

CHAPTER III

Second Journey to Rome March 12 - June 1863

Audience with Pius IX

Approval of the Congregation by the Holy See

Personal Humiliations

First Retreat of Rome (Passionist Monastery)

Second Journey to Rome

Mar. 9 - Embarkation at Marseilles for Rome with Father de Cuers and Father de Leudeville in order to solicit the approval of the Constitutions.

Mar. 12 - Arrival in Rome.

1230

CO 1230

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS) & SERVANTS
(II 215/395 VI 2)

Rome, March, 1863¹

Dear daughters,

Don't worry about me, our good Master is watching over me.

My seasickness is over, we are in Rome now; today I will see the Holy Father with my two companions. I hope to see him again, as this visit cannot settle anything yet, unless the Good Lord does as he did the first time.

I am praying for you all, and I would like to bring you every possible blessing from Rome. I mention your name at every sanctuary, and to every Saint.

Goodbye dear daughters. I bless you with all my heart.

Eymard

...[5 lines erased].

My address: St. Bridget's, Piazza Farnese, Rome, via Marseilles.

Mar. 18 - Audience with Pius IX by Fr. Eymard together with Father de Cuers and Father de Leudeville.

1231

CO 1231

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 216/395 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Rome, March 28, 1863

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

I am sending you a few words with tomorrow's mail.

Everyone's health is good, our requests have been taken to the Congregation, I was assured of that this morning. However, Holy Week and the Easter Week holidays are coming: two weeks when no one works in the offices.

We will take advantage of it to pray a little more to our Lord. I am not forgetting you, nor our dear Work; but it's impossible to approach the Holy Father at this time.²

¹ Probably March 18, based on the other correspondence. Troussier.

² Perhaps, for special favors.

Second Journey to Rome

There are so many people in Rome that the holy Father gave a public audience to three hundred persons yesterday.

We must continue to pray very much, for that is the only means by which we will obtain anything; in this matter, men in the highest places cannot help us at all. The work I asked of you may perhaps be useless; however, if you can do it, have it sent to me well-sealed through the Nunciature. Fr. Carri will take it to Bishop Meillat or to his secretary, Fr. Lucciardi, who will get it to me GRATIS. I performed the same service for them. I miss our little Cenacle, I need to see the Blessed Sacrament: all the Saints I came across, all the beautiful churches I see, all the magnificent celebrations, don't do me as much good as an hour of adoration. Oh! Praised be the Most Blessed Sacrament and the most beautiful, most blessed of vocations!

Sister Benoite, I wished you a happy feast day in the beautiful church of St. Paul's, where the Benedictines are. Pray very much for our Work, for those who must handle the matter here, in order that it may not drag on too long.

Dear daughter, please tell all your Sisters that I don't forget them, that I present you every day to our Lord upon the altar of some martyr.

Goodbye dear daughter, take better care of yourself, don't worry about me.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1232

CO 1232

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 125/145 VI 10)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Rome, March 28, 1863, At St. Bridget's

Very dear Sisters,

I have been here in Rome for nearly three weeks now. I had the joy of seeing the Holy Father on March 18th. He was very kind toward our Society, he loves the Blessed Sacrament so much! He is very well, and Rome is very quiet, in spite of what evil people say.

Our business may keep us longer in Rome. We would even be lucky if we could finish in this amount of time because there is so much happening in Rome!...

I won't forget to bring you something from this holy city.

My health is good. I was a bit ill on the sea like everyone else, because the sea was rough; but once on land it passed.

We are visiting the holy places consecrated and sanctified by millions of martyrs. It is really touching to still see the places of their martyrdom, struggles and burial. Rome continues to be a Catholic reliquary of martyrs.

The Blessed Virgin is really honored here. Her image is in every home, one or several lamps burn before her venerable image day and night. You see the image of the Blessed Virgin on every street corner, everywhere, and in the evening they are all illuminated. Rome is the city of Mary and the saints.

Please pray hard to God for me and for our dear Work. I hope to write to you once more.

May Jesus bless you. In him, dear sisters,

All yours,
Eymard

Second Journey to Rome

P.S. I don't think anything is held against Mr. Jouardet in Paris; his marks are good. When I return I will see Mr. Leydeker. It would be well to inquire in Grenoble; I didn't have time to stop. Tell them that I will not leave a stone unturned.

1233

CO 1233

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 47/104)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Rome, March 28, 1863, at St. Bridget's, Madame de Grandville

Good and dear sister in our Lord,

It has been such a long time, but I was so overwhelmed with visits and business before leaving that I could not. I think that I even forgot to thank your dear sister.

I brought the retreat you mentioned here. So you can be sure to get it, since I have it. I wanted to send it to you from Marseilles, but once I arrived there I didn't even have time to turn around, and it was already time to leave.

