

CHAPTER III

The Mustard Seed Grows

Opening in Marseilles

Foundation Retreat/Vows of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament

- July 30, 1859
- Rule of Life
- Spiritual formation

Inauguration of the Work of First Communion for Adult Workers

Mission to Belgium

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 27/181)

Paris, April 5, 1859

Dear and beloved Father,

Your letter really comforted us. We were very much afraid about your trip, since you were already a bit tired before leaving. May God be blessed and glorified by your journey, your work and your struggles! I feel them very keenly. It hurts me to know that you are alone at Marseilles, and I beg the good Lord to send you someone, to give us workers for this foundation. As you say, perhaps God's hour has not yet come.

I was pleased with the opening, the feast of St. Francis de Paul; the date of the first Mass, when we sang: "*Laetare sterilis quae non parturis*,"¹ the Epistle about the son of the Promise, the Gospel about the multiplication of the loaves, symbol of the Holy Eucharist, when the title of King was first given to our Lord. May all of this be the grace of the foundation!

Yesterday we went to the Ministry and in the evening they were going to send your money order. Please keep some [money] for your needs. It hurts me to feel that you are so poor.

I will be thinking about the Baptismal meal. Dear Fr. Brunello is joy² and we his loving and grateful sons.³ That good Father is the one with whom I shared my thought⁴ long ago. He approved it, encouraged it. How admirable are God's ways! He knows how to bring what is furthest together!

I'll write to Miss Marin. I was waiting for your letter.

Everything is progressing. Yesterday we had our monthly Retreat. Dear Fr. Champion is the one who gave it. I was truly edified by what he said. We can see that he has the grace for the Work.

Write to us from time to time. It will make up for your absence and be a comfort to all of us. Everyone embraces you tenderly, as I do. I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup. S.S.S.

I'm waiting for the copies of the notice; I'll send you some. Alas, they wanted to put my name! What name! It would have been better to hide it.⁵

I reopened my letter to tell you that the Ministry of the Interior didn't come back on it, nor send anything. Fr. Abadie gave 5 francs, which I gave to the Ladies.

Rev. Father de Cuers,
Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Rue Nau, former convent of the Minimes
Marseilles

¹ "Let those who are sterile and those who are not childbearing rejoice."

² He used the word "laetare."

³ literally: children.

⁴ His thoughts about a eucharistic project.

⁵ Sensitivity to Fr. de Cuers, who did not like Fr. Eymard's name to appear as Founder.

Apr 8 *Retreat: 1st Conf. Ser: Trials.*

Apr 8 *2nd Conf. Ser: Condition for the service of Jesus. Necessity of suffering.*

808

CO 806

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

(V 32/76)

Paris, March 31, 1859⁶

Very dear daughter,

We are now on the last day of St. Joseph's month. This good Saint has interceded; we must be heard, for can he be refused! No. Can Jesus go back on his promise to hear confident prayer? If he is putting off success at the moment, it is to increase the merit and bestow even more [blessings]. I believe that we have already been heard, that the conversion has been granted and is gradually taking place in his poor soul. Be convinced that repulsion and hallucinations are rather the effect of the devil than of nature. God wants to have all the glory of his mercy. So, dear daughter, pray and suffer, but remain in peace and encourage your good mother. I would really like to write to her, but since I don't know whether she can receive her letters, I did not.

Please tell her to have confidence, not to worry over the past, nor fret over the present. When God wants to save someone, he inspires us to pray, and the outcome of prayer is salvation.

We have been saying your Masses since the first day. All the priests have this one intention. Good daughter, that very fact shows you the price of a soul, the greatness of the grace of faith, and why our Lord prayed and suffered so much to save us and win the grace of salvation.

When will grace triumph in the soul of good Mr. Gourd, who is so forthright and sincere, but who is not yet enlightened by God's light! That will also be the fruit which God wants from your prayers and sufferings. A lifetime is not too long to save a soul. Of what value are possessions, pleasures and glory in this life without God's grace and heaven to hope for? Nothing! just a loss...

April 8. - I'm sorry I didn't finish this letter sooner, dear daughter. A thousand and one things and two First Communions, which I was preparing, took all my time.

So you have been and still are ill. The Good Lord is allowing you to earn by your illness the two great graces he wants to grant you. Be a good patient, who graciously allows herself to be cared for, who wants to do nothing other than what illness permits.

You are feeling better. That is good. Poor daughter, your crown still needs work and you still have a long life ahead of you in the midst of thorns and stones. But our Lord is with you.

Do not let worry or trouble enter into your spirit, nor into your conscience. Be childlike toward yourself and with the Good Lord, that is the shortest way. I would so like to have you in Paris with Miss Guillot, spending a few weeks of convalescence there with Miss Stephanie! We would have healed you quickly. I am asking the Good Lord for this consolation.

As for us, everything is fine, since the good Master is still with us. Sometimes when I see some crosses, I would like to have some support and I shudder a little; but it doesn't last very long, thanks be to God!

One thing is going well, that is, Adoration. The rest is no longer a cross or a difficulty for me. When the Master is served and happy, everything is fine.

Oh! poor daughter, there are so few eucharistic souls who belong totally to Jesus Christ! People always want to have something else together with Jesus Christ, or besides him. The result is tension and agitation. Jesus Christ is not their only master. Pray for this grace for us, dear daughter. I ask it for you with my whole heart, for you know that I don't separate your soul, your needs and your salvation from my own.

Goodbye dear daughter. May Jesus be your all.

⁶ Begun March 31, ended April 8th.

All yours in his love,
Eymard, S.S.S.

809

CO 808

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 22/52)

Miss Stephanie

Paris, April 8, 1859

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your letter. I am pleased with you and your work, and a little with your virtue. What pleases me is that you know how to leave the Good Lord for your neighbor and to do so graciously and without scruples. True love of God loves only one thing, his holy Will; holds only to one thing, his divine good pleasure.

My dear daughter, continue this way and continually practice patience, gentleness, forbearance, calmness, in a word, charity. Since your principal occupation is [care for] your neighbor, our good Master is letting you practice it; it is the royal service.

Dear daughter, be sure there is a great difference between loving your neighbor for God's sake and working with our neighbor for God alone. The first is a principle; the second is a continual sacrifice. How difficult it is to receive only hardships or neglect from our neighbor! Yet, this is what we must seek for the love of God alone. Provided we have the esteem, blessing and Heart of God, it should be enough for us.

We must even thank our good Master when mentors seem to find fault with you. They are helping you, good daughter, to be vigilant and to know yourself.

Sleep, sleep enough. Do not sacrifice sleep, or food, but sacrifice only your self-will.

I hope that the Good Lord has heard our prayers for your grandfather and for your dear father, because we don't separate them in our prayers.

Yes, yes, when the Good Lord inspires prayer and suffering, it is because he intends to grant his grace.

Don't worry if you cannot meditate or pray well, but accomplish your spiritual practices as if you were succeeding well. It will be true, because the grace of God will compensate for everything.

Go to the Good Lord to offer yourself entirely to him, tell him whatever seems good to you, then don't worry about the rest.

I would really like you to come to Paris, that would do everyone good and it would be a great joy for us.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

To Miss Stephanie
at Thorins-Romaneche
(Saone et Loire)

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 30/181 VI 4)

Paris, April 9, 1859

Very dear Father,

I have time only to tell you:

1. That I received the money. May God repay you for it;
 2. Fr. Champion says that in the present case, it is sufficient that the room adjacent to the altar not have a dormitory;
 3. So you were fined! We really laughed;
 4. We will mail the sheets tomorrow.
- Tibi totus in Christo et osculo sancto.*⁸

Eymard, Superior

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 28/181 VI 4)

Paris, April 13, 1859

Very dear Father,

I've just seen Mr. Koll, our former carpenter. I proposed that he go to Marseilles to do your work. He asked me for a day to think about it. He just came to tell me that he accepts the proposal only on the following conditions: 1. He will take care of his own food, and he is pleased to accept bed and lodging; 2. He prefers to go alone; 3. The essential condition is that he will do the work for a set price. That is, he will do piece work and not work by the day. I asked him on what basis he would establish his prices. He answered: "On the current prices in Marseilles. It will not cost you any more than a day rate," he said, "and I will work more."

These, good Father, are his conditions. He is an excellent workman, skilled and quick. It may perhaps be best to accept his conditions. He is a man of his word. I told him to come Saturday or Sunday. Then he could leave Monday or Tuesday, because he needs a few days to finish his work here. So please write to me right away.

I saw the fine Mr. de Saint-Louvent. We received him like a friend. I think he might like our life. He will spend a month at home, and we will see him when he returns.

Fr. Eymar⁹ still has the same intentions, we must give him up. God will replace him; in the meantime, we will make up for it ourselves.¹⁰ He is packing. God be praised! But how good he is to try us a little!

Your lovely ciborium will be finished Wednesday of Holy Week, and we will send it to you right away. It costs 299 or 300 francs.

⁷ Date incorrectly published as April 19 in the French Volume I. Troussier.

⁸ All yours in Christ and with a holy kiss.

⁹ No relative.

¹⁰ Probably by an increase of hours spent in adoration.

Take care of yourself; there is still a long and painful road to travel, we need strength. Everything is functioning as usual. My regards to good Father Brunello.¹¹

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

Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Religious of the Blessed Sacrament
Rue Nau No. 7, former convent of the Minimés
Marseilles

Apr 15	Conf. Ser: On trials. (cont.)
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812

CO 811

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 15/17)

Paris, April 15, 1859

Thank you, dear daughter, for your reproaches. I do deserve them a little, because when I passed in front of dear Tonny's place of business, I looked to see whether I might see anyone - since I could only say a quick hello - and then perhaps, you may know what took my time in Lyons. It was a dear patient, whom I still haven't been able to help.

Poor Lyons! It made my heart beat faster. From the coach I was looking to see whether I would meet someone I knew. I met only one young man who looked at me carefully and did not recognize me. So goes life: we pass, we are soon forgotten. It's only right: God alone is.

My dear daughter, I was happy in Rome, because everything there is so great, so Apostolic - Religion is at home - Jesus Christ is King in Rome. And so, we visit with so much devotion the sacred places venerated for centuries. There, faith springs from every stone, from every grain of sand drenched with the blood of the martyrs. - When leaving the motherland of Catholics, we looked back a hundred times to see the dome of St. Peter one more time and bid it farewell.

The Holy Father was so kind toward our Work and toward me. He signed the Letter of Commendation himself and when dismissing me kept repeating: "May God bless your Society."

Yes, God will bless it, for it belongs to him, is from him and totally for him.

At this moment we are founding a house of adoration at Marseilles. Pray for this fledgling [foundation], which is so poor and so frail, but so rich with Jesus Christ.

How happy I am with your words about good Fr. Mayet; his heart is still generous and [remains] a friend in God - I feel the same toward him - for he was my first and closest friend.

How are your good and holy Widows? Do tell them that if I have kept a lazy silence, I have not forgotten them in my prayers and that their tears, as well as their lives, are ever present to me in the sight of the Good Lord.

And to good Tonny! to his good and beloved Clara and to his numerous family - may God give them the glory, the virtue, the strength of his love, of his right hand and of his heart and a million¹² to go with it.

Goodbye, dear daughter, these young women are blessed by God, they have had some crosses, it's a great grace and they do love the Good Lord.

¹¹ The former spiritual director of Fr. de Cuers, who lived in Marseilles.

¹² Francs?

Believe that I am ever a faithful and loving friend of the Mayet family, and in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Elizabeth Mayet
6 or 8 Place S. Clair
Lyons

813

CO 812

TO MISS JENNY GAUDIOZ¹³
(VII 1/3)

Paris, April 15, 1859

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to answer your long letter of the 13th. - I will keep its secret and I tore up your letter. - So now here are my feelings about Sister Benoit. She is humble, self-sacrificing and simple and she is not aware of the extraordinary aspect of her state [of health]. Here, we do not even pay attention to it, so that she is unaware of her graces, if there are graces. Her behavior truly edifies us. I don't see anything which would lead me to suspect any deception on her part. She had told me what you have written. Recently she came to tell me: "Miss Jenny is ill, would you like her to come and rest here?" And I replied: "Very willingly."

Surely there are many extraordinary things about her path, but we are very careful not to act or judge accordingly, but according to the rules of prudence and faith. Now, dear Mademoiselle, is what sister Benoit told us about you true? I don't know. The only thing I can tell you is that if you were to come here, you would be received like a child of the family and might perhaps be very happy, for it is a very beautiful life.

The lack of attraction you have for it may only be a natural feeling because of your Aunt Marguerite whom you may fear a little, who, nevertheless, is very wise and truly loves God.

Couldn't you come and spend some time here for your health, and then you could study this life of adoration more closely?

However, if you don't feel a mixture of desire and fear, of joy and sadness, and if, on the contrary, you feel totally discouraged by the thought of coming, it would be better to wait.

Dear Miss Jenny, this is all I can tell you. I will pray very much for you. Count on my total dedication.

And believe me ever in our Lord, dear Miss Jenny,

All yours,
Eymard

¹³ The niece of Marguerite Guillot.

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 13/104)

Paris, April 16, 1859

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I was reproaching myself for my delay. I was beginning to worry about you. Your letter reassured me a little, especially with the news that you found your precious indult. I was already taking steps to see how to have it replaced, and I had discovered a way. But now I won't have to [do so].

Some time ago, I received the beautiful altar decoration you sent to our Lord. Thank you in his name and mine. I'm really ashamed to be such a poor ingrate, who is so negligent in expressing thanks. Fortunately, the Divine Rewarder keeps ahead of me and above me.

I sent you a few notices about our Work; I would have liked you to share it with the Superior of the major seminary.

I will receive you here very willingly for your retreat in a house neighboring ours. If that suits you, it would also be better for me. I will be able to see you more easily. Only, don't mention it [to anyone] because I don't want to begin doing retreat work.

If you could come toward the middle of May, that would suit me fine. I will be too busy during the month of June.

We are founding a house in Marseilles and I must spend a few weeks there at Corpus Christi in order to get everything started. - Dear daughter, I can see that you are still ill and weak. In that state, you must do as sick people do: suffer for Jesus and with Jesus. Increase spontaneous prayers, then go back to the morning examen, your particular examen at noon (on patience) and examen of the day, at night. Spend one or two minutes for each examen. - Your illness replaces the rest.

But, dear daughter, see how you need Holy Communion. It is your whole virtue and life. So then, continue to receive Communion.

During ordinary temptations we must pray. In extraordinary temptations we must do some penance. If these persist, then go to confession, as you have done.

So, may God bring you here to Paris. I have a great desire to see you and have you see our small Work of the Blessed Sacrament.

Believe me ever, in his divine love,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Please have someone research in Nantes for the birth and baptismal certificates of Ann-Veronique Dupique. She says she was born and baptized in the parish of St. Similien in 1822.

