am a friend of his whole family.

You are so close to La Salette at Grenoble! Wouldn't you go? I am wondering whether I might have some reason to go that way. I would accompany you and introduce you to my dear sister at La Mure.

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<sup>65</sup> Some words seem to be missing in the French copy.

<sup>66</sup> Probably a student at the boarding school of La Seyne. Ed.

*On the Breach*

We are preparing our royal feast<sup>67</sup> as beautifully as we can, but our chapel is so small! You give me the greatest pleasure when you tell me about your state of consolation.

Oh! Yes, hang on to trust and holy surrender; it is an unbreakable chain. It's the sun without eclipse, the true life of the heart.

I bless you, in close union with our Lord, dear daughter.

Eymard

**2194**

**CO 2194**

**TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS**

(I 20/20)

*Paris, June 18, 1868*

I am sending your letter to Mr. Ratons. I read it to our Fathers; they all praised its moderation and logic. I don't know whether he will answer, but if he doesn't wake up and consult his conscience, I pity him. They say that he really ought to understand religious life, that he had been a brother.

Dear Father, I hope to come to see you in a week or two to bring you the borrowed money that I already have in hand, and to bring you a little more. The First Communion of our young workers will be June 28. I can come only after that. I do so want to see you enjoy your great undertakings for the greater glory of our Lord! Because of the great heat, spare yourself a little.

The Ladies from Lantigni have just sent Fr. Champion the Christ and the painting from the Lieutaud Ladies. *A fructibus eorum...*<sup>68</sup>

We will see you soon, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, p.

To Rev. Fr. Audibert,  
Superior

**2195**

**CO 2195**

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

(II 394/395 VI 2)

*Paris, June 18, 1868*

Dear daughter,

The best way to Vichy is to take the evening express in Angers, arrive in Paris in the morning, leave again at 11:20 a.m. to reach Vichy at 7:51 p.m.

That would give you a few hours of rest in Paris, and I would have the joy of seeing you. If you write to let me know the day and time of your arrival, I would have you rest in a room which has been made available to me nearby.

---

<sup>67</sup> The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

<sup>68</sup> By their fruits you shall know them.

*On the Breach*

Here is another plan:

Leave Angers at 9:00 a.m: you would arrive in Paris at 5:00 p.m., rest a little, and leave the same evening at 8:20. You would arrive at Vichy at 4:10 a.m. and so avoid the heat.

Fr. Champion wrote to tell me that he received the Christ and the painting of the Lieutaud ladies. I will bring them when I go to Brussels.

I leave you. My sciatica is making me ill. I don't know when I can go to Angers.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. - They wrote from La Mure to tell me that my sister has been sick with pneumonia, but there is some improvement. Pray for her.

*June 19 Public Conference: Corpus Christi. Sunday in the Octave.*

**2196**

**CO 2196**

**TO MME. X<sup>69</sup>**  
(VII 1/1)

*Paris, June 19, 1868*

Very dear Madame in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Thank you for giving me news about yourself. You want to have some from me: I am better and I am back to the service of adoration. The pain is almost gone.

So, dear Madame, you have been very ill. Interior graces kept you all the closer to God as external pain increased.

May our Lord heal you. Oh, you do well to go to God just as he is, good and loving. It is the best and most powerful means of always serving him with joy. May God always give you this joy, [joy] of the heart which lessens so many difficulties and charms away so much pain. Joy! The happiness that comes from serving such a good God! the consolation of being loved by him.

You have devotion for absolution: you do well. It means loving purity of soul, as people in the world love cleanliness and external luxury.

We are praying for you every day, dear Madame, repay us in your devout charity and please believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,  
Eymard

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<sup>69</sup> Anonymous.

**2197**

**CO 2197**

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

*Paris, June 20, 1868*

Very dear Father,

Don't expect me Monday. I came back here. On Tuesday, Mme. Marechal will arrive at St. Cheron at 11:30. Please send the coach for her.

I would really like to have an opportunity to send you some money. If I don't have any, then it will be on Tuesday.

That is surely a basic principle: without mortification, no virtue; without a spirit of sacrifice, no progress is possible.... Spiritual life is reached only through dying.

You have been inspired, dear Father; maintain that inspiration.

Oh, how fortunate you are! how much I envy your grace to be far away from the world!

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, p.

**2198**

**CO 2198**

**TO MME. ANDRE MARECHAL**  
(VII 1/1)

*Paris, June 22, 1868*

Dear Madame,

First of all, I want to ask you to forgive my delay, it was involuntary. We are constantly praying for the blessed fruit and son of grace which God has given you.

Tonight we are beginning a Novena to the Blessed Sacrament for your prompt and safe delivery.

As soon as this greatly desired child is born, consecrate it immediately to the Blessed Virgin. - She will watch over it for you. - Have courage and confidence, dear Lady. Remember the words of Jesus, that the joy of being a mother makes one forget the pains which preceded that happy day.

Please receive and offer to your husband my feelings of fidelity and dedication in our Lord Jesus Christ. Madame, from your humble servant,

Eymard

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)**  
(V 75/76)

*A.R.T.E.*

*Paris, June 26, 1868*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing a quick hello through Mother.<sup>70</sup> She is going to Vichy. No doubt our Lord could have healed her in Angers, but he has his plans of grace.

Sometimes we have a purpose in mind, but our Lord has another which is greater.

If you could bring Mother to the Thorins to see and breathe in the good Lord's pure air, you would do a fine thing.

If I can have four free days, I will come and pay you all a little visit.

I really bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

*June 18 - First Communion of 40 Adult Workers.*

*June 30 - To Angers to place the cornerstone of the new church.*

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<sup>70</sup> Mother Marguerite Guillot.