What can I tell you about Rome! Everything and nothing. - Everything, because the Pope is here, and the secular and Christian world gravitate around him: the Christian world lives in his light; the profane world to persecute him. - Nothing. Remove the Pope from Rome, and Rome is only a tomb of saints and persecutors, of people whose lives depend on having the Pope at the Vatican.

Poor Roman people! If at least they understood their joy and glory! But the rich and middle class people here are like everywhere else; the common people are simple and pray. I believe that the French army, especially the officers, are lowering the morals and faith of certain classes.

A good hour of recollection before the Blessed Sacrament does more good than all the beautiful marble churches to be visited, all the tombs to be venerated - although everything here deserves respect, I still miss my Exposition, the sight of the Blessed Sacrament. I may have to stay here another month; it is so long! Give me news about yourself: it is quite simple, with one franc for the postage. I don't need to tell you that I am praying very much for you.

The business matter of the Bishop of Angers has been settled. Here they felt very badly about his problem.

Goodbye dear lady and sister in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

1234

CO 1234

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 7/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rome, March 28, 1863

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter, it was very consoling. Thank you for your prayers and sufferings. Everyday and at every sanctuary I repay you as best I can. I was worried about your operation; it

was successful. May God be blessed and thanked!

The Holy Father is fine. He is so hard-working, it could kill 10 people but God is watching over him. I had the joy of seeing him on March 18th. He was as kind as usual. As there were three of us together, I couldn't say anything personal, I even refused to see him alone at this time, although it was offered to me, for fear of hurting my companions.

The Holy Father has forwarded our approbation to the Congregation of Regulars. That was all I wanted to ask His Holiness.

A moment ago, I was assured that everything had been received. Now our request is delayed until after Quasimodo Sunday,³ because of Holy Week and the Easter holidays.

All I do is pray to the Saints and the Blessed Virgin, pray the Stations of the Cross every day for the souls in Purgatory, so that God may act alone and wonderfully for the glory of his divine Son, our Lord and King.

Rome is wonderfully peaceful. It is as if there had never been any enemies nor Piedmontese.

You would like some news about my poor person. Physically, I am fine; my soul suffers to be without seeing the Blessed Sacrament. And so, everyday I run to find it somewhere.

I understand better than ever that an hour of recollection, of union, and of love at the feet of our Lord does the soul more good than all the pilgrimages in the world.

It's true that faith finds its edification there; piety a source of edification; but the interior spirit often suffers.

Be humble, simple and tender at the feet of our Lord; leave black clouds at the door. Ignore the poverty and weaknesses of your spirit. Give your heart, offer your heart: that's everything.

God loves you, Jesus is the spouse of your soul, the law of your life. Be happy!

I saw Fr. de Charnac. We agreed that you should not ask permission for the Reserved Sacrament.⁴ Keep the one you have from your Bishop, they said. So, be at peace about that. I will buy you the pretty crosses.

I bless you. Write to me during Holy Week.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I was ill during the sea voyage; they say, very ill; but now everything has passed. So Heaven shall be like that: sufferings will only be remembered in thanksgiving.

1235

CO 1235

TO THE SACRED CONGREGATION OF BISHOPS AND REGULAR CLERGY

(VI 1/1)

Present State of the Society

March 31, 1863

1. Personnel The Society consists at present of 28 members, 9 of whom are priests; the others are either in Holy Orders or aspire to them. The Society has no lay brothers. It has several aspirant-priests and students.

2. Houses The Society has 3 Houses: one in Paris, which is the Motherhouse; another in Marseilles and a third in Angers. The activity of these three houses is adoration and pastoral ministry.

³ Sunday after Easter.

⁴ from Rome.

3. Properties We hold the Title Deed to the Paris House, estimated at 300 thousand; the Marseilles House estimated at 60,000. We are in the process of acquiring the property of Angers - which could not be done at the beginning of its foundation, as the building site is a Hospice property available only in one year's time. Meanwhile, His Excellency the Bishop has given us the use of the Church of St. Teresa.

4. Income The Society has a fixed income and does not live on alms. It has 15,000 annual income, apart from Mass stipends and donations for worship.

5. Encouragement In 1855 the Society received its first encouragement from His Holiness - witness the 1859 Letter. What it is asking, humbly but confidently, is a Constitutive Decree making it the obedient and devoted daughter of the Holy Roman Church, the apostle of the liturgy, and above all, apostle of faith and love for the adorable Sacrament of the altar.

1236

CO 1236

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 36/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum!

Rome, April 6, 1863

Miss Stephanie

Dear daughter in our Lord, I have just received your letter and I am hurrying to tell you how much it pleased me, first the news about your family and then about yourself. I was very happy to learn about your dear father's good deed for the statue of the Blessed Virgin; that will surely all be repaid! I was quite afraid that your vigils and fatigue might end up by making you sick; I can see that your nervous system has been worn down.