She thinks she was 30 or 31 when she married Sire Dufour (whose widow she is.) She is the daughter of Antoine Dupique and Marie Guichard. Her godfather's name was Michel Girau and Veronique Dupique (her sister) was her godmother. We need these documents to obtain her admission in a welfare home, as she is very poor.

These names may be misspelled, but with some good will they should be able to find them.

Madame de Grandville
8 rue St. Laurent
Nantes

815

CO 814

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 29/75)

Paris, April 16, 1859

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I truly shared in your joy over the nomination. You want to know what I did? You can imagine.

Now in this world, you still need a red ribbon and a holy and blessed lineage from the Good Lord. Well! That is what we must continue to request.¹⁴

I saw Mme. Nugues.¹⁵ I was very edified and delighted with this fine sister of Mr. Giraud. We renewed our acquaintance and you are our point of contact. She gave me 50 francs. Please tell me for how many Masses; I took note of it, but I don't have the time to look for it.

Holy Week will be coming soon! That is when you will pray, adore, and spend yourself at the feet of our Lord.

Oh! My God, at least if our poor ego could be brought to death! Imagine! Everyday I discover nests of faults, well-hidden infirmities, and I find myself like one who thought he was suitable, to be poor, blind, and weak.

Pray for me, that will be the way to show me your kindness.

You must have received some of our notices.¹⁶ It is still small, but if the Good Lord blesses this little seed, it will become great.

Goodbye, I remain very united to you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

Madame C. Jordan
10 rue de Castries
Lyons

816

CO 815

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 29/181 VI 4)

Paris, April 17, 1859

Beloved Father,

Don't worry about us: God places his grace alongside our trials. We must found on Jesus Christ and not on friends, protectors, or on any human person whatsoever. God wanted to test our love, and I dare say that all those who are here are full of dedication to the eucharistic service of our Good Master.

¹⁴ Prayers for a grandchild.

¹⁵ Her daughter's sister-in-law.

¹⁶ About the Work of the Blessed Sacrament.

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Mr. Eymar left Friday at one o'clock with his sister and a young woman whom he sent for. He was appropriate in his departure. God has his plans: each one has his own mission near the Blessed Sacrament.

On Saturday, the next day, a more painful trial. Mr. Clavel received a letter telling him that his uncle from Montpellier is very ill, that he just had an attack. So this good colleague said to me: "If we were more numerous, I would ask you to let me leave immediately to go see my uncle. But the service of adoration would suffer from it, so I abstain. If my uncle is dead, it's too late. If he is worse, they will write to tell me. Besides, he is in God's hands, and I, [in the hands] of obedience."

See, my dear friend, how we are compensated for our trials!¹⁷

I saw Mr. Koll today. He will leave Thursday at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and will reach you Friday night with his tools. I will advance 200 francs for his trip and initial expenses, or even 300, if I can.

I've just come from adoration and I said to our Lord: "I'll send Mr. Koll in your Providential care. He will work for You. I have a note for 500 francs from Fr. de Cuers. I'll take the initial expenses from that. So be it!"

Then, when I left the chapel at 2:00, Mr. Koll arrived in the parlor, as well as a lady, coming for the Superior of the Blind Sisters. She brought me the amount of 300 francs.

See, good Father, how our Father in Heaven loves his divine Son and is happy with what we want to do for him!

Mr. Koll may bring you a fine sixteen-year-old boy. He has finished his fifth year, he is well-behaved and devout; I am studying him. I will feel better to know that you have someone with you.

The ciborium is very lovely. Mr Koll will bring it to you, with the rest.

Blessed be that beautiful Easter Day when we took over this house and when our Lord will rise again in the house of Marseilles. Be confident and have patience! dear Brother.

Our good Master is our guarantor and our King.

So many good wishes to everyone.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

817

CO 816

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

(III 10/21)

Paris, April 17, 1859

Very dear daughter,

Your very first letter recommended the care of your dear sister Marguerite to me; I do it well, but the Good Lord is doing it even better than I, for it is truly a miracle to see how well she is and how strong she is to bear the weight of so many crosses.

Your second letter mentions:

1. Concern about your brief confessions. My daughter, here is my answer:

The more simple and brief a confession is, as you say, the better it is. So much the better if they reproach you for it! I thank God for it, never change. Don't worry because you don't know how to say much or in great detail, children have soon said everything. - Dear daughter, always be as simple as a child.

¹⁷ Compensated by what follows.

2. You are worried about your Communion because you are afraid that you aren't benefiting from them. - Your confessor had even disturbed you over it.

Here, my good daughter, is the rule to be followed:

Receive Communion with simplicity in spite of it, since he told you to [do so]. His question was either a test or a sign of interest, and I tell you again: continue to receive Communion, you need it as a poor one, as a sick one, as a daughter of the cross.

Go to the holy Table with your poverty and faults, but also with trust and love; that is the best disposition you could bring to it.

My daughter, stop looking at your progress or your gains, but [look at] your needs and your desire to love the Good Lord.

3. Sometimes you are lonely and you are afraid of the future with all the crosses that surround and await you. Listen, my daughter: your good father in Heaven, for whom you are working and suffering, for whose love you have sacrificed everything in the world, will not leave you. Entrust to him the care of your future and your old age. But, you say, I have done nothing for God! Do what you can, don't count what you put into your till. The Good Lord will put more into it than you and will multiply your little merits a hundredfold.

4. You do well to act as you do about business matters with your aunt, that's fine; nothing wrong, continue [as you are doing].

5. God will repay your sister Marguerite with blessings and good things for the criticisms against her. Pray for those poor women of Lyons!

6. No, my daughter, you will not be left alone when your aunt dies; you will come here to rest at the feet of the Good Lord, but you are still needed in Lyons.

7. Send us your dear sister Claudine; Easter is coming. You are the one who has to send everyone; she will come to prepare a place for you.

I wanted to write to her, but I don't have time. You will be my word¹⁸ and my blessing.

Goodbye, good daughter, have courage and confidence.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

818

CO 817

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

(I 31/181 VI 4)¹⁹

Paris, April 20, 1859

Very dear Father,

Mr. Koll can't leave before the eleven o'clock train tomorrow, Thursday; he could not complete his work any sooner. He is going alone, the young man I had mentioned to you isn't really adequate to such a test. Divine Providence allowed me to discover, through information received while I was studying him, that he was frivolous, lazy and lacked piety. You can imagine that was enough. Don't let Mr. Koll think that he might find himself without work, because I believe he will have a lot to do for us.

I pointed out to him the defects in the confessionals here. So, unless I am mistaken, he will have to make: 1. two altars, especially the one for Exposition; 2. the decorated wood like the one at

¹⁸ Spokesperson.

¹⁹ Letter incorrectly dated April 19th in French – presented here on April 9th.

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the Good Shepherd, as a background, behind the altar; 3. the communion rail; 4. the canopy; 5. the credence for the sacristy; 6. rays behind the canopy; 7. doors, etc.

I think that a retailer would supply you with wood on credit, as they always do, for a three-month period. If necessary, we can borrow, because we must go forward with things which are necessary and essential for the worship of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we see it is needed. That is an essential condition for our goals of service, and you know how kindly the Good Master has always treated us.

It seems to me that the altar where Exposition takes place should be made so that it is possible to increase the number of gradines, like a pyramid, like all the Roman altars for Exposition or Forty Hours. It requires that the Tabernacle or the place for Exposition be elevated. The canopy at the Sacramentines in Rome has four or five gradines. They have ordinary decorations on ordinary days, and more elaborate ones on feast days. Since we will keep the Reserved Sacrament in the side chapel, in keeping with the rules, its Tabernacle should be suitable.

Mr. Clavel's uncle died and was probably buried yesterday (Tuesday). What will he do? We don't know. Mr. Clavel still has fine dispositions, but since he is heir, in part, he may have to travel to Montpellier. Our Good Master will take care of it.

We are making a small alcove beneath the communion rail, where the organ is, for the celebrations Thursday and Friday and to adore our Lord.

Mr. Carri will receive the holy habit tomorrow. I think I will have him make the annual vow of obedience.

We are praying very much for you.

Mother from the Good Shepherd is sending you three pairs of stockings. Mr. Koll will bring them to you with the rest.

Save your limited strength for the Good Master and the great day of his Exposition in the new Cenacle.

We are very happy to be able to do something more for our Lord.

Believe me, beloved Father, in the charity of Christ, to be,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

819

CO 818

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 32/52)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, April 22, 1859²⁰

Very dear sister in our Lord,

I don't know how to explain my long silence toward you, except to accuse myself both of laziness and of being busy about everything. In your charity please forgive me. That isn't the way it is in the presence of our Lord. Always and everywhere I constantly offered you to our good and mutual Master, especially when I learned that you expected to leave this land of exile, which is still beautiful and lovely because of its perpetual Calvary and Cenacle of divine love. I really asked our good Master not to let you die yet, and he heard me. So, continue to love and suffer, that's all that is left to do for whatever stretch of road still separates you from the mountain of vision, the eternal Tabor.

²⁰ Finished Holy Saturday.

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Continue to set the divine Fire ablaze; it is being extinguished in so many hearts. Spur those who are timid and lazy; push the leaders and may Jesus Christ rule as Master at least in some hearts and places.

Holy Saturday - Your last letter arrived and this one had been started and left unfinished. So it often happens that I begin well and finish nothing.

I complain to the Good Lord and often ask him to let me die or put me in some corner near the Tabernacle.

Now, about your request for a retreat at St. Chamond. I would accept wholeheartedly, but I'm afraid because of my departure from the Marist Fathers, their closeness at the college, the restrictions I must exercise toward them, the hurt feeling it could cause to the heart of Father General, and the embarrassment this could cause the Pastor. Dear sister, this is why I am presenting you these difficulties. Please reflect on them in God's presence and write your thoughts to me. Also, if God doesn't send me a substitute, it would be imprudent for me to commit myself at this time. Some of my colleagues are ill and aren't performing their service at the feet of the good Master. Others are supposed to come, but there may be so many difficulties along the way that I don't dare say anything for the time being. If they can give me a bit of latitude, I promise it; if it's set for the time you mentioned, then our good Master is showing his adorable Will by that means. Then, don't count on me for St. Chamond.

I must go to Marseilles in two or three months to begin the new foundation which our Lord is having us begin there. My decision (in God) was to go and greet you in the Lord on my way, and to give you one day. - The question of a retreat at Amplepuis is based on the same conditions as St. Chamond, so I cannot say anything about it; it would be possible to give a sermon or two while passing through Tarare.

So this, good sister, is my answer, which you will receive on Easter Day with my blessing in the Risen Jesus, with my prayer and wishes that you yourself may be risen: thinking, desiring, willing and consuming yourself only for Jesus Hostia. Try to obtain the newspaper "*La Voix de la Verite*" for Holy Thursday. There is an article about our Society which is not up to me to evaluate.

Your good sister and I were speaking of your dear father as an adorer. I assure you that was my first thought when you told me he was going to the Great Chartreuse. - I'll go see your artist brother at Plaisance after Easter; I promised your sister; what joy if I could help his soul.

My affectionate and devoted regards to your dear children, to good Mother St. Claire. I sent you some notices at Tarare; you will find them there.

Goodbye, dear sister in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, SS

On Easter Sunday, the first chapel was inaugurated in Marseilles.

820

CO 819

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 31/52)

Easter Day, 1859

Dear daughter in Jesus Hostia,

May the peace of the risen Jesus always dwell in you!

I didn't mention anything about the Indulgences and the Aggregation in my last letter. We have an Aggregation: I will tell you about its form and substance very soon.

We obtained a plenary daily indulgence for the Associates, and 7 years and 40 days for those who didn't receive Communion that day; this is our treasure and blessing.

If my offer for St. Chamond causes the least apprehension,²¹ please consider that as an expression of God's holy will against it.

May God bless you: you, your dear children, your husband and all your loved ones.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, S.S.

Mme. Tholin
at the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph
St. Chamond (Loire)

821

CO 820

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 32/181 VI 4)

[April 25, 1859]²²

Very dear Father,

You must have welcomed Mr. Koll; no doubt he is already at work. May God give him the wisdom [he needs] for his work!

Tomorrow, Wednesday, I will go for your lamp and for the censer.

Everything is fine, each one is devoting himself joyfully to the service of our Good Master. Lent was difficult but it did not make us sick.

So, Mr. Carri solemnly received the holy habit after Benediction; he made the annual vow of obedience.

We had the major ceremonies of Holy Week. For that purpose, we made an alcove where the organ is, that gave the house a little eucharistic life. On Holy Saturday we had the blessing of the fire and the Paschal candle, followed by the Mass. The holy day of Easter shone with lights and decorations. The Canopy we received from Mother at the Good Shepherd served us well.

The feast is being extended for a few days.

²¹ Among the Marists. See preceding letter.

²² Troussier: Paris, April 25 and 26. There is no date on the letter.

The Mustard Seed Grows

I thanked our Good Master for being with you on Easter day and accepting your hospitality. May he bless you, and give you strength, money and joy.

I saw Mme. Chauvin here on rue Paradis 83, and Miss Liotard; both will be devoted to the Work. I don't know how much; God will show us.

Nothing new about vocations, it isn't time yet. We are praying to our Lord for that.

No news from Mr. Eymard, except that we received a visit from Fr. Malton yesterday. He told me that Fr. Courtois had asked the vicar general of Paris to permit Mr. Eymard to work at the Sacred Heart of Paris. They replied that there are already enough Works being tried.

That was the step I feared the most: the Archbishop. May God be praised!

The service of our Good Master is also going well; thank you for your offers of service. Prepare the Cenacle there, and we will come in God's time.

Everyone loves you, embraces you, prays for you here.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. - April 16, 1859. Mme. Spazzier, who spent her winter at Hyeres to paint, begs me to ask you to find her a position to teach art at the convent of the Sacramentines of Marseilles. That would be good if it were possible.

23

822

CO 822

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

(V 33/76)

Madame Gourd

Paris, May, 1859

Dear Lady,

Miss Claudine²⁴ arrived safely, happy to return to the Cenacle of our Lord; she certainly earned it.

I also arrived safely; first at Ars, where I arrived at 1:15, having left Lyons at 10:45.

I left Ars around 5 o'clock and Villefranche at 8 p.m. for Paris. When I arrived I said holy Mass, without a migraine headache. See how the Good Lord takes good care of his poor servants!

I praise God for my trip. He has his plans and times of mercy. So we must pray and put all our trust in him.

Dear daughter, keep your soul in peace, and enjoy that peace and confidence.

²³ When the Curé learned about the arrival of Fr. Eymard, he left the confessional. The conversation took place in the sacristy where he generally received men.