So, I beg you, take advantage of the permissions and counsels that are given you to eat meat, you need it; don't worry about the rest. It is better to suppose that others have the charity they ought to have.

When you see yourself becoming sensitive, easily irritable, touchy, you must change your spiritual diet right away, have some distraction - a brief absence, if possible - tell God and your mother about it because it is a feverish illness that must be intercepted.

Go to the Good Lord, directly and honestly, dear daughter, and avoid all this soul-searching which heals nothing but springs from a heart which desires not to have offended God. That's fine, but we must not look at ourselves too closely.

God loves you! Be full of trust and love! I bless you from the eternal City.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1237

CO 1237

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 48/76)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rome, April 7, 1863

Madame,

I am writing, dear daughter in our Lord, to send you a brief Easter greeting, the greeting of the Angel to the holy women, of Jesus to his disciples: Peace be with you!

You really had your heartaches and you still do. May Jesus sanctify them and sustain you!

I pray for you at all the sanctuaries I am happy to visit.

My health is adequate. The business matter which brought me to Rome is in process, but I still don't know when I will be able to leave.

I'm asking our Lord to let me be in Paris at the end of this month. If the Pope himself would study the question, it would be over quickly, but it will be the Congregation of Regulars. So then, it will take longer. Their holidays will also last until next Monday. May God be glorified by everything!

The Holy Father is fine. There were many foreigners - more than usual - in Rome. The Holy Father is acclaimed everywhere. He is so kind! Rome is the capital of Christianity. We feel at home here.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I bless you and ask you to pray for this dear Society.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Apr. 8 - Second private audience with Pius IX. Easter Wednesday, new favor for the Aggregation.

1238

CO 1238

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER
(I 9/54)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Rome, April 11, 1863

Dear Father,

Thank you for your kind letter and the consoling news you give me about Angers: God is blessing you; and how could it be otherwise!

You are working through Jesus, with Jesus, and for Jesus, the Host of Love.

Here is some news about us here:

We had our first audience March 18th, in which His Holiness granted our request for a Constitutive Decree and submitted it to the study of the Sacred Congregation. We were quite fortunate to introduce our request before the Easter vacations.

Cardinal Clarelli, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation, promised me he would give us all his support. His Excellency, the Nuncio of Paris, had written him a fine letter in our behalf, and I brought four beautiful testimonial letters, that is: from Paris, Angers, Marseilles and Carcassone,

Second Journey to Rome

and I received a fifth one, the one from Coutances.

The Bishop from Marseilles was outstanding. He wrote in Latin the most beautiful letter possible: I will share it with you.

I had a second audience with His Holiness Wednesday April 8th, and the Holy Father granted that the Priests, novices and Associate members who couldn't make their adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed, but who would make it before the Tabernacle where the Reserved Sacrament is kept, would gain the same indulgences: what a great favor! However, the Holy Father added one condition. Here it is:

Die 8 Aprilis 1863

Pro gratia, ea tamen conditione, ut ante altare SSmi Sacramenti lampas die noctuque ardeat, et a fidelibus inspiciatur.

Pius PP. IX⁵

Therefore, you can promulgate this grace immediately, without needing the *exequatur*,⁶ because we have it in the first one.

The Easter celebrations were wonderful: a crowd of foreign visitors larger than other years. Rome has the tranquility of divine peace: we feel as if we are in our own family.

Fr. de Cuers is well enough and sends a hug. He had some pain these days, he is better now.

We are praying a lot, so that our business will not drag on; do the same.

I will take care of all your errands, the holidays are over tomorrow.

I am beginning to find the time long here; however, our business must be taken care of.

I'm happy that you went to Paris: the Ladies were so happy with your visit and your concern.

Poor Fr. Chanuet can be excused, but he should have done otherwise: it comes from a lack of experience.

Goodbye, dear Father, give my love to the Fathers and Brothers.

I'm happy that Fr. O'Kelly is becoming an apostle.

Once again I would need to receive the messages for Mother Prioress, because I lost my notes. My respectful regards to all the kind sisters.

All yours,
Eymard

1239

CO 1239

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET

(I 1/29)⁷

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rome, April 11, 1863

Dear Father,

Thank you for your letter, it really pleased me; if you make St. Joseph the Superior, he will guide the small boat well.

I saw the Holy Father on April 8th. He granted to the Associates the wonderful favor of

⁵ April 8, 1863

"For this favor there is this condition, that candles should burn day and night before the altar of the Most Blessed Sacrament and be adorned by the faithful." Pope Pius IX.

⁶ Permission.

⁷ First of 29 letters written by ST. Peter Julian Eymard to Fr. Michel Chanuet, Master of Novices of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Second Journey to Rome

carrying out their adoration before the Reserved Sacrament in the Tabernacle when they cannot do it before the Blessed Sacrament exposed; so we can also benefit from the same favor, when we are in the same situation. That is one of the greatest favors I had hoped for: I would willingly have gone to Rome just for that. You can apply it right away; the *exequatur*⁸ from the Bishop is not necessary.

The holidays will be over on Monday; then we will take concrete steps to help our project move forward. Prayer will do more than anything; so I have begun to make the Stations of the Cross every day.

You did well to delay the young man until my return: he may have a true vocation.

As for Fr. Meunier, if there is the slightest dishonor or scandal about his life, it will go no further. So, you do well to cut off any contacts and not to receive him. How unfortunate it would be if he was found with us! This gentleman lacked honesty, and that is a sufficient reason for exclusion: he should have informed us.

If Fr. Leroyer returns to hear the Ladies' confessions, ask him to speak to the novices and to the community at the evening reading: that always has a positive effect and unites the houses.

As for silence and recollection, don't worry about it; start by practicing it in public, then show up in the hallways from time to time. Inspire, rather than command it.

Be on the watch against discouragement: it is only a temptation. We may have moments of fever,⁹ but we shouldn't let our sadness be too evident.

Regards to everyone.

All yours,
Eymard

Please tell Brother Martin that I will be very happy to take care of his errand for the medal of Castelfidardo.

To Rev. Fr. Chanuet
religious priest of the Most Blessed Sacrament
68 rue fg. St. Jacques
Paris

1240

CO 1240

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 217/395 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum!

Rome, April 11, 1863, at St. Bridget's

Dear Daughter,

I am writing to give you some news about ourselves: our request is sleeping in the tomb, the Resurrection isn't here yet.

The holiday season will be over tomorrow, and work will resume on Monday. We have used our time to pray and attend the Sacred Ceremonies. This week we are not too well, Fr. de Cuers with his pains, and I with a bad cold which I caught on Easter itself.

Since we had nothing to do, our Good Master has sent us a little work to do.

For Sister Françoise, give her a chance since she seems to be applying herself: besides it would be well to find a good place for her in case you should ask her to leave, so that she wouldn't be on

⁸ Permission.

⁹ A favorite expression of Fr. Eymard to describe temptations against one's duty, position in life, etc.

the street; but it should be done without telling her; that would upset her.

Fr. Carrie had you sign two notes which I had made out in your name, in order not to be known in a charity I wanted to render; but it doesn't commit you in any way.

Sister Antoinette still wants to dispose of everything; the pension she is giving is surely very creditable, it is a delicate matter to ask for ourselves. I believe that poor sister is being tempted as regards her family. I am not saying that she shouldn't give the capital someday because she has the right to do so and has kept that right; the only thing to do is to tell her not to give away the capital, that I don't want that; let her make her will as she wishes and give it to whom she wishes; be tactful.

By giving up everything, Miss Thomas seems to be proving her good will to give herself totally to the service of God. Surely there is a lot to be done, but if she sets herself to it with goodwill, and Miss Michel also, they could become good adorers. It is good to remember that religious life is totally new for them, that everything needs to be done, and so lead them to our Lord like children who have faults.

It is really unfortunate that Fr. Leroyer was hurt by what happened in Paris. If I could have foreseen it, I would have done differently, because harmony and charity of heart are bought at a high price. I think that it was only a thought, as Fr. Chanuet hasn't mentioned it to me.

If you gave another hundred francs on Easter Tuesday, that's enough; because the trip costs only 30 to 35 francs round trip, or 40 at the most for first class.

Dear daughter, don't give in to sadness, nor to temptations against poor human beings; accustom yourself to take care of your affairs with our kind Master first of all. He is the one who directs everything for the best. You don't need any other protector. If our Lord is happy with us, even the Angels and devils will wait on us.

I still don't know when we will be able to leave. I hope it will be soon, God willing.

Do tell your sisters that I am praying very much for them at the Holy Martyrs' tombs; tell Sr. Benoite that I bless her, and all your daughters as well, and especially yourself whom I give to our Lord, in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard

Fr. Leroyer could say a few words to the Community. That idea pleases me because he is very devoted to you.

1241

CO 1241

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 8/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rome, April 11, 1863

Madame,

I have an opportunity for France¹⁰ and so I am writing to send you my Easter Greeting, the Alleluia of the Angel and our Lord.

He greeted his apostles with the words: May peace be with you! And I wish you this peace, dear Lady, a trusting peace which surrenders itself like a child to God and entrusts itself to his kindness and mercy.

A peace of conscience which rests first in humility, to accept its weakness and then, in the simplicity of obedience, in order to act in a spirit of faith.

¹⁰ Someone was travelling to France.

Second Journey to Rome

Keep this principle well in mind: a troubled conscience is no conscience for you; and go forward for your Communion.

Never give any importance to temptations. Let them disappear by themselves by means of your humble acceptance and your obedient rejection.

Love the Good Lord dearly: that is the whole law, and the sum of virtue.

You must have much to do for the sermon.¹¹ May our good Master sustain and enrich you. The only thing I can put into your purse is my prayers.

I saw the Holy Father April 8th. I had him bless and touch your cross and I will bring it to you. Goodbye, dear Lady. I present you everyday to our Lord in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. We are still in the dark about our request and [the length of] our stay; as God wills!

To Mme d'Andigne

1242

CO 1242

TO MOTHER GUYOT

(V 2/8)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rome, April 11, 1863

Dear Mother,

You will be so pleased with me! At my audience on March 18th, the only request I made was for your precious blessing from the hand of the Holy Father. So I have it very precious, and I don't dare entrust it to anyone. The Pope read your petition twice and asked for your medals, etc., to bless them; then, I showed him your crosses. "Oh!", he said laughing, "these are beautiful and light!" And as they moved when he opened the book, our good Holy Father arranged them carefully! When I told him that this work was done by your daughters during recreation, he was touched by it, and asked me how many there are. When I told him that they were very docile and loved the Good Lord dearly, he graciously took his pen and wrote: "*Pro gratia, et Dominus vos benedicat et sanctificet.*"

"Granted as a favor: May the Lord bless you and sanctify you."

So, dear Mother, you can see that I did not forget you.

I deserved your reproaches for not writing when I arrived. The letter was written, but I was waiting to feel a little better to send it, because the sea tossed me so badly that I could have died. It's over now, - that is how life shall pass! Blessed are we if Heaven is its term! But no, there is still too much to be done! - This Easter Week, we are both unwell, Fr. de Cuers and myself. I have a bad cold which I caught Easter Day, and Father has his pains. I was telling him: The others are on holiday; but we are preparing the work.

We saw the Holy Father on March 18th, and it was my joy to see him again on April 8th. He granted that the Associates, who could not make their adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed, could do so before the Tabernacle, with the same indulgences. What a favor! Now benefit from it. I haven't missed it since that grace was received, it's encouraging; it can be

¹¹ Countess d'Andigne organized Mission sermons to raise funds for Fr. Eymard's work of First Communion for Adult Workers.

divided.¹²

On Monday, the Congregations will resume their work. We will try to hasten ours, because I am beginning to find the time long. What will they give us? Whatever God wills! The Holy Father can only forward matters to the Congregation of Regulars for the decree.

They may perhaps give us only a decree of commendation. May God be praised! Perhaps nothing: may he be praised even more!

Be very obedient, and limit yourself to ordinary confessions.

Humble yourself in the presence of God and your sisters when it's necessary, that's your absolution.

So, no more agitation nor impatience against yourself.

Goodbye, I bless you and all your sisters and daughters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

I won't say anything about Mr. Menier. Alas! that news really hurt me. Another one who lacked honesty; but, can they deceive the Master?

Apr. 17 - Around this date, calumnious denunciation against him. cf. Appendix II.

Apr. 20 - Mass at the tomb of St. Peter.

1243

CO 1243

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 46/75)

Rome, April 20, 1863

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Many thanks for your heartfelt wishes and dear letter; it was like receiving a flower from my [own] family.

I would have written to you sooner if your dear daughter were not here.¹³ Also, since Easter, I have been sick with a cold, and then with ophthalmia which makes me close my eyes; however, my eyes are better.

I thank the good Master for sending me these little troubles, since I have nothing else to do than to wait for our request to be handled [in turn].

Will it be much longer? I have no idea; I hope I will know something soon.

Today, I will go to say holy Mass at St. Peter's tomb for your dear daughter and her friends. Needless to tell you that you will have the first share. I will make a special pilgrimage to your good St. Felicity.¹⁴

My wish for you is that you may be like your noble patroness.

Your dear daughter is fine, as well as Mr. Giraud. They are using their time well. Last night I had dinner with the whole family; it was a very pleasant evening for me. Your last letter confirmed the sad fact that the Misses M... would need to have a good St. Francis of Sales to unite them to one another. How sad! When we see and hear such sad things, we cry out to the Good Lord: do not let

¹² The Hour of Adoration.

¹³ Mathilde Giraud Jordan was visiting Rome at the time.

¹⁴ Perhaps her middle name? Ed.