Fr. Eymard opened his heart: he was suffering from the lack of vocations. Had he made a mistake by founding this Work? With supplication he added:

"Ah, Monsieur le Curé, you encouraged me to take this direction which to all appearances was so holy, ask Our Lord to give himself good and numerous adorers for his divine Sacrament!"

Father spoke with emotion, almost with tears. The holy Curé burst into tears and answered with sobs: "My friend, my good friend, you want me to pray to the good Master for you? But you are the one who has him ever before you!"

Touched by the tears of the Curé, Fr. Eymard also began to cry and tried to console him, saying:

"Forgive me, Monsieur le Curé; I did not want to upset you, forgive me, please!" And they embraced one another.

²⁴ Sr. Claudine Guillot.

Go to the Good Lord as his beloved child who doesn't know how to plan anything, say anything, do anything, achieve anything without him. Be pleased with your powerlessness and weakness which make the Good Lord so necessary and so good.

May God bless you and your dear daughter.

All yours,
Eymard

823

CO 821

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

(I 33/181 VI 3)

Paris, May 6, 1859

Very dear Father,²⁵

1. I am a little behind in writing to you; this will make up for it. I was absent for a short time. I went to Lyons for that poor sick man who is dying.²⁶ Ah! That poor dear family still doesn't have the consolation of seeing this elderly man return to God, he is still obstinate.

2. Another little cross: Mr. Clavel left Wednesday night for Montpellier with his trunk and belongings; doesn't he expect to return? I don't know, I didn't ask him. He answered Brother Charles: "As God wills!" And another time, that he wouldn't be absent very long.

Mr. Carri has officially become an adorer, our Good Master clearly showed his holy will. Everything is going well, thanks be to God, and if someone leaves, we will send Brother Charles: it would be God's will.

Yesterday at 8:00 o'clock in the morning good Mr. Carri himself opened the letter telling him about the death of his poor brother. He grieved deeply. However, he went to his adoration at noon, and found strength and acceptance there. Everyone here showed him much sympathy; your letter [which he] received this morning helped him greatly, he needed it.

What good news that is about Rome! how good God is! yes, let us put our trust in him alone. Let us learn how to wait and suffer a little, without human support, with the veil of faith and hope; and God will come in his own time.

The day before yesterday, I had a great disappointment. On May 15th I had to reimburse Mr. Pelissier of Toulon. The aunt of Mr. Barlazue, the shoemaker, had assured me of that amount with the same conditions. Wednesday at two o'clock, Mr. Barlazue came and told me that his aunt wanted a legal mortgage on our house. So then I thanked him, not wanting to receive money on such conditions, trusting in divine Providence. The next day at the same time, a Lady offered me that amount; I accepted it, praising the Goodness of God, for she had even brought it with her. It's only a loan, it's true, but right now we can't get any more loans.

5. I had advanced Mr. Koll 200 francs on the amount we will owe him for his work. I didn't set a price; he told me that his prices would be reasonable and wouldn't be any higher than those of workmen in Marseilles, and that besides we could have them examined. Since Mr. Koll is a sensitive man who is devoted to us, it is better to show that we trust him.

6. It has been a while now since I have written to Miss Marin; I haven't received anything.

7. May God be praised for the fine idea to have a chapel to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament! I'm very happy about it.

8. I can see that this little house will be very suitable for our Lord.

²⁵ This letter is numbered 1, 2, 5 etc. - 3 and 4 are not printed in French.

²⁶ Mr. Morel.

All are very satisfied with your plan. The most necessary item was to enlarge the chapel windows in the Gothic style. I had been thinking about it all morning, when I read that it has already been done.

9. How great is the goodness of God! Trials are immediately followed with consolations: the arrival of that first priest from Rome will, I hope, be followed by others we need. But for the moment, I can promise nothing for the Ascension or Pentecost. We must wait for someone to come here. That will be the sign of God's will. Do you want me to send you the note for 100 francs? I'm afraid that you don't even have enough to buy bread. Miss Liotard came on her own, as well as Mme. Chauvin, but is it from God?

Everyone embraces you "*in osculo sancto*" (with a holy kiss), very dear Father.

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

824

CO 823

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

(I 34/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 11, 1859

My very dear Father,

I am writing to you from Mr. Favier's house, in order not to miss the mail.

1. Mr. Picard will send you all the metal objects you wish. You only have to tell him what you want.

2. Mr. Favier cannot provide a chalice of the same model as the ciborium except for 330 to 340.

3. Mr. Rey's correspondent has already ordered the monstrance. However, we will see whether we can cancel it. Mr. Favier is very embarrassed, since he had already given his word. The monstrance being proposed is in the style of the middle ages and costs about 700 francs. I would suggest they add the monogram IHS below the knob. Mr. Favier says that would make it very lovely. Otherwise it's too bare. The IHS would be in stone on gilded silver. What do you think? That would bring the total to approximately 800 francs.

4. For the gothic vestments, are you sure that the Bishop will allow it? Because if he should exclude them like the Archbishop of Lyons did, we would be left with them. Please be sure about it.

I know a vestment-maker in Lyons, who is skilled and conscientious, who might make them cheaper. I find quite a difference with Paris for vestments of ordinary material²⁷ and style; [write me] a word about that.

I still haven't communicated your errand to the Reverend Mother at the Good Shepherd; I haven't been able to go out.

The Eucharistic service is going well, very well. Each one doubles his time with joy and love, until the Good Master will send soldiers.

Remember that only two Israelites entered into the Promised Land, of all those who left Egypt, but God blessed them.

That's how it happened; we need something new and new men. Ever since my arrival from Rome, our retreat, our vows, nothing has happened. Consequently, it is a time of preparation; those who left were for the time of difficulty.

I'm hurrying to finish before the mail leaves, and to say that I am

²⁷ Literally: ordinary silk.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Let's hope that God will send us someone so that I can go to Marseilles, as you wish and as I also wish, please God.

825

CO 824

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 7/14)

Paris, May 12, 1859

Dear friend,

I made you wait a little while for my reply. Excuse me; I needed to pray some more. My feelings about the mission of Mr. Delarue have not changed. That is: as I see it, it seems obscure and dangerous because of its extraordinary dimension, its personal interpretation without sanction, the lay element which seems to be its basis and composition.

By his explanations, Mr. Delarue proved to me that he is in good faith and has a pure intention. That only demonstrates a beautiful soul, but not a path. Fenelon had a beautiful soul. I am convinced that many quietists were in good faith, under the illusion of the beautiful side of love and states of prayer. Finally, the letter which Mr. Delarue wrote to me about the unusual way he uses as a means to clarify his thought and perhaps his mission, - this letter, I say, once again proved to me his good faith and his simplicity. But surely, whoever reads his notes will think as I do, and perhaps less kindly toward his person.

To summarize, dear friend, I no longer want to be involved or entangled in this matter. - You asked for my advice, here it is: keep away from it and remain peacefully in the ordinary life of Christian piety.

I remain close and fond of you in our Lord,

Dear friend,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Paris, May 12, 1859

First Question. -

Can I consider myself entirely free toward Mr. D. concerning his alleged mission, as well as his future material needs?

Reply. - You are entirely free of the first as well as future material needs. When the bond is broken, everything is ended.

Second Question. -

May I, in order to find interior peace, ask him to leave sooner?

Reply. - Do not rush things. Wait for the opportunity, it will come of itself. However, do not discuss or analyse it any further. Say to yourself: It is not my path, nor the voice of God for me.

Third Question. -

If Mr. Delarue persists... Should I break all contacts?

Reply. - No. Take care of your Church matters. Don't give the impression of pouting, nor pitying them, only [let it be seen] that it is not your path, nor your vocation.

The Mustard Seed Grows

If they reach out to you, do not push them away indignantly, or with rejection, but calmly, saying: I gave it up, it's over and done with; each one has his own grace. Your peace and calm will be more effective than anything else.

This, dear friend, is my reply. Please do not worry or be anxious. It's a lesson and a grace. Goodbye.

All yours,
Eymard

Mr. E. de Leudeville
at Leudeville
via Marolles-en-Hurepoix
(Seyne-et-Oise)

826

CO 825

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 33/52)

Paris, May 14, 1859

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

May God be praised for your good idea which Fr. Germain at St. Chamond accepted. It could do some good in two ways.

I would have been happy to go if God had willed it, showing me that it was possible.

I advise and urge you to plan as if I were not going to visit you, because God has just given us a little particle of his holy and gracious Cross. It makes it impossible for me to foresee any possible absence. However, they are writing to me from Marseilles [to say] that my presence will be somewhat necessary: God knows.

Humanly speaking, I don't see how I could go see you before the month of July.

Poor daughter! You are nailed to the cross, you can't see or receive the holy and adorable Host, visit your Beloved, or even be carried there like the paralytic. However, love for the most holy will of Jesus is worth more than all gifts, all the good things which spring from our own will. You have the Communion of love, the presence and grace of Jesus. Therefore, be a living Tabernacle, a dove like the first tabernacles,²⁸ an ark of the covenant with gold and two cherubim.

May Jesus ever be all in all for you.

All yours in his love,
Eymard, SS

Mme. Tholin-Bost
Tarare (Rhone)

²⁸ In the early centuries, tabernacles were sometimes shaped like a dove.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 35/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 16, 1859

Very dear Father,

Today I'll order the red vestment, a cope and a veil. The Gothic censer doesn't cost over 50 francs. I will bring you all those things from here.

I saw Mr. Favier again Saturday about the monstrance. He told me that he had found a little sketch of the style from the middle ages for you. I find the rays very thin and small. I'm told that is the form. I saw beautiful ones at Mr. Picard's, but they would cost more.

Perhaps with the IHS monogram, Mr. Favier's would still look very nice. The luna for the monstrance is large and beautiful; that is the main thing. Make a decision about this.

I'll order your chalice from him, the same style as the ciborium; in silver and not gold, to be sure; otherwise it would cost 340.

I'll go to Marseilles when you tell me, even if Fr. Champion had to stay alone, as you say, and do only adoration, since the Office would be impossible.

I adore, I bless God, and I kiss his fatherly hand for obliging us to close our eyes, take his hand, and go forward without any other resource, any other insight, any other hope, than his divine Goodness.

I see clearly that what our Lord wants from us is perfect surrender into his hands: nothing we expected happened.²⁹ Our hopes were changed by other means; strangers replaced the friends who were devoted to us at the beginning; trials came from our own. Fr. Hermann has changed, I don't say into an enemy, but into an antagonist, ever repeating what has been over for a year and a half; always speaking about the so-called sisters with a common choir, proclaiming loudly that he is no longer with us. What a pity! There is nothing else to say. God needs no one, he wants to keep the glory of his Work for himself alone.

As for us, he wants us to be free from any influence, from any protection, any outside direction. As long as we serve our Master well, we have nothing to fear. All this work of purification, estrangement, desertion, of abandonment by human beings, is the greatest grace of all. I constantly thank our Good Master and I dare say that I am afraid to see it stop. Trials are better than success; the cross better than Tabor.

So, announce my arrival, or make it known in whatever way you deem appropriate.

The "*Voix de la Verite*" published an article about our Society on Holy Thursday.

I just received the "*Gazette de Lyon*" dated May 12, where there is a little article. It seems that a friend read the notice and sent in the note.

I had thought that, if Pentecost Monday or Tuesday were good for the sermon you mentioned, it would give us a little more time here. What do you think? I am indifferent.

Our Good Master's service is going well. Stay in the breach. Everyone is pleased and happy: "If Jesus is for us, who can be against us?"

Eymard

P.S. I didn't receive any answer to my letter to Miss Marin.

I didn't write to Bishop de la Bouillerie, thinking that he also is against [us]. I visited Mme. de Rastignac twice and didn't receive any notification or card from her, as the sister had promised me.

²⁹ Alternate translation: Those whom we were expecting did not come.

828

CO 827

TO MME. ROTTIER (SR. ANTOINETTE DU SS)
(III 1/4)

Paris, May 16, 1859

Dear Madame,

I accept very gratefully your kindhearted and generous offer. I will need two thousand francs by May 31. Could you add 300 francs to it, because I am afraid that the amount which is due to us this month may be late because of unfinished business. I can't tell you how your kindness touches me. I tell God about it.

In his divine love, I am,
Dear Lady,

Devotedly yours,
Eymard

829

CO 828

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 37/181 VI 4)

Paris, Monday, May 16, 1859

Very dear Father,

1. I wrote to you this morning. I want to tell you that your Gothic vestments have been ordered; the total will amount to approximately 715 to 720. I think they will be fine; Fr. Champion is happy with the choice.

It would be prudent not to put yourself in a position to be refused by the Chancery. The very fact that some use them means that they tolerate it, or allow it to be, as in Paris and that is sufficient.

2. As you know, we have the first luna-holder for the monstrance. I am offering it to you wholeheartedly until you can have a gold one. So then, it will go around the world if God multiplies us. It is more as a thought that I am offering it to you, than as a ritual.

3. Adolph wants to go cook for you (as a servant with wages, of course).

I told him that I was going to write to you about it. He will return at the end of the week to know the answer. We would pay his trip there, in addition to his wages; what do you think? He would be happy with that, and it may just be the best decision, as I don't know where to find a suitable person.

4. Won't you have Mr. Koll make a lovely little Gothic steeple like ours?

5. I was told that the former sacristy, now a chapel, was very damp; is it true?

I have time only to say that I am in Jesus Christ,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

TO BISHOP EUGENE DE MAZENOD O.M.I. (MARSEILLES)

(I 1/1)³⁰

Excellency,

I am happy to see the beautiful day of Exposition in Marseilles approaching, in that modest chapel which soon will be a pious Cenacle. I feel the need to thank Your Excellency once again for having called us to Marseilles and for the kind promise to consider us as your sons.³¹

How good it is for me, Excellency, to render you an account of all the graces which God, in his infinite kindness, has given me through you!

I owe to one of your well-known disciples, Fr. Guibert d'Etor, priest, and to your religious family, that I am a Religious, and our little Society will receive the blessing of your venerable Episcopacy.

Fr. de Cuers writes to me that Your Excellency is willing to have me preach a sermon. Its sole purpose would be to make known the purpose of our Institute; what is more, that you would honor it with your presence. Your Excellency, please accept my deepest gratitude, that would be a good and blessed beginning.

In order to be able to handle this in Paris, please determine the date and the church for the opening sermon: whether the day after Ascension suits You, or any other day of your choice; as for the church, I would like that of the Trinity, as being smaller and more humble than the Cathedral.

I don't know whether Your Excellency knows that from Paris I sent the most skilled workman for Gothic, the very one who made the Gothic chair at St. Clotilde's. Everything will be in 14th century style, that glorious era of the triumph of the holy Eucharist. I ordered all the sacred vessels in Gothic form and even the vestments will be very lovely and, especially, will be in harmony with the rest. Here in Paris we also use the Gothic form for worship, as an obvious argument for the antiquity of dogma and memento of our ancestors. Bishop Sibour usually officiated with these magnificent vestments. In Paris we are left free, and we have adopted that style for ourselves.