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me be blind. Everyone thinks they are right, claiming their rights of freedom and conscience. In such a temptation, there is a certain fever which makes them excusable. Put oil on their wounds and listen to them like a doctor or pacifier: however, avoid judging them or reflecting on it within yourself, see it all as a fever or a temptation.

Believe what I am telling you; lend your mind, your will, your hands to your neighbor; but remain free from every person and their affairs in the divine sanctuary of your soul; let it be the Holy of Holies for God and for you, the Tabernacle where God alone resides.

So, be busy with people and things when duty or charity require; once that is done, let it be over.

I recommend myself to your prayers.

I am going to St. Peter's, and I bless you wholeheartedly.

Eymard

1244

CO 1244

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 218/395 VI 2)

Rome, April 25, 1863

Thank you for your letter. I see that the Good Lord is watching over you all. May he be praised! And should the devil of our evil nature make his appearance, don't listen. I mean, if your daughters have temptations, or negative reactions¹⁵ like...you did well to speak the truth.

Your dear nieces do well to stay a while with the Blessed Sacrament. It can only be very good for them.

Since the doctor is prescribing the springs for Sr. Benoite, you must send her, but not alone. I would much prefer that the Good Lord would heal her at home.

Everything is calm here at the moment, we have nothing more to do than wait.

My cold consists in coughing spells; however, it is lessening, as I am nursing it.

I am beginning to find the time long here.

As for you, stay close to our Lord. Everything consists in that.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Guillot
66, rue fg St. Jacques
Paris

¹⁵ French: mauvaises impressions.

1245

CO 1245

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 219/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

*Rome, May 6, 1863*¹⁶

Very dear daughter,

I wrote to you about ten days ago. My letter may have strayed, as it wasn't sent through the mail. We are fine, our request¹⁷ is in process, I hope that everything will be done this month and that we will be leaving soon, God willing.

I am praying very much for you and your sisters, especially for poor Sr. Benoite in order that our Lord may relieve her.

Recommend me to the prayers of your dear family.

I bless you wholeheartedly.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Guillot

May 8 - Approval of the Congregation by the Holy See.

1246

CO 1247

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 220/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Rome, May 16, 1863

Good daughter,

Thank you for your offers of money, I have enough for the time being. Fr. Carrie also sent me some.

So then, Sr. Benoite has gone to the springs. May the good Lord heal her and at least give her some relief! Tell her that I am asking that from God for her, and that I bless her everyday at holy Mass.

I read the reports about your dear house; the small difficulties some of your daughters have, come from the fact that they aren't giving themselves fully to God, the result is restlessness, cravings, personality conflicts.

You did well toward Miss Michel; her behavior in that instance made me sad. Sr. Antoinette is still a child, she imagines that we want her fortune, that once her vows are made we will oblige her to give; can anything be so pathetic! if it weren't for charity, I would dismiss it all;¹⁸ we certainly don't want to pressure her, but we don't want her to be imprudent.

I don't want the total renunciation of property, since we are not recognized religious, and I don't know when God will do it or want it; therefore, the vows are only personal vows of

¹⁶ Perhaps March. Troussier.

¹⁷ Literally: nos affaires: our business matters.

¹⁸ meaning unclear.

Second Journey to Rome

conscience; it cannot be otherwise, at least for now.

You did well to deal with her as you did: you must tell the truth clearly and kindly, but energetically.

Have courage dear daughter, it is for God that we are working.

I bless you all.

All yours,
Eymard

You only need to put your five four-cent stamps over the address and not inside, in order for a seven and a half gram letter to have sufficient postage.

Miss Guillot
66, fg St. Jacques, Paris

1247

CO 1248

TO FR. ALMERICI, BARNABITE
(VI 1/2)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rome, May 16, 1863

My dear Father Almerici,

Just a short note from Rome, the city of your affection and graces.

I have been here for two months. Time passes quickly in Rome; it is a city which is both paternal and maternal - one feels at home here. Our business is proceeding well; it has already been submitted to the Holy Father. I have been given to hope that everything will be completed by Corpus Christi. May God will it so!

I have seen your fine Father-General; I liked him very much; he is so good and so straightforward. I spoke to him at length about Paris, the foundation, and the purchase of a good bargain, and he seemed to be greatly in favor of Paris.

I shall see him again, for it is important that you should have a home in Paris.

I do not forget your dear Russians. They greatly need good missionaries. God is beginning to be there by means of Poland, which is giving them a good lesson, and who knows if it may not be a saving humiliation for a Russia beaten, humiliated and scourged as she deserves. She will only be getting back what she has done to others. I learned here that when Nicholas saw us take Sebastopol, he was so humiliated that he requested a deadly poison from his doctor. That is how this persecutor of the Church and the Saints died.

God is bringing about a renewal of society, but he needs Saints. Pray for me, dear Father, as I do for you, most gladly. We shall meet again soon.

Ever your friend,
Eymard

P.S. Would you kindly post the enclosed letters to Rev. Fr. Almerici
Barnabite
1, rue Monsieur, Paris

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET
(I 2/26)

A.R.T.

Rome, May 16, 1863

Dear Friends,

This won't be my last letter from here yet: on Wednesday I was told that our business won't be finished until Corpus Christi. God willing, may it be so!

Our request was submitted to the Pope, who approved the plan. Now the report and the Decree are being prepared, but they must be submitted to the Holy Father once again for his approval.

You cannot imagine the wisdom, study, scrutiny and advice which are part of the approbation of a Congregation: it would frighten you. Oh! It's because the Church builds for the future: it doesn't want to have any regrets.

Thank you, Fr. Carrie, for sending us money. May God repay you! I wasn't in need yet, but it could have happened.

Be strong, dear Father Chanuet; love your primary family well. Be a Father, Master and doctor: these are the three qualities of a good Master of novices; especially be a Father, because it is by the heart that hearts are won.

Do not receive retreatants from other religious groups in the future, not even the Capuchin Fathers: that would be to miss our purpose; either everything or nothing. We might otherwise be seen as running a boarding house, not on your life!

If you see that new aspirants enter well into the spirit, you can put them with the community: it would be too long to wait for my return. Finally, they are telling us that everything will be done by Corpus Christi. May God so will! the Holy Father will be absent until the 20th.

Yes, Fr. Carrie, offer a Eucharistic bouquet according to our means.

Goodbye, dear friends and Brothers. I pray for you and bless you a thousand times over in the presence of God.

Eymard

Regards to everyone from here.

To Rev. Fr. Chanuet
Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament
68 rue fg. St. Jacques
Paris

May 17-25 St. Peter Julian made his first retreat in Rome at the Passionist Monastery at Sts. John and Paul.

<i>May 17</i>	<i>Sun. My inner dispositions</i>
<i>May 18</i>	<i>The goodness of God towards me. Survival of the Society</i>
<i>May 19</i>	<i>Personal failings</i>
<i>May 20</i>	<i>Lack of mortification – Remedies</i>
<i>May 21</i>	<i>Fri. Self-love. Effects of self-love</i>
<i>May 22</i>	<i>Sat. Practice of contrition & love. Confession - Synthesis. Abiding in Jesus</i>

1249

CO 1249

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET
(I 3/26)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Rome, May 30, 1863

Very dear Father,

Your letter did me so much good! May God repay you for it! Trust in God like a good lieutenant; when you don't know, say plainly: I will study the matter.

When you do know, settle it in the name of God.

When you have doubts about the facts, take the broadest view; when it is a matter of law, consult the law, the spirit of the law, our Lord's grace. I am happy that the spiritual, temporal and personal authority of the Superior resides in his grace of state.

I am sorry about Brother Augustine, that is a temptation from the family.

We must settle things with Brother Joseph; tell him to wait for my return.

I will get advice from Fr. Ambrose about that priest. Encourage him.

We are all fine; however, I am longing to see you all again!

I'm looking forward to Corpus Christi because I'm hoping to have the flower for which I came to Rome.

What a joy it would be if our decree were given to us during that beautiful Octave! I'm hoping for it, since they promised it to me. I have good news which gives me hope.

Goodbye, dear and beloved Father, friendly regards to all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Take care of Brother Charles: he seems tired. Make him rest and dispense him from anything that might tire him.

You have the faculties to indulge the cross of St. Benedict, so does Fr. Carrie: you may use them.

1250

CO 1250

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 221/395 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rome, May 30, 1863

Dear daughter,

May Jesus be your royal love! I read your letter with real interest. I can see that your house is functioning well; may God be praised!

How could it be otherwise, since it is the Good Lord's Work? I do approve your way of seeing and doing things in regards to Miss Thomas and Miss Michel; they must set themselves to the religious endeavor, to the common life; otherwise, they might reproach us later on for not having warned them. I especially don't want to have Servants of the Blessed Sacrament who are worldly, too influenced by their human feelings, with selective friendships:¹⁹ I would rather set the four

¹⁹ French: amities particuliers.

Second Journey to Rome

corners of the house on fire.

The news you gave me about Brother Charles really made me sad, he is well liked; as for Brother Eugene, I had heard about his illness and I did pray to God for him. Please put all these little troubles of the young Fathers at the foot of the cross; these things are all a suffering, but shouldn't become a cross. Lack of experience limits one's vision. Always keep your soul at peace in the midst of the sea, whether calm or troubled.

See things in God.

We haven't had any news about our request for a month now, except that they promised to give us an answer by Corpus Christi; as it is being handled at high levels, all we can do is wait. That is why my letters have nothing special to say. Before Pentecost, I went into a monastery to hide, to make a good retreat, and I came out Monday; my health is stable.

Thank you for your offer of money. If I should need it, I will draw on your account from Rome: that would be easier.

I bless you. Take courage and don't let yourself be saddened by these little difficulties. So, continue to be kind.

I bless you, your daughters, and Sr. Benoite.

Eyd.

I would surely be happy to bring you some favor from the Holy Father. I'm trying to see how I could obtain it, I haven't been able to obtain anything yet. We would need a Bishop for that. I am praying and looking for a way.

Miss Guillot
66, fg St. Jacques, Paris
By sea

June 3 - Pius IX signed the Decree of Approbation.

June 10 - Father received the Decree of Approbation. Painful incident caused by Father de Cuers. cf. Appendix III.

1251

CO 1253

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 222/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Rome, June 10, 1863

Dear daughter,

You are the very first one to whom I am announcing that the Society was approved as of June 3rd and that I've just been given the Decree of Approbation.

Do thank the Good Lord, his holy Mother and St. Joseph for it, because it is a miracle of their protection and grace. I am hoping to leave next week...

I'll write to you from Marseilles. I must rush, the mail is leaving.

My blessings on all of you; you can be sure that I don't forget you here in Rome, and that I am praying and interceding for you with our Lord and his Saints.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1252

CO 1251

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER
(I 10/54)

A.R.T.

Rome, June 10, 1863

Dear Father,

Praise God and thank his Holy Mother: the Society has been formally approved. The Decree is dated June 3rd, the eve of Corpus Christi: that is, first Vespers.

The details will come later.

I have the Jubilee Letter for the good Sisters.

The one for the Portiuncula is more difficult to obtain because you were uncertain whether there may be other churches in Angers which have the privilege of the Portiuncula. Here it is:

“Ex Audientia S.S. die 5 Junii 1863

*Ordinario pro informatione et isto qui referat num aliae Ecclesiae gaudeant Indulgentia Portiunculae in civitate Andegavensi, et quo intervallo distent ab introscripta Ecclesia Monialium de qua in precibus.”*²⁰

So, dear Father, if Reverend Mother Prioress really wants this favor, ask for the approval of His Excellency. Please present him my deepest respects.

Write immediately to Fr. Prével, Piazza Farnese, at St. Bridget's. In my absence, he will take care of the rest of the errands.

I expect to leave next week for France, either Wednesday or Thursday.

Regards to all. Wishes for good health to dear Br. Eugene. Here everyone sends a hug.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Please give the letter here enclosed to Rev. Mother, so that she may send it.

1253

CO 1252

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET
(I 3b/29 VI 2)²¹

Rome, June 10, 1863

Dear Father,

Bless and thank God through his Holy Mother, St. Joseph and St. Michael. The Society is approved, I have the Decree of Approbation.

On March 18th, the Holy Father introduced it for the study of the Sacred Congregation. On May 8th, he approved it.

²⁰ From an Audience with the Holy See on June 5, 1863.

The Ordinary of that place which is referred to therein could be other Churches that may enjoy the Portiuncula Indulgence in Angers since they are at a distance from the privileged Church of the Friars where prayers are offered.

²¹ The only copy we have of this letter to Fr. Chanuet in Paris is the one written by Fr. Leroyer on a letter he received from Fr. Eymard, sent to him in Angers.

Second Journey to Rome

On June 3rd, on the eve of Corpus Christi, or rather, on Corpus Christi, the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars decreed its approbation.

Notice the dates and the Saints: on the 18th, St. Gabriel; on the 8th, St. Michael; on the 3rd, Corpus Christi. The Month of St. Joseph, the Month of Mary, the Month of the Blessed Sacrament! The gifts of God are complete and carry a mystery [requiring] our gratitude.

To Rev. Fr. Leroyer
Superior of the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament
Rue Lyonnaise
Angers
France (Maine and Loire)

1254

CO 1254

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 9/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rome, June 10, 1863

Madame,

I am writing to announce the good news to you: our little Society was approved on June 3rd, on the eve of Corpus Christi or rather on Corpus Christi itself. Praise God and his holy Mother with us and for us.

I expect to leave Wednesday or Thursday of next week. I will then write more details to you.

The Good Lord blessed the collection,²² I bless you for it also, and our Lord even more. You did well to keep the rest, we will settle all that when I come to Angers.

May the good Master give you his holy childlike love! I don't know whether you were told that the Associates could gain a plenary indulgence before the Tabernacle when they don't have exposition.

May Jesus bless you!
In Him,

Madame,
Your ever devoted,
Eymard

To Mme Countess d'Andigne

June 17 or 18 - Departure from Rome with the decree of approbation.

²² Collection to support the work of First Communion for adult workers.