In a few weeks I will be at your feet, to renew my request for that venerable blessing. In the meantime, I would like to say that I am,

Monsignor, with the greatest filial veneration,

Your Excellency's humble son,
Eymard, Sup.

Paris, May 18, 1859

³⁰ Published in French as a sequel to Letter 37 to Fr. De Cuers.

³¹ Literally: children.

831

CO 830

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 36/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 19, 1859

Very dear Father,

Mr. de Saint-Louvent will go see you in passing. He really wants to join us. If God wills it, I will it wholeheartedly.

We agreed that he should come to spend a few days with us during the Corpus Christi retreat. We will settle something then.

Nothing new, except that everyone is well, serving our Good Master with joy and ease.

Your Gothic vestments are being made. The cope is thirteenth and fourteenth century [style]. It is an original, but they say it will be nice.

Benediction is ringing:

*Tibi toto corde et medullis animae.*³²

Eymard

<p><i>May 24 & 31 Conference Servants: A few words about the office. News about the trip to Marseilles.</i></p>

832

CO 831

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 38/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 28, 1859

Kind Father,

A word in haste! Thank you for your welcome and kind letters. They make us so happy!

I'll leave here Tuesday at two in the afternoon. I'll arrive only Wednesday night by the omnibus train. But don't come to the station, because if there were some difficulty Tuesday, I would leave only in time to arrive Thursday morning.

This is said only in case difficulties arise. Your orders have been communicated: the monstrance has been ordered. It's the same, but with lovely decorations. It will be fine; we must let Mr. Rey have the honor.

For 800 francs, it's impossible to have everything that you are requesting in Gothic. With all his good will, it's impossible for Mr. Picard to do it for less than 900 francs, without counting the 10 francs for packing and shipping.

For the vestments, since you were leaving me some latitude, we thought we would choose somewhere between poverty and beauty. But given your good reasons, I had the cope and stole changed to something more simple.

I'll bring a few vestments, the chalice, the monstrance. Mr. Picard is asking for a few extra days. We will have everything around Pentecost. Still alone with our Good Master! his holy Will replaces everything; it must be for the best: may he be blessed.

³² Wholeheartedly yours from the depths of my soul.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

833

CO 832

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 30/75)

Paris, May 29, 1859

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I will pass through Lyons on Wednesday morning. I may say holy Mass at Ainay, then leave for Marseilles for the feast of the Ascension, preach the following day, give a eucharistic retreat in preparation for Corpus Christi, then return here. I will probably not be able to see you, since you will be at Calet and I will be in Marseilles, on rue Nau, 7.

This little foundation is totally God's work, because love for our Lord here is somewhat like Calvary; pray for us. I know Mr. Giroud from La Mure very well. I am praying for his healing and return to God; he is an excellent man, charitable and just; unfortunately, he has no faith. God will give it to him because he has done so much good!

So now you are alone, a hermit at Calet where my contemplative rock is and where you, also, are in our Lord. Be happy and joyful there surrounded by nature which is so calm and beautiful. Discover God making everything beautiful, making the bleakest deserts delightful.

Imagine that you are touching heaven with your hands, and that is where your heart must live. Dear daughter, without Jesus our good Master, we couldn't live here in this land of sin and desolation. Jesus is the one who makes this exile beautiful and lovable.

Goodbye, dear daughter.

All yours in Jesus Christ.
Eymard, S.S.S.

Father Eymard left for the foundation of Marseilles where he preached the opening sermon on June 3rd.

834

CO 833

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(III 11/21)

Marseilles, June 4, 1859

Mademoiselle,

I'm writing to tell you that I had a good trip. I found the work well advanced and the chapel almost finished. It will be very lovely. The house is beginning well. It is large... and fit to receive 20 members.

I was well received in Marseilles. Yesterday, at 4p.m., I gave the opening sermon about our Society in the presence of the Bishop, many priests of the city and a large and devout attendance. So the Work has been made known and begun. We are already three. - If the young man whom you

The Mustard Seed Grows

brought me at Mme. Morel's persists in his good intention to consecrate himself to our Lord and his gracious service in the Most Blessed Sacrament, send him to me right away, while I am here; I will initiate him; he will be very happy here and especially very edified. Let him bring what he has with him. - If he leaves Lyons at 5:30 a.m. he will arrive in Marseilles at 6:30 p.m. There he should take a local coach and pay to be brought to no. 7, Nau St., which he will find without any difficulty. Let him bring something to eat and drink on the way. He should not join anyone on the way, nor say why he is coming to Marseilles. [Let him] simply say that he is coming to see his relatives. The price for the train is 20 francs 40; give him 25 francs from me, and I will repay you when I pass by. He ought to have his package registered, or take it with him if it isn't large.

I'm asking you to do this as soon as possible, dear Demoiselle, and if the good young man doesn't make up his mind, please write to me about it so that I may find someone else. I would regret it because I liked him, and I think it is his vocation.

Tell his devout parents that we will take good care of him.

Goodbye.

All yours,
Eymard

To Miss Mariette Guillot
Lyons

835

CO 834

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 198/395 VI 2)

Marseilles, June 8, 1859

Very dear daughter,

Thank you for your little notes, for news about your dear house, and for the devout prayers your sisters offered to God for me. I don't forget you here either. I had a good trip, without any migraine headaches. I found great support for the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament at Marseilles. There are beautiful souls devoting themselves to it. We are in a devout and quiet sector.

God blessed the sermon given in the presence of the Bishop and a devout attendance.

We are working hard so as to be able to say Mass in the large chapel on the holy day of Pentecost.

We will begin the preparatory retreat on Thursday the 16th, until Thursday the 23rd, Corpus Christi. The first exercise will be at 7:00 a.m.; Mass followed by an instruction; and in the evening at 8:00 p.m., an instruction and Benediction. The first Exposition will take place on the 23rd, Corpus Christi; then I will leave for Paris immediately after, if possible.

I received news from Mr. Clavel. He is preparing to come in a month. Nothing new about the other vocations, except that a tonsured cleric came to spend a few days here, but he is still a doubtful subject. His father came to get him; he told us that he would return.

Tomorrow night we will wait for young Ratons; I liked him, I will train him, he will be happy. This house seems to be promising; it has a very lovely chapel, it will be a fine foundation.

I am well, although I miss our reverent adoration very much. The days are very long here. My heart is in Paris; although the cross there is very tall, it is light and sweet with the Eucharist.

My best wishes to all your sisters, to the mother.³³

³³ to her.

The Mustard Seed Grows

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I saw dear Miss Dalaca. She is fine, but it seems to me that the time isn't right. There is nothing new from Toulon; I saw Mme. Negre. I was very reserved, because nothing is clear.

P.P.S. I saw Mme. Spazzier several times. She wasn't able to settle in Marseilles; she wants to go to Paris, she will rent a room and work there; but it is agreed that she will no longer speak to me about being part of the little community. I told her so very clearly. I thought she wouldn't go to Paris, but as she is free, she is free to go there. Receive her kindly, but not as a sister, only as a friend.

Hello Sr. Benoite! Come now, you aren't praying enough for me; love your littleness and our dear Jesus.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
66 rue du faubourg St. Jacques
Paris

836

CO 835

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 21/26 VII 17)

(L & S)

Marseilles, June 8, 1859

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in our Lord,

Your kind letter was a pleasant surprise, giving me the hope of seeing you even if only for a few hours. I am very happy to know that you have such a kind family around you, [which is] so devout, and so affectionate towards you. It is a little flower on the path of life; pluck it as you pass, but for your good Master who is in Heaven.

On Friday, June 3rd, I gave a talk on the aim of our Work and our Institute. We found plenty of support in Marseilles - that is the 1st grace of foundation - next will come the grace of the cross - which cements the stones of the building. From Thursday, June 16 to June 23rd, I am to preach, in our chapel, an octave in preparation for the 1st Exposition which will take place on the Feast of Corpus Christi; after that, I shall go back to Paris and I shall give you at least 10 hours' notice.

After Corpus Christi, the painting work will go on for 2 months. I hope to be back in the autumn.

Madame Spazzier leaves tomorrow at 7:40 a.m., and will be with you about 4 in the afternoon, just in passing. She will bring the pecuniary matter to a close.

The good Lady is going to Paris, where she hopes to find some work, live alone quietly, close to the Blessed Sacrament. I told her that because of her health she could not stay with Miss G. [Guillot]; she must have a special diet, and it isn't possible.

As for your question - whether a Religious who has made simple vows of poverty and obedience is obliged to divest herself of her property.

No, Mademoiselle, no, she may keep property; the vow applies only to use, disposing of income, or an act of proprietorship - and then she would need permission: that is all the vow entails.

How unfortunate! that sometimes people will use anything to bind a conscience wrongly!

Believe me ever, dear Mademoiselle,

Ever united with you in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.

June 12, Pentecost. First Mass in the large chapel of Marseilles.

837

CO 836

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 15/104)

Marseilles, Holy Day of Pentecost 1859

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I've just received your kind letter with the enclosed notes, thank you. Before leaving Paris I had also received the painful and beautiful news about the little angel's death. God came for him, as a beautiful flower worthy of Paradise, a companion in glory for his courageous and devout father. Yes, tears on a grave are always bitter, because death is such a sad thing, so contrary to love! But Heaven upon a grave is such a heavenly thing, so consoling and so attractive. To live in God's embrace means finding all our children and all our friends there. God is life and the happiness of life. I understand how this death has both broken and lifted up that fine mother. The Blessed Virgin experienced both of these sentiments on Calvary and at the tomb; one becomes the virtue of the other. Oh! If we didn't have the adorable Eucharist here below, Jesus the Emmanuel with us, this earth would be too sad, life too difficult, time too long. We must thank the goodness of God for leaving us a Paradise of love, Jesus veiled, a column of smoke and fire in the desert.

It is said that Pope John the XXII once said that the Paradise of just souls is to be near Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to form his court there. So then, your little angel would be in the church of your parish where he died. There, he must be happy near his dear mother and you. What a comforting thought! Please present my prayerful sympathy to his good mother. I am praying for her with all my heart.

I will be here until June 24, the day after Corpus Christi. On Thursday I will begin a retreat to prepare for the first Exposition which will take place on Thursday the 23rd³⁴. If you should need me, I will be entirely at your disposal.

Our little foundation is beginning well. The work is almost over, painting will begin soon; it will take two months. I plan to return here around the month of October, when everything will be ready. Pray for us, dear daughter. We really need God and his holy grace.

When I return to Paris, I will fulfill my promise to you. Very dear daughter, believe that I am ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

Madame de Grandville
8 rue St. Laurent
Nantes

³⁴ From June 16 - 23, he preached a retreat "Octave" in preparation for the feast of Corpus Christi and the exposition.

838

CO 837

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(III 12/21)

Marseilles, June 22, 1859

Dear daughter,

I will leave from Marseilles Friday morning, to be at Parrache in the evening at 6:00 p.m. Don't bother to come, I will go directly to Mr. Gaudioz³⁵ and from there to Mme. Morel's. I will stay in Lyons only until 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning, unless the Good Lord should want to use me to help Mr. Morel.

I only have time to say that I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

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

839

CO 838

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 39/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 1, 1859

Very dear Father,

I have been here in Paris since Saturday, happy to see all our good Brothers again. I found everyone well. Mr. Carri is the same as usual. What had tired him was to have catechism every night in groups, especially for the dullest ones, who were making him shout.

Today everything is back in order. I dismissed the children who were under twelve years old; they were only in our way.

We had exposition all week in honor of Corpus Christi; we prayed very much for you, as I understand how deprived you are not to have exposition.

Good Fr. Champion has been admirably devoted.

Enclosed are the receipts for the money you had given me for the various suppliers.

The crown for the monstrance is finished. I find it beautiful and in good taste; it is made of gilded silver with precious stones. It costs 170 francs. It fits into the cross of the monstrance itself. Consequently, nothing needs to be added or soldered.

No one has come yet.³⁶ So I constantly apply these words of our Lord to myself: *nisi granum frumenti mortuum fuerit, ipsum solum manet.*³⁷ When will this selfish self truly die in order that our Lord's kingdom may begin!

³⁵ Her brother-in-law.

³⁶ No vocations.

³⁷ Unless a grain of wheat dies, it remains alone.

The Mustard Seed Grows

When you send a package to Paris, enclose the chalice veil for the red vestment. Mr. Hubert will make it over; he made a mistake and made it too small.

Kindly send me the notes on Mr. Laurent's examination which I left with you. Mail them to me so that I may share them with Fr. Champion, together with your opinion.

I haven't been able to do the errand of getting the molds to make folds in the surplices,³⁸ because adoration keeps me at home.

Mr. Carri will go to the Ministry today to get your money order. We have nothing left. May God be blessed and thanked!

Be sure to take care of your fragile health, dear Father, in order to be able to work for the service of our Good Master. Do out of charity for yourself what your charity would make you do for others.

Believe me always in our Lord,
Very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Tonight your money order is being forwarded from the Ministry. You will receive it tomorrow night.

Mr. Picard was and is very sad about his bad luck; he said that the millers are at fault. We will send it all to you by regular mail.

The whole house embraces you "*in Christo.*" In the next letter I will send you the bill for the small accounts which we sent you.

840

CO 839

**TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE
BL. SACRAMENT)**
(IV 5/36)

Paris, rue Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, July 1, 1859

Dear sister in our Lord

I've just read your letter. Thank you for your kind and sisterly greetings! Thank you in our good Master. It made me very happy because we love to express and read what we love and desire solely, greatly and eternally: the eucharistic kingdom of Jesus in all hearts. Don't think that I've forgotten you, dear sister. Oh! No! In Rome you were ever present to me. I had brought your letters and notes on the Third Order.

Our good Master was so kind and generous to me in Rome! The Sovereign Pontiff himself kindly prepared the "Letter" which encourages, praises and blesses the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament. He gave us, and the associates as well, a plenary daily indulgence. That all happened in two weeks, to everyone's great surprise.

When I returned to Paris, we had a good retreat after which the three pioneers made their perpetual vows; two priests and one brother whose vocations were doubtful, left. We prefer to be fewer but united in heart and life.

I've just arrived from Marseilles where we have just founded a house of adoration. The first Exposition took place on Corpus Christi, the 23rd. Our Work was welcomed with a lot of good feeling in this city where devotion is alive and fervent. The Bishop of Marseilles is using us to

³⁸ Narrow folds, like pleats.

The Mustard Seed Grows

establish Forty-Hours in his diocese. He is so thrilled to be able to contribute to this royal organization of perpetual adoration.

I will work to establish the Third-Order of the Blessed Sacrament. I haven't had a moment until now. If only you were in Paris! We would talk about it a little. Why couldn't you come here, spend a week or two! Pray now, so that we may receive good and holy vocations, men who want to give and devote themselves unconditionally to the service and glory of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Alas! There are so few, especially among priests, who understand the eucharistic life, and who have the courage to serve Him alone! It upsets me. - Five hundred priests asked to be chaplains for our armies, and no one asks to form the guard of the King of kings. Oh! What shame and weakness!

Goodbye dear daughter. You know that I am very close to you in the divine Eucharist and,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Miss Virginie Danion
at Mauron (Morbihan)

841

CO 840

TO MME. GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)
(VII 8/8)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 1, 1859

Dear Mme. Galle,

Forgive me for passing near you without stopping.³⁹ They had written to tell me to come quickly, that one of our religious was ill, and I left right after the Exposition at Marseilles - fortunately there is nothing serious, it was only ill health.

I was looking forward to coming to see you, to praying in your devout and venerable chapel, to be able to speak quietly with you and with Paul; but the Master wanted that sacrifice from me. I hope I will be able to make up for it another time.

Life is like that, poor and dear Lady, - we greet one another, we say hello as we pass, we suffer, and then we go toward the eternal shores.

A sad life! if heaven were not its term! but beautiful and precious, since it earns Heaven for us!

So have confidence and patience in your crosses and sorrows, dear Lady,

See the divine hand which sends them to you and helps you to bear them - eat the bread of the strong often, for you need it - and holy Communion will replace everything.

My regards to dear Paul, my respects to Mademoiselle, to the Nanny, to your whole house, - and believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

³⁹ In Lyons.

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 22/26 VII 17)

(L & S)

Paris, July 1, '59

Mademoiselle and very dear Sister in our Lord,

I have returned to Paris; I was unable to stop at Valence, which was a sacrifice for me; but they wrote to say that one of our religious was ill, and to come quickly. Fortunately it was only overwork and not a serious illness.

Our Lord gave me great consolation in Marseilles, where I found great support for our Work for the Most Blessed Sacrament; the spiritual exercises were well attended. -

I observe with pleasure your desire to belong completely to our Lord, how you reproach yourself for the emptiness of your life, and the very deep feeling you have that God alone is your only happiness. Yes, dear Sister! put yourself wholeheartedly at God's disposal and grace, in these few days that remain to you here below; this life is but a preparation for eternal life - it is purification through love, and love of the cross.

If you should find a few blossoms on your way, it is a gracious [gift] from your kind Father; but, offer him their fragrance and beauty. -

No news here, except that we have a continual Corpus Christi in our little Cenacle; the Ladies are well they are striving to belong totally to God. Mme. Spazzier is here she is busy taking lessons in pottery I don't think she is called to community life. She has found an apartment nearby; I wish she would give up this desire completely, as it worries and upsets her. If she wanted to live as a boarder in some community, she could, but that doesn't suit her. I feel sorry for her, and am reluctant to abandon her.

You know, dear Sister, how fondly I am, and remain in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Mademoiselle de Revel
at Mr le Baron de Carmejane
faubourg faventine 20
Valence, Drome

<i>July 2</i> <i>Retr. Ser: Fidelity to grace, humility</i>

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 16/104)

Paris, July 4, 1859

Dear daughter,

I arrived in Paris a few days ago. I don't know whether to be happy about my trip and the eucharistic retreat I gave in Marseilles. They tell me that it did help, but it helped me even more to

The Mustard Seed Grows

see the excellence of a vocation of which I am so unworthy and the need that souls have for our Lord who is truth and love.

What good would we accomplish if we didn't lead souls to their divine center, to their life. Dear daughter, you are blessed to be the servant of the God of the Eucharist. Have a great appreciation for your grace and strive to become worthy of such a noble Master. That requires that you should be a loving servant, sufficiently rewarded by serving such a good Master.

Be the apostle of the divine eucharist, like a flame which enlightens and warms, like the angel of his heart who will go to proclaim him to those who don't know him and will encourage those who love him and are suffering.

I'm happy that you are close to your sister-in-law. Be very kind, understanding, compassionate, your heart being as our Lord has given it to you; be open and magnanimous with her. Let nature have its rights, and raise them to the level of virtue and divine love. Let them see you as a saint and as a soul which belongs fully to God; it will be a lesson for them. Take hold of all the trust offered from her heart so full of sadness and courage; the moment of suffering is God's great moment, if God is seen in it.

Be obedient about swimming in the sea; even St. Jerome would tell you so if he were in my place; give no thought to the winds and clouds which try to upset you. Take better care of yourself; my opinion is that you should eat meat when you go swimming in the sea. I am told that it goes together, but, I'm not prescribing anything.

I would surely be happy to go to Nantes if God willed it. I would be visiting my old daughter in our Lord.⁴⁰

Believe me ever,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

844

CO 843

TO MISS FANNY MATAGRIN
(V 4/5)

Paris, July 4, 1859

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

Your dear letter found me here in Paris, where I have been since my return from Marseilles a few days ago. I didn't stop in Lyons, because one of our religious was ill in Paris, and they were waiting anxiously for me. On the other hand, knowing that Mme. Tholin was at the springs, the time wasn't right for her retreat.

I am due to return to Marseilles, to the new foundation in the fall, and if God wills, we could see then whether something could be done for the glory of our good Master at Tarare and at Amplepuis.

I will also be very pleased, dear Mademoiselle, to see you and to thank you again for what you have done for our chapel. It's a beautiful memento which makes me present you often to the good Master, when I celebrate [Mass].

If Paris were not so far, I would tell you: come and see us here, make a little retreat at the feet of our Lord. We are so fine here! better than on Mount Tabor.

⁴⁰ French: "ma vieille fille," perhaps: most elderly, or old friend.

The Mustard Seed Grows

I was happy to see Madame, your sister-in-law. I was hoping to see her again; but Paris is so big that time is often lacking. Please offer my fond respects to that dear Lady. As for you, dear Mademoiselle, you must be ill since you are at Uriage.⁴¹ Take care of yourself, it's necessary.

You have a chapel where our Lord dwells. Visit him often with that fine heart he has given you, and given you for himself. Let your virtue consist in his holy love, and your merits in his infinite mercy, and you will be very rich⁴² and even perfect.

Dear daughter, I bless you in the divine charity of Jesus, and I am eternally united and dedicated to you,

Eymard

Mademoiselle,
Miss Matagrín
Hotel-des-Bains
Uriage (Isere)

845

CO 844

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

(I 40/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 5, 1859

Very dear Father,

I wasn't able to get Mr. Hubert's bill before last night. You will find it enclosed.

I saw Picard yesterday. Everything will be ready by the end of the week. He will let me know before he sends the box, so that I can look at everything.

Yes, I willingly grant the deferment of conditions for your vow of poverty, until you are able.

I really pity poor Father Laurent. He had good qualities; but alas! How can it be that he didn't realize that such conduct would be inadmissible?

Nothing new at the moment, except for a few letters of inquiry.

Get the sleep you need, dear Father, to work well. Is it impossible to go to the ocean?

The bell is calling us.

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

<i>July 5</i> <i>Conf. Ser: The Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>

846

CO 845

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 31/75)

Paris, July 6, 1859

Very dear daughter,

I am here in Paris. I passed near St. Romans without being able to stop and pay you a brief visit. I had to come quickly to Paris for Corpus Christi Sunday, since one of our religious was ill and requesting my presence.

⁴¹ Springs.

⁴² Spiritually rich.

The Mustard Seed Grows

The Good Lord didn't grant me this consolation; may he be ever blessed! I would have been happy to see again that beautiful boulder noticed by Caesar, which I loved.⁴³ The soul loves hills and mountains. It feels like it is touching Heaven from there, and closer to God. You are fortunate to see those beautiful, peaceful mountains. The soul rises higher because of them. You are happy in the countryside alone with God, with the purity of nature and the beauty of divine Providence. However, I would become lonesome there, because your Tabernacle is too far. Nevertheless, try to go as often as you can. It is like visiting your friend, your Father, Jesus, and Paradise.

The harder it is to get there, the better welcome you will have.

Be kind, pleasant, gracious, attentive and above all, patient in divine love, and everything will blossom around you.

I am back in Paris, busy with God and the people who besiege us. I make myself available, but I will surely get my revenge in Paradise where no one will ever disturb me from my place (except you, dear daughter, you have the right).

My devout regards to your whole family. You know that I am one with you in our Lord.

Eymard, S.S.S.

Mme. Jordan
at Calet at St. Romans
by St. Marcellin (Isere)

847

CO 846

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

(V 34/76)

Paris, July 6, 1859

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your kind letter. I surely would have liked to see you when I passed through Lyons, or at least have more time [to do so]. You preferred to make this sacrifice for the sake of others. God will repay you for it. I saw your dear mother. I am always very moved by this beautiful soul whom God is keeping on his Cross of love. I love this beautiful soul, I see that our Lord loves her very much and generously imparts his graces upon her. She is suffering though, since God isn't letting her enjoy the sweetness of the Cross, nor the peace of virtue. This dear mother must see that every one of her actions is worth a whole life. Consequently, let her stay close to Jesus crucified.

Stay with your dear mother when you have the time and freedom to do so. She needs you because no one understands her better than you do. So, my opinion is that you should put aside your affairs which need to be organized, so as to divide your time between Lyons and Romaneche. However, my dear daughter, if you could get some help, and give a few hours a day to organize your house and affairs, at least for the obvious things, I think you would do well. You would like to do everything, and do it alone, and that is a little beyond your strength.

Don't worry too much because you have been casual toward your interior life. It seems that God is humbling you about your interior discipline by letting you be ill or always busy. When you feel better, have more time, and have servants who are more attentive and dedicated, you will be able to concentrate on this reform. However, don't do everything at once, and especially don't worry.

⁴³ The Rock of St. Romans.

The Mustard Seed Grows

Since the Pastor took the initiative, return to him for confession, that is appropriate. Then, do it for a greater good. You gave a good reply about the dismissal. Let them see to it among themselves.

Dear daughter, continue to receive Communion in spite of your poverty and spiritual weaknesses. You are so weak and poor that you have an immense need for our Lord, so that his presence may reestablish and strengthen you again in every way. Be the beggar of kindness, and the daughter of mercy.

Dear daughter, thank you for your wishes on the feast of St. Peter. Yes, the glory of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, that is all I wish for you, all that I hope for. I also need to do better! I often blame myself for the same things as you do, and I feel that I am really late. Pray for me.

Continue to have confidence for your dear patient. We had agreed on a way of proceeding with your mother. It seems to me that if we must be excessively kind in reasonable matters, we must be firm in those which are not, take charge and clearly impose your will; otherwise the moral evil will grow.

My loving and respectful regards to your dear mother. You know that I am, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Madame Gourd

848

CO 847

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 23/52)

Paris, July 6, 1859

Miss Stephanie

It's a good thing you didn't wait for something perfect to write to me, dear daughter; you have good intentions, you have begun and already made good changes. That's fine, but please don't [try to] do everything at once. Set reasonable goals for yourself in keeping with your other spiritual and interior responsibilities.

It is more perfect to do a little every day than to kill oneself in order to be rid of it. Then, put order by means of order, by attention to details and specifics.

Dear daughter, you can see what an old confused conscience is like,⁴⁴ one no longer dares to look into it because it is in total disarray. That is the main reason why conversions are delayed.

It is good to know that there is nothing more fatiguing for the body than this work of reorganization. So, I beg you, accomplish that task discreetly and prudently; do it calmly and at set times, not with a determined goal.

I could easily understand your sorrow, dear daughter, if the Reserved Sacrament were taken from you.

1. If the Bishop allows it, neither the Pastor nor any priest could withdraw this permission. The Bishop must know what he must do and be aware of his rights.

2. The holy Council of Trent grants the favor of the Reserved Sacrament to annexes, if the Ordinary thinks it is advisable. An annex is a church or a public chapel distant from the parish church where Mass is celebrated quite often for the good of parishioners and from where holy Viaticum is taken for the parishes.

Well, the Pastor could easily consider your chapel in this light.

⁴⁴ Her father's spiritual state.

The Mustard Seed Grows

3. If too many difficulties are put forward, we would address ourselves to Rome. In the meantime, dear daughter, say the prayer of the Disciples of Emmaus to our Lord: “Stay with us Lord, for it is getting late!”

Have a great love for our good Master; belong entirely to Him. Live of his love⁴⁵ and you will be a good Servant of the Blessed Sacrament.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

July 8	Conf. Ser: Preparation for the retreat.
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849

CO 848

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

Paris, July 8, 1859

Very dear Father,

Fr. Champion’s reply must have informed you that we had received your note for 500 francs. Thanks again.

Your letter served as a lovely dessert; everyone listened, and laughed while waiting for the second dish: what a good answer you gave! The Blessed Sacrament makes us greater and richer than any religious privileges, than any large buildings or famous names.

If those respectable religious want to become religious of the Blessed Sacrament, how wonderful! We would be honored to go expose the Blessed Sacrament in the beautiful and magnificent church of Sts. Peter and James on the Esquiline Hill. I will see Mr. Cartier and give him the message to return to Marseilles.

Praised be God for the Beautiful⁴⁶ sunshine which is giving you back some energy and improved health! however, I would like to hear that you are getting some sleep. What a lovely visit you had! that pleased me, because it shows concern.

I will see Mr. Marziou and make your request. I know he is a bit tired and has rented a country place at Bourg-la-Reine. He has so many troubles, poor Mr. Marziou!

Here are the details about the small objects purchased in Paris:

2 altar canons ⁴⁷ at 2,50 that is	Fr. 5,00
3 Holy Spirits at 6	“ 18,00
2 altar cloth decorations	“ 28,20
Pictures of the Blessed Virgin	“ 3,00
1 large one with small stones	“ 15,00
4 large ones with 2 each	“ <u>8,00</u>
	Fr. 77,20
Due for Br. Antoine’s trip	25,00
Candle bill	<u>114,00</u>
Total	Fr. 216,20

⁴⁵ French: *de son Amour* - could be translated of, by from, on his love.

⁴⁶ capitalized in the original.

⁴⁷ Name of prayer cards formerly placed on the altar.

RECEIPTS

1. 3 Fr. left from Br. Antoine	Fr 3,00
2. Extra money for the chalice	“ 2,00
3. Extra money for the monstrance	“ 32,00
4. Balance from the 100 fr. for my trip	“ <u>23,00</u>
Total	Fr. 60,00

Balance due Fr. 156,20

Addition due by Fr. de Cuers

Paid July 11	Fr. <u>27,40</u>
	Fr. 128,80
July 22	Fr. <u>53,00</u>
	75,80 + 100 fr.

 Advance payments to Koll Fr. 80,00

66,00 (?)

Advance on the Payment:

Balance due	Fr. 59,80
Sent October 15	“ <u>10,40</u>
	Fr. 49,40
Candles	“ <u>60,00</u>
Balance due	“ 109,40

So, dear Father, this is your bill. However, I suspect that your finances must be short, and ours are certainly not long. Our Good Master will add the difference.

Everyone here loves you, embraces you and expresses all that fraternal affection can say.

I am

Ever all yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. A holy priest from Turin is asking for information. A few young people have been reflecting, among others Mr. de Leudeville, Mr. Chauet from Lyons. They are looking in our direction. Perhaps it may be the miraculous catch, and our Lord will say: throw the net. He will bless as only he knows how.

Mr. Carri is preparing a long letter for you; he is fine.

850

CO 849

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 110/145 VI 10)

Paris, July 11, 1859

Very dear sisters,

It has been impossible for me to go to La Mure to greet you. I had to greet your mountains and bless you from a distance. One of our Religious was sick in Paris and I was anxious to arrive, lest adoration could not continue. Fortunately it was not a serious illness.

The Mustard Seed Grows

I stayed in Marseilles three weeks. I was very edified and consoled by the piety and devotion of the Marseillais. The retreat I preached at our church was well attended, and on the beautiful day of Corpus Christi we were able to have the first Exposition in our new chapel. There were five of us: three priests and two brothers. I left Marseilles the next day, June 24, and I didn't stop along the way, in spite of commitments I had made. Duty comes first.

If we were more numerous, many other establishments are being offered to us, one in Rome especially, but we must limit ourselves and wait for God's hour. This eucharistic vocation is such a beautiful vocation! to be constantly occupied near our Divine Master, to be like his royal guard and his family; we would not give up our beautiful lot for all the honors and possessions of this world. I feel that all the experiences through which I have been led by God's goodness were only a preparation for this beautiful and holy vocation. So I constantly thank God for my experience with the good Marist Fathers, and for being a pastor and an associate.

Now one thing bothers me; it is to realize how much I lack, so many virtues that would be needed to be competent for my duties.

I'm keeping in good health, but I don't have enough time to finish the business that comes up each day. This life in Paris is so absorbing! Then our adoration also takes a good part of my time, but a blessed time because it is employed like the life of the angels in heaven.

I expect to go to Marseilles around the month of October to bring a few members there. I will try to reserve a day for you, dear sister. In the meantime, pray for me and for the beautiful Work that our Lord has entrusted to me, though unworthy; and believe me always in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Do you have any news about Fr. Faure, the pastor at St. Laurent? He is really lazy.

851

CO 850

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 42/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 13, 1859

Very dear Father,

I received your letter this morning with the two notes enclosed, 100 francs for Mass stipends and 100 francs divided as follows: 72,60 to supplement for the three-month period; 20,40 to be subtracted from the 156,20: that is a balance of 128,80.

I've just come from Mr. Picard's, where I saw Miss de Mauroy. She is still waiting for a letter from you, acknowledging reception of her lamp (Cherche-Midi 16). Please write her a letter of thanks. It's important to her.

Mr. Picard told me that he would send all your objects to you in the middle of next week. What delayed him was the new mold for the candelabras.

Just write to Rev. Fr. Archier, Superior of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, or to his substitute, rue Neuve, Grenoble (Isre). He will send you the water you want immediately. Ask him for a canteen; tell them that I recommended it.

Fr. Champion is correcting the proofs for the Missal and Breviary from Mr. Adrien Le Clere: I am so accustomed to disappointments that I no longer hope for anything ahead of time.

Paris is enjoying a heat wave that would make you envious, if you weren't in Marseilles. People are almost afraid to go out, so the streets aren't very busy.

The Mustard Seed Grows

Yesterday, there was a light show⁴⁸ for peace. Good people rejoice; revolutionaries are unhappy about it. People are happy to wait for the Emperor; but as the fleet is always loaded with bombs and sailors, they say: to avoid waste, the Emperor should salute England with it to inform them about his victorious entry.

Goodbye, good Father.

All yours, the whole house embraces you. There are so many green beans that they almost dry on the table.

Eymard

P.S. The case is copper.

July 15	<i>Conf. Ser: Peace; detachment from creatures, jealousy of our vocation.</i>
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852

CO 851

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 34/52)

Paris, July 15, 1859

Dear sister,

Yesterday I received your kind letter. I didn't dare write to you at Amplepuis, as I didn't know how long you would be there.

God didn't give me the consolation of seeing you when I passed by. May he be praised! If he wants to give me this joy in the fall, I will thank him for it, and then I would be at your service for the Work of Adoration. - God gave me great consolations in Marseilles. I found great souls there, souls on fire. I hope that our good Master will find Eagles around his divine Body.

We made the first exposition there on Thursday, the feast of Corpus Christi; then we discontinued it in order to finish the repairs. The church will be very fitting. We were five: three priests and two brothers.

That house will not be fully organized until October or November. In the meantime, we are asking our good Master to send us subjects pleasing to his heart, because it would be a mistake to seek or desire them on our own. We would take in strangers and enemies. Oh! How I have suffered from conditional vocations, from men who only give themselves by halves! Since the beginning, six priests have left. When I reflect on the reasons, I thank the Good Lord for it, while also humbling myself that I couldn't or didn't know how to form them eucharistically. So, when a vocation comes, I consider first who is sending him and why he is coming, because I no longer want any men who come for themselves. Therefore, pray for good vocations near the Great Master: it is a gift which isn't appreciated, an unknown grace.

Last week, I saw your artist brother, as well as his wife. He received me well. A mutual friend presented me very simply, then my relationship with the whole family opened their hearts; they promised they would come to see me. You understand that I want to bring these fine relatives to God! They are dear to me because of you.

Your brother told me that his dear Father was coming to see him. That is a good idea; urge him to do so. I would be happy to see him, his presence may perhaps bring everything to a conclusion for the best.

When a free soul has a generous desire to give himself to God in the religious life, when this thought has matured, it must be tested so that it can find peace. It often happens that God only

⁴⁸ Illumination.

The Mustard Seed Grows

wants an interior vocation, not an external one. The first becomes a powerful stimulus and makes a person fervent everywhere.

Take better care of your poor health, in order to suffer a little longer for the glory of our divine Master in whom I am, dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I received news about your dear sister in Alger. She is fine.

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at the Neris Springs (Allier)

July 20 or 22	<i>Conf. Ser: Self-denial.</i>
	<i>Annual Retreat to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament July 25 - 31, 1859</i>
Jul 25	<i>1st Meditation - Grace and spirit of our vocation. Conference: The Rule. 2nd Meditation - The purpose of our vocation. The greatest, holiest and happiest, perpetual adoration.</i>
Jul 26	<i>1st Meditation - The ways of providence toward us. Conference: Self-knowledge. 2nd Meditation - The purpose of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament (to unite oneself to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament).</i>
Jul 27	<i>1st Meditation - Purity of service, of state, of action. Conference: Our 7 enemies. 2nd Meditation - Purity of love, of suffering, etc.</i>
Jul 28	<i>1st Meditation - Self-pride. Conference: The vows. 2nd Meditation - Evening sermon given in public.</i>
Jul 29	<i>1st Meditation - Humility of love. Conference: Reading of the Rule, explanations, etc. 2nd Meditation - Poverty.</i>
Jul 29	<i>Conference: Self-denial of mind and heart - gift of self.</i>
Jul 30, 31	<i>1st Meditation - Spiritual poverty of mind, of heart, of will. Conference: Omitted. 2nd Meditation - To live with Jesus Christ, in Jesus Christ, by Jesus Christ.</i>
Jul 31	<i>Before the Profession of Vows: 1st Meditation - On the foundation. 2nd Meditation - Closing of the retreat. Mary, the Papal blessing.</i>

On July 31 the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament made their first vows (which were then only private). During this retreat, 2 letters were written on the 26th, one to Josephine Gourd and one to her daughter Stephanie.

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 35/76)

Paris, July 26, 1859

Very dear daughter,

I was a bit worried about all of you. Your letter reassured me and gave me two pieces of good news for which I really thank our Lord.

Yes, have confidence, divine mercy will triumph one day. We don't know how or when, because God wants us to continue asking and increasing our trust in him.

The story about your servant demonstrated a flighty [person] with a very bad spirit. You did well to act with authority and firmness, and especially to put Miss Stephanie on the same level of authority as yourself.

Dismiss her, and if she asks your forgiveness, tell her that you intend to have your house function on a different level, that you want to make some changes and that with her style and ways you cannot do it, that she is already set in her ways. Then, if she asks you for another chance, you might try her, with the condition of sending her away later at the first recurrence.

But if she maintains a silence which indicates anger about the past; that is, over what she did, but has a more regular, submissive, even more dedicated behavior, my advice is that you shouldn't be content with that. Authority has been offended; justice is needed for the sake of example. A festering heart hardly ever gives in.

Don't hurry to increase the wages of the two others. If you could find a trustworthy person, and God can give you one, that would be more helpful.

I will really ask our Lord to help you find someone who would be helpful and dedicated.

The good sisters are on retreat this week. Pray for them. Always remain closely united in heart and life to our good Master, in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I couldn't send my letter yesterday. The more I think about the state of that girl, of what she said and did, the more I am inclined toward a dismissal. You now have every reason and opportunity to do so; you must take advantage of it. Her services are too expensive. I would really have liked to meet Mr. G. here to greet him briefly.

Madame Gourd

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 24/52)

Feast of St. Anne 1859

Miss Stephanie,

1. Very dear daughter, keep your Confessor and savor what he tells you, because it is so fine and personal. Don't worry over what others may think and say. Your mother, however, does well to go.⁴⁹

2. The Good Lord will have been pleased with your thought of going to another as a sacrifice, but leave it at that.

3. I am happy to see your good will regarding the order. Don't look at the whole, my daughter, but at the work to be done during one or two hours. You are a day-laborer and not a piece-worker.

4. That poor girl is really pitiful. Her illness is hard to heal; let it be your source of merit to some extent, dear daughter.

Always be joyful in God's service. Always give everything to the Good Lord. Rest quietly in his goodness. Continue to live and act in his charity and you will be fine.⁵⁰

Eymard

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

(I 43/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 1, 1859

Very dear Father,

I am finally writing to tell you that your package from Picard will be leaving tomorrow. I checked everything out in detail; they still had to finish two candelabras; they should be finished tonight. That poor shipment has required so many trips on our part; another time we shall go about it differently. You will find separate bills, as you requested. I also have the crown for the monstrance, and the veil for the red vestment at home. Last Monday, I saw Mr. Koll and gave him the 162 francs which came with your letter; I can't tell you how happy your letter made him, especially the money; it seems that he needed it badly. He promised us that he would begin on your work immediately, and would ship it to you in a week.

I gave a retreat to the Ladies just like our own, a basic retreat. It finished yesterday with vows by the foundresses, to my great edification and their great joy.

These good persons draw and will draw precious graces upon us; they are worthier than we are, their piety and devotedness are admirable.

God is preparing a holy family for himself there. I wouldn't be surprised if one day they would become as great as those large religious Groups, which gave so many holy souls to Heaven!

⁴⁹ to another? Ed.

⁵⁰ Literally: bien sage.

The Mustard Seed Grows

A deacon from Nantes is asking for information in an initial letter. In a second letter, he is asking for admission. Will he also get lost along the way? may God's will be done! The other postulants aren't giving any further signs of life. Two or three young people, Mr. de Leudeville, Mr. Chanuet and others are being touched by grace. Fr. Champion is still working on the liturgy and the printing to be done by Mr. Le Clere.

On the feast of the Assumption, we will have twelve First Communicants.⁵¹ Mr. Carri is the catechist: he prepares them exceptionally well; they respond very well to him, and he is very happy. He is well and is making progress; he is lazy about writing to you: he promised me he would.

Adoration is still going well. Our Lord is not neglected because of the small number in the guard.

Mr. Laurent wrote to me, and sent me the letter from his director. With such a letter we cannot go forward, not to mention other things.

So your little Ratons has also had his share of temptations, but it was brief. Besides, he is a child, who will one day appreciate the grace and favor which God has given him.

Dear Father, we like to picture you looking over your chapel, enjoying its beauty or at least its suitability. May God give you the full joy of soon having a little family of brothers and true adorers.

My regards to the dear little brother, to Fr. Brunello and to the dear Guerin family, and also faithful Mr. Gordes.

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

<i>Aug 3 Conf. Ser: On recollection, silence, thanksgiving in the presence of our Lord.</i>

856

CO 856

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 44/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 5, 1859

Very dear Father,

Mr. Isnard is with us, we will take good care of him, both soul and body. He strikes me as well disposed. We really hope that the Good Master would send a few more Guards, as we need them.

I am really sorry that good Mr. Clavel is so slow in bringing his affairs to a close. It must be that he doesn't yet understand the grace and virtue of his vocation, I expect that he will soon be free. He should have written to me.

Mr. Isnard gave me 30 francs for 30 Masses and your red veil. I believe that you will receive all your things in about ten days. The veil is like a cincture in the small box which contains the crown.

Sister Benoite is very sad and hasn't stopped saying for the last six or seven days to pray for your little brother, that his vocation is in danger, that he is tempted to lose it, that it would be better for him to come to Paris for more formation, and to send Charles in his place... This good woman is worried; without rejecting it, I dismissed it, and I would have laughed because she has no reason to think that, unless our Lord told her...

⁵¹ The first group.

The Mustard Seed Grows

I heard from Lyons a short time ago, that little Ratons was speaking to certain women, or that they were seeking him out and discouraging him. See whether that is true, because these devotees sometimes have a bad spirit, and so little judgment!

Everything is the same as usual here. That is, since we are so few, the eucharistic service is keeping us busy, and so much the better! but then, the schedule cannot be carried out as well.

Ask our Good Mother to send us a few "St. Johns."

Everyone loves you and embraces you affectionately in our Lord.

Eymard, S.S.S.

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament
7, Rue Nau, Marseilles

857

CO 857

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 45/181 VI 4)

August 7, 1859

Very dear Father,

I have just received your letter, I am returning it to you so you can see this poor child's disposition. Sr. Benoitte had seen the state of his soul; we didn't believe her, and it made her sick.

I can see that the poor child is not generous; his parents did not bring him up well; the last lines reveal a hot-headed person. If he insists on leaving after you have shown him how he failed in his resolution, let him leave. I'm sorry that his parents took his word and sent him the money right away.

This news makes me sad: now you are alone again, and the Good Lord isn't providing anyone for us to send you. It's a matter of saying: "*Deus in adiutorium meum...*"⁵²

Fr. Hermann hasn't answered my letter. He may not have received it, I had addressed it to Carcassonne. Or he may have wanted to cut off all contacts: may God be praised!

Yesterday I saw Koll; your wood decorations will be finished next Wednesday. I told him not to send them until I give him a commission.⁵³ So I will be waiting for your order for the candles, etc.

Poor Mr. Koll found himself in a critical situation. That very day he needed 100 francs. I advanced them. I'm sending you the receipt.

I understand that the bill is a bit frightening; but our Good Master for whom everything is being done will provide the means for us to pay this eucharistic debt.

I really enjoyed your note about Mr. Carri. I will write one through you to the Bishop to make him aware; Mr. Carri is so good! Mr. Isnard will begin his retreat Tuesday. There are five professed at No. 66.⁵⁴ They received two new ones; one is very kind and very religious, a musician, who enriches the simple worship of the chapel and delights us with her pious melodies.

Michel is fine and is really rendering great services; from time to time he makes us pay for it; but we can see that he is dedicated to the house and that it is only if he thinks he hasn't done well that he gets a bit angry.

⁵² "God, come to my assistance..."

⁵³ French: "une commission," perhaps, errand, message.

⁵⁴ The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Mustard Seed Grows

Charles is ever God's good man who is forgetful or breaks things without any ill will.

We laughed about your ex-doctor, we are waiting.

Everyone embraces you. Your letters are like a feast for us; everyone is interested in them, like on the field of Solferino.⁵⁵

All yours,
Eymard

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament
7, Rue Nau. Marseilles

Aug 9	<i>Conf. Ser: St. Philomena; the need for recollection.</i>
Aug 12	<i>Conf. Ser: Recollection. A virtue which nowadays is very rare, virtue and grace of God.</i>
Aug 14	<i>Conf. Ser: Interior attraction.</i>

On this date, August 15th, two significant events took place. The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament were given their first complete Rule which was to be adjusted in 1864 - and the Work of the First Communion of Adults was inaugurated.

858

CO 858

TO THE SERVANTS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT⁵⁶
(VI/1 II 2)

[15th August 1859]

Dear Sisters and Daughters in our Lord,

At the feet of our Lord in his divine Sacrament I composed your rules. Today I placed them beneath his eucharistic throne, that he may bless them and approve them first in his love. I give you these rules, dear Sisters, like a gift from Mary, your kind Mother, on this beautiful day when she goes up to heaven and leaves the divine tabernacle, but she wishes to give you her place of love in the Cenacle, so that you may take her place close to her Jesus, to the God of the Eucharist. As for her, she is going to prepare a place for you close to her in heaven, around the throne of glory. These rules are not yet approved by the Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth. He has, however, blessed your eucharistic aim, to wit: adoration, your end; the interior and hidden life of Jesus, your way and your life; and your Work of zeal, the Work for first Communion of Adults. God has willed, by this blessing - so precious and so honorable - of the Supreme Pontiff, to bind you by gratitude and love to such a beautiful vocation.

Receive these rules, my daughters, with love in your hearts. They are as yet only a dead letter: give them life by your virtues, and fruitfulness by your love for Jesus, your divine Spouse.

Keep this Rule well, and it will keep you, and lead you to the summit of your vocation; remain ever little in the Cenacle, unnoticed and unknown by the world.

Honor the God of love hidden in his divine Sacrament, through your love for the simple, hidden life, with Mary your Mother.

Put all your trust in your good Master, abandon yourselves entirely to his fatherly Providence, and do without human protection.

⁵⁵ Battlefield.

⁵⁶ Letter from Father joined to the text of the 1st Constitutions. cf Appendix III for excerpts and summary of this Rule.

Saint Francis cared for Saint Clare and her poor daughters. We shall care for you, my daughters, in the divine charity of our Lord and Master. But between you and us there will always be the adorable Eucharist, in whom I am, dear daughters,

Your most unworthy and poor servant
Eymard, Sup. SS.

Assumption 1859

<i>Aug 17 Conf. Ser: Interior recollection.</i>

859

CO 959

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 46/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 17, 1859

Very dear Father,

I have a free moment. I am pleased to write and spend it with you. First of all, let's begin with the errands:

1. Just yesterday we received your 14 kilos of candles, which will be registered at the department of transportation. The first had also been [registered]: the mailman said the opposite. That was to indicate that he should receive better remuneration.

2. Your breviaries are in Mr. Koll's box. There are two boxes, one with candles and one with wood. Everything will leave today via the slow route.

I expect that you will receive your box from Picard. It was delayed because of the feast of the 14th. I really hope that everything will be alright.

3. Fr. Champion's note, written the same day, wasn't forgotten, but believed to be in the letter. I didn't send it right away, hoping to write to you soon.

4. Your two boxes will be sent tomorrow via the slow route.

As for news about the house:

1. Mr. Isnard finished his retreat. He is leaving tomorrow for Angers, then to Marseilles through Bordeaux. He edified us, he seems to have made a basic decision about the vocation. As to carrying it out, he told me that he would let us know in a year; as God wills!

2. Mr. Chanuet of Lyons came to spend the two feast days with us. On the beautiful day of the Assumption, he told me seriously that he would definitely come to us in October. He has just passed his last doctoral exam and was received.

3. The other vocations are waiting. A student from La Seyne, sixteen years old: they wrote to tell me his desire to join us. I will seek information. His father agrees to it; his name is Victor Verlaque.

4. The First Communion of our twelve little disciples was edifying and touching.

Mr. Carri was a brave Joshua and a good Father to the family. He was blessed and God blessed him, because these children have totally changed. The following day they were confirmed by His Eminence.

Good Mr. Perret was in heaven!⁵⁷ This holy man is so dedicated!

⁵⁷ Alternate: was thrilled. Mr. Perret, an architect from Lyons, did the initial recruiting for the Work of First Communion.

So young Ratons has come back to his senses and has decided to become a good religious. I bless God for it and pray that he may have the good will that makes saints. Charles and everyone were so happy about this good news! but we are still unsure of him because of his weakness.

No doubt, you know that Fr. Hermann is Prior of their convent in Lyons. Since he is so angry with the house of Paris, let him adopt the house of Marseilles in his affections: it is free from any connections. No further news from the deacon of Nantes! It seems that he was frightened by our lifestyle: he wanted to go everywhere to preach.

Fr. Laurent saw the Vicar General of Frejus at Saint-Maximin and spoke to him about his intention. He encouraged him to speak to the Bishop in September.

That fine cleric hadn't received my letter in which I told him that his director's letter was against his vocation, and since I couldn't advance him to Orders without the Chancery, we could not go forward. His reply to me was fine.

Here I believe is the best sign of a vocation: when a sincere person who has the ordinary conditions accepts adoration, the Office, in a word, the whole Rule without conditions, that is a great deal, heroic for many. Then, we should give them a try. It is up to God to do the rest, because adoration is a good test and without it they do not yet have the grace. There is no problem for a person who wants to be and works to become a good adorer.

If he writes to me again, I appreciate your idea of having him repeat the pilgrimage he missed.

You know, no doubt, about the death of the good Cure of Ars: we must pray very much for him.

We all embrace you *in osculo sancto*, but especially the one who is

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

In the box I am sending you a supply of stamped paper.

860

CO 860

TO MISS GIGUET

(VII 5/6)

Paris, rue fg St. Jacques 68, August 18, 1859

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I blame myself very sternly for having left you so long without a reply. In your kind charity, forgive me.

This life in Paris is such a burden. My work is so complex that I don't know where to begin. So those who are absent are served last.

It isn't that I have forgotten you, poor daughter. No, no. But I have delayed because I wanted to give you some quality time.

So then, you are still on the cross, still suffering, poor daughter! Courage. It seems that the Good Lord wants to give you a more beautiful crown, and sooner than the others, since he is letting you do your Purgatory in this world. Do it with acceptance and trust. Often embrace our crucified Lord, your Good Master who wants you to be in his holy company, close to him.

Oh! be assured that it is better for you to suffer than to work, than to accomplish good works. You are doing what is most perfect, that does not prevent you from longing for heaven.

Oh yes, you may long for the end of your difficulties, of your life. But don't let it be only to end your suffering, but also to go to heaven, to see the Good Lord. Will I go to heaven? Yes, you will go, you are on the path, on the right path, that is sure. The cross does not lead us astray. But

The Mustard Seed Grows

my past difficulties? - Be at peace - everything is in the hands of the goodness of God - God loves you. What you were not able to accomplish in Lyons, God will provide for otherwise. Have no other cross than the present one. Leave those of the past to sleep in peace.

I am sending you a little flyer which will inform you about our activities, and your charity will make you pray so that we may serve our Master well.

Needless to tell you that I pray for you every day, and that your soul is still as dear to me in our Lord, in whom I am, dear daughter,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

Aug 19	Conference Servants: On reparation. The words of our Lord on the Cross.
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861

CO 861

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 32/75)

Paris, August 19, 1859

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

Would you know that I was blaming you a little and I was going to write to tell you when, this morning, I found your letter of the 5th, still sealed and well hidden under a piece of paper! Souls can sense one another; we know when something ordinary is lacking at its proper time.

So now I am reading your letter, not complaining at all about its wordiness. On the contrary, my wishes for you are just as long. Why are you putting off until after the holidays to tell me the results of your good thoughts, desires, and resolutions? I hope that between now and November, you'll send me a few lovely flowers from that bush!

I like your present state, your outlined plan, the apostolate of example, a more interior virtue, living in God in a more constant studied way; that will work out fine! Begin by living with God, and with God within, for Jesus said:

“If someone loves me, he will keep my word; we will come to him and we will dwell in him.”

And elsewhere: “If anyone loves me, my Father will love him, and I also will love him and I will manifest myself to him.”

One day, he said to his apostles who were weary from their apostolate: “Come aside and rest awhile in a high and deserted place.” St. Luke says that our Lord would often withdraw alone on the mountain to pray there all night.

In the psalms, the Holy Spirit says through David: “I will listen within to what the Lord God says.”

I am reminding you about all these things, dear daughter, simply to tell you: Dwell within, live in your inner spirit, be in control of yourself, recollect yourself from external things to those within, put the world aside. Your part is to withdraw with Jesus in your heart, where he is inspiring your soul, speaking to it in an interior language which love alone hears and understands. The Holy Spirit prays within us, and groans with ineffable groanings of love. The kingdom of God, spoken of so much in the Holy Scriptures, is the interior rule of God within, while he rules over our intelligence through faith, over our heart through love, over our body by the mortification of the passions.

The Mustard Seed Grows

Act toward Jesus within as you would toward a guest who is a friend, beloved, and sovereign; don't leave him alone too long; find a way of speaking a few words to him in the midst of your duties to bring him a little bouquet of love. Then our good Master will be happy to stay with you, he will be waiting for you with joy. Give yourself generously to all the dear people who go to visit you during the holidays, be gracious and pleasant in giving, pure in sacrifice; that is, without thinking about yourself, and even purer in the friendship you give than the one you receive, in order to take it and direct it toward our good Master.

It would be wonderful if you could hold sway over all those good souls by the heart, so that you would have the right to lead them higher.

We continue to live the same life with the same happiness.⁵⁸ Since you had the opportunity to share in it, don't you agree that there is nothing more to hope for on earth, except to have hearts which are very pure, very generous and dead to everything which is not God! Remember me to your dear daughter.

My friendship to your loved ones.

You know that I am,
All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Mme. C. Jordan
10 rue de Castries
Lyons

862

CO 862

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 29/33)

Paris, August 19, 1859

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I will do what I can to visit you when I pass by, if I go to Marseilles, during the month of October. But since my trip may be delayed, it would be more prudent to write to me for the information you wish to have for your dear Charles. I would be happy to render you this small service; as also to your dear soul which, I admit, really needs God and cannot live without him. You are right, God is sufficient to the one who loves him; and without him, nothing can console and fill the heart.

We have an Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, but not a Third Order.

I still don't know whether our Lord will want one and when.

I remain in our Lord, Madame and dear sister,

Your very humble and devoted servant,
Eymard P.S.⁵⁹

<i>Aug 20</i> <i>Conf. Ser: The family spirit.</i>
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⁵⁸ Eucharistic life with adoration.

⁵⁹ Abbreviation for Priest, Superior, or Priest of the Society.

863

CO 863

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 47/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 20, 1859

Very dear Father,

I am sending you the letter for the Bishop. I don't know whether he will be willing to grant us this grace, because the Bishops of France grant it only when persons reach the end of their philosophy, ordinarily in the first year of theology. I suspect that the young men you mentioned who are younger than Mr. Carri had already done most of their studies. However that may be, I really desire this grace for Mr. Carri, he really deserves it. When we will be more numerous, then we could invoke Canon Law; but we are still nothing, except poor adorers who aspire to become good religious.

Mr. Perret left for the "*Pierre-qui-Vire*," to be with the Benedictines, with Mr. de Talasne. I think he will be gone for a few months.

If the Bishop agrees to ordination, it should not take place right away, but in September, when Mr. Clavel returns. Otherwise, we wouldn't be enough for adoration. Mr. Clavel writes that on September 4th he will bring his business affairs to a close: is it a sale? He doesn't say. There are no signs of hope to have anyone soon. Your boxes left on the 20th.

I think that the decoration will set off the woodwork in the choir nicely.

You have 14 kilos of candles that have been declared.

There is nothing new.

May God keep us and bless you!

All yours,
Eymard

864

CO 864

TO BISHOP EUGENE DE MAZENOD, (MARSEILLES)
(VI 1/1)

Paris, August 20, 1859

Your Excellency,

I have a favor to ask Your Excellency: it is to give the Tonsure and, if possible, some Minor Orders to one of your deserving sons who has been with us for 2 years - Mr. Carrie from Marseilles. His vocation appears certain, his conduct is most edifying, he has carried out his office of Sacristan to perfection - he is finishing his classical studies. He is 22 years old, and it would be a great consolation for us to see him enlisted in the holy militia at your venerable and blessed hands. If Your Excellency judges my request to be acceptable, we shall send Mr. Carrie to Marseilles on the date you choose.

I have been happy to learn that the work of installation and decoration is proceeding actively for the day set for Exposition. It will make us very happy, myself and all the Fathers, Your Excellency, to go to Marseilles to offer our feeble support to your zeal for the divine Eucharist.

In anticipation, Your Excellency, please accept the homage filled with esteem and filial devotion by which I am so bold as to call myself,

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient servant,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS.⁶⁰

865

CO 865

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST

(IV 35/52)

Paris, August 22, 1859

Madame,

You want to know whether I will accept the invitation from the Pastor of St. Madeleine of Tarare, if he were to ask me to stop for a few days on my way to Marseilles to give a few talks to the Adoration group.

Madame, if you think that I can do some good along the way, I could stop. It would also be an opportunity to visit you briefly at Amplepuis, you, as well as your whole family and the dear Layoutte family.

However, I think it will only be toward October or November. In that case, I would let you know a week in advance.

However, you know Tarare, and you know that I am not a preacher, especially since I have been in Paris, where I only give simple exhortations.

Don't forget us in God's presence. Our little Society is blessed in his mercy. We are happy at the service of such a good Master.

Believe me ever in our Lord, Madame, your very humble and devoted servant,

Eymard, Sup. Soc. of the Blessed Sacrament

866

CO 866

TO THE MLLES BOURGES

(V 1/4)

Paris, August 22, 1859

Dear Mademoiselles Bourges,

Thank you for your kind remembrance and the news you give me. You know that everything that concerns you interests me very much.

I am happy to know that you are going to go rest a little. You need it for the beautiful mission which God has given you,⁶¹ and which you fulfill so joyfully. So then, get a good rest. You would do well to go to the springs as you are being advised to do. It would be a distraction and a good prescription. I agree with that. I would also favor the pilgrimage to Notre Dame de La Salette. The shortest way for you would be through Gap as far as Corps. There you could go to Mme. Dumas and use my name (Hotel du Palais). She will give you good directions.

If you should go to Gap you must go to Notre Dame du Laus, the most devout place of pilgrimage to the Blessed Virgin which exists in France: There is a coach, and it's only two hours

⁶⁰ Abbreviation for Superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

⁶¹ They were school teachers.

The Mustard Seed Grows

away. Oh! What a touching and lovely place of pilgrimage Laus is for me! It's the pilgrimage place of my youth, of my vocation, of my love. Go there, you will be enchanted.

I praise God for the good news about Henry. He is now settled and self-sufficient: so much the better!

My dear Ladies, continue to love the Good Lord very much; that is life's happiness. Do everything for his love, suffer everything for him, and our Good Father⁶² will be pleased with you.

I pray and will always pray for you, because I want to replace your beloved brother a little.⁶³

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SS

The Mlles Bourges
Boarding School Directors
rue Curiol, 29
Marseilles

867

CO 867

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 14/104)

Paris, August 26, 1859

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

Your kind letter relieved my worries about you. I was so long without news from you that I was afraid of some new difficulty! Your poor sister-in-law is truly one of our Lord's strong souls, because her Calvary is hard and long: yet God is sustaining her and she is becoming stronger in her trials; how great!

Dear daughter, you gave me such a sad description of your state of soul! Too much so, as it is only a state of temptation, and temptations are always very humiliating. You could have told me something about this difficulty, which at bottom may not be anything. At least you aren't giving up Holy Communion. This is what comforts me and makes me hope that the sun will scatter the darkness and warm your poor heart. You were well at the seaside, continue to be so at home, in spite of winds and tides.

My expectation was that the Good Lord would complete your retreat himself, but your letter seems to say the opposite. Is it like an unfinished treatment which only disturbs and agitates?

I don't expect to leave Paris before November; therefore I'm completely available to you. I'm sorry that you didn't come with your sister-in-law. I would have been happy to see you and to meet her with you.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Very dear daughter,
All yours,
Eymard, SSS

Madame V. de Grandville
8 rue St. Laurent
Nantes

⁶² Capitalized in the original.

⁶³ Their deceased brother had been a priest and curate at La Seyne-sur-Mer.

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

(I 48/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 29, 1859

Very dear Father,

Three days ago, I received a visit from Mr. Baudoin and your good letter. I was waiting for it with great anticipation, but I was only half satisfied, because your letter preceded mine.

I'm worrying about you, knowing that you are alone. It seems that little Ratons left you. How come? Perhaps it is better that he is gone, since he didn't have a vocation. Now have you found someone? Are you hoping to find someone there? unless⁶⁴ you have someone trustworthy, don't take chances with the first person who comes along.

It is a hard trial.

Mr. Clavel wrote that he was bringing his affairs to a close on September 4. I strongly urged him to spend a few days with you, and even if you should think that he could be useful, I would urge him to stay with you; because strictly speaking, we can do without him here. We did without him until now.

If you approve, I will write to him in that vein. The novitiate exercises cannot begin here until about the month of October, because of the expected arrival of two or three young men around that time.

Saturday I saw Mr. Picard. He didn't wait to send you everything, so that you could receive the important things for the feast; that good man hadn't said anything to me. So many trips for so few things! He told me that he would exchange the two candelabras you mentioned for two better ones. We agreed on your comments: you may return them to him; he will take them back.

He will send you four small candlesticks, two altar bases,⁶⁵ the two candelabras and a holy water font.

I am sending you the bill for the censer; I am expecting one for the lamps at any time. This morning I sent for it again, it wasn't ready, he wasn't sure about the price.

I'm expecting a priest from Savoie for the discernment retreat. I met him, he had come when I was in Rome. Fr. Champion is of the opinion that we should examine him on retreat, we will see. Miss Guillot has been sick for six days as well as Sr. Benoite. We thought Sr. Benoite would die, but she is coming back to life.

The sister who was working in the kitchen is very ill with typhoid fever. As for us, we continue at a slow pace, neither sick nor very strong.

As for establishing a second house in Marseilles, it looks good,⁶⁶ but it seems to me that we would need to have one or two aspirants come to Paris to acquire the spirit first.

Who then are the persons who want to consecrate themselves to the eucharistic life? Since several had spoken to me, I don't know which one to think of.

I saw Mr. Marziou and spoke to him about your affairs. He told me that he could not redeem the bonds since they have not reached maturity. But he thought you had deposited an amount in the current account, and that this amount is always at your disposal; think about it. What is the last deposit you made with Mr. Marziou? Or if you prefer, I will go to ask the bookkeeper.

Mr. Marziou sent his oldest son to San Francisco to get a few million for their institutions in Paris. It's only a delay, and he told me to be confident and that besides, he had a large amount to withdraw.

⁶⁴ Lower case in the original.

⁶⁵ The French expression "deux bas d'autel" defies translation.

⁶⁶ A second house for the Servants.

The Mustard Seed Grows

Send us news about yourself, dear Father. I feel very sad about you, thinking that you may be ill.

The whole family embraces you, and I remain,

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

Brother Charles laughed when he saw his watch chain and ⁶⁷ the grace requested. Mr. Isnard is gone. I will send you your two little lead boxes with the rest of Picard's things.

Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament
7 rue Nau
Marseilles

<i>Aug 30</i> <i>Conf. Ser: On employments.</i>

869

CO 869

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 30/33)

Paris, August 30, 1859

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Be convinced that I will do all that I can for your dear child and I will introduce him to a few good people. A person can be very responsible in Paris, if he wants to and if he is in a good place.

The public Schools generally have a bad mixture. However, we sometimes come across a few good Catholics there. The essential thing is not to bind oneself on first acquaintance, but to observe, and to remain independent.

I do not advise you to place Mr. Charles at the Fenelon Hotel nor in any other. It would cost you too much; nor would he be well there for his studies. I advise you to entrust him to Father Carion (rue Bonaparte 66) where there are a few fine young law students and others. He would be as in a family there, in good company, and especially with a father. I know Father Carion very well, and I think it is the best advice I can give.

I hope to be here the days you indicate, as I have nothing planned. Then, I will give you all the time I can. Be convinced, dear Lady, that your soul is always dear to me. Put words aside, paper is not likely to convey grace to a soul.

Be stronger and do not judge me to be indifferent.

Therefore, I remain in our Lord, Madame and dear sister,

Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard P.S.

<i>Sep 2</i>	<i>Conf. Ser: Recollection, a study, contemplation, attention, center of expansion and love.</i>
<i>Sep 6</i>	<i>Conf. Ser: Practical recollection, sacrificing the world and self.</i>

⁶⁷ A line seems to be missing in the French edition.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 49/181 VI 4)

Paris, September 8, 1859

Very dear Father,

Your letter was anxiously expected. I really thought you were sick and knowing that you were alone, I worried very much.

In your charity you wanted to spare me a few days of worrying and fears. But I will worry as long as I know that you are alone. Let's hope that this situation is coming to an end and that God will send you fellow workers.

Now about business matters:

1. I withdrew a year's interest, 50 francs, from your capital of 1000 francs, at the end of July. So, you can use them. If you need them have Mr. Clavel advance them to you, if he is with you, and I will reimburse him here.

2. You could and would do well to offer warm hospitality to your brother. If I can do something for him here, I am at your disposal.

3. About the brother you are proposing to us, I wrote to Arles the same day and I still haven't received any answer. Except for a candidate with a certain and good vocation, I would not like to have him come from so far. The best and most prudent thing to do would be for you to prepare a little retreat for him and to examine him there.

4. A new disappointment. The priest who had promised he would come for a discernment retreat hasn't come back or given any sign of life: I think he was afraid.

5. I am sending you the bill for the lamp. Add the price for the light fitting; Mr. Picard didn't know it. The bill will show what it is.

6. We have a young theologian from d'Agen, won over by Mr. Clavel. He has been making his retreat for three days. He seems to be doing well.

7. Mr. Picard admitted his fault to me. When he saw that he could not send everything for the Assumption, he had put off everything else. You will find everything in the second shipment that you will be receiving soon.

Everything is the same as usual here. The cross is ever present at the Ladies'.⁶⁸ Sister B(enoite) is bedridden. The cook is confused. They have almost given up about her getting better. It is one trial added to so many others.

I only have time to tell you we all love you dearly, and that I am in our Lord,

All yours,

Eymard

<i>Sep 9</i>	<i>Conf. Ser: Recollection of love.</i>
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⁶⁸ The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 36/76)

Paris, September 9, 1859

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am really sorry about these few days of delay to give you my answer. Please forgive me.

Yes! Let us be very grateful toward the divine goodness of God. Most of his graces are unknown to us and those we know are already so numerous! Dear daughter, be grateful like poor people are; that is the best way. That kind of gratitude has nothing to give since it possesses nothing, but it gives thanks for everything; it gives God glory for everything. In heaven, we will have all eternity to give thanks.

About the important question of educating someone for the priesthood, in a word, to make him a priest of the Most Blessed Sacrament, I don't know how to answer. In Paris, the average board and room is 500 - 600 francs in communities. The capital would then be 10,000 francs. But, dear daughter, let's not speak about a capital gift when you are already doing so much.

To maintain an adorer, a priest in the perpetual service of the divine Eucharist is surely the most beautiful and helpful work on earth.

It is better to keep a gilded heart-locket than a gold heart-locket which is too small for its price. Send it to me when you want and I will have it kept in a safe in Besancon by someone I know well. So, be content with your heart-locket and don't look for another.

Don't worry too much about your patient's⁶⁹ words of despair; they are spoken under the impressions of sadness or weariness. There is surely nothing serious in it. Good daughter, make positive suggestions through his guardian angel, suggest good thoughts to your poor patient. Since you know that he can be violent, be careful not to risk leading him to rejection or rigidity. Prudence and the inspiration of the moment should determine what to do.

We are really praying for your Pastor, so that the Good Lord may draw his glory from it.⁷⁰

Have courage, dear daughter, continue to be the Good Lord's beggar. Recollect yourself a little more through the heart, through offering, and love.

Write a little more often; we were really worried about you, but your letter comforted us.

I bless you and your beloved daughter.

All yours,
Eymard

Madame Gourd

⁶⁹ Her father.

⁷⁰ The hope that the Pastor will be able to effect a conversion.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 50/181 VI 4)

Paris, September 10, 1859⁷¹

Very dear Father,

Mr. Clavel has arrived; we were happy to receive him; he is one more servant at the feet of the Divine Master. He came just as Mr. Carri had to go to bed for an inflamed right knee. So the Good Master takes care of his service and his servants. Will it become serious? I hope not; it seems that an infection⁷² set in: he forced himself a little too much. Pray for us, *non recuso crucem*,⁷³ but we need a grace of strength. At No. 66, Miss G. is better. Sr. Benoite is still very ill. The cook is out of danger, but she will no longer be able to do her work...that is the difficulty.

My young retreatant seems to be happy here. His name is Capdeville, from the diocese of Agen, twenty-two years old, has six months of theology and loves studies. We will see what his interior life is like.... Now I no longer dare put my trust in the qualities of those who come, but in God alone.

Mr. Chanuet writes that he told his relatives about his decision. He is coming from La Salette, he is asking for prayers. He seems to be firm and determined, but he isn't here yet!

18th - I wasn't able to finish my letter, very dear Father, now I continue. Mr. Carri is better but he cannot make adoration yet; he attends the Office and he is walking. Mr. Clavel has a sore throat and has lost his voice.

Today we saw Mr. Baudoin, who will be leaving tomorrow for Marseilles. He will bring you our regards.

The topic for study which you submitted regarding Marseilles is serious, as you must realize. Especially after the rumors that were circulating, and spreading here, that we [might] leave Paris to go to Marseilles. At this time, that would appear to be a failure or a defeat. Surely, if our Lord makes it impossible for us to have the novitiate in Paris, either because of the locale, or for some other important reason, we would be very happy to have Marseilles. For myself, I don't hold to any particular place, but to what is best.

Is your ex-sergeant trying out his vocation? Do you find he has the foundation and signs of a vocation?

We will begin the novitiate exercises on St. Michael's day, when we will take him as the protector of novices. We will begin a novena for this purpose on September 21, and we will say the *Veni Creator*, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, and the prayer for the feast of St. Michael the archangel. Please join with us.

In a few days you will see Mr. Perret. He is at La Salette, and from there he is to go to Saint-Maximin (Var).

I recommend myself to your good prayers, I need them. Seeing everything there is to be done or which has to be undergone sometimes frightens my poor human nature.

I remain in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Fraternal regards from everyone.

⁷¹ finished on the 18th.

⁷² Literally: un dipot. Perhaps a calcium deposit?

⁷³ "I do not refuse the cross."

The Mustard Seed Grows

P.S. -- I have reopened my letter. I forgot to tell you something about Mr. Carri. He was very reluctant about going to Marseilles. I didn't feel I should command him to go. It seems that our Lord doesn't want it yet, since it isn't possible for him to go.

He told you a few words about the finances. But that's one of the lesser motives, though very real. I put my trust in God, for trips connected with the foundation, in a month or two. However, if the future brother you have would be suitable for the foundation, it seems to me that it would be good to form him there, since God sent him there in the first place. Then, too, it would be one less expense, as you know that all we have is our daily bread.

Sep 13	Conf. Ser: Solitude, recollection.
Sep 16	Conf. Ser: Continuation on recollection. Various ways of entering into the presence of God.
Sep 23	Conf. Ser: Trials. The first three churches, Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Cenacle.

873

CO 873

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

(I 51/181 VI 4)

Paris, September 23, 1859

Very dear Father,

I am expecting your ex-sergeant, unless he gets stopped on the way. We seem to have the grace to frighten people away; because when they've seen us, especially in action, they become afraid and no longer even answer. So also, when our Lord promised the Holy Eucharist, everyone deserted him except the twelve, at least temporarily. It seems to me that a good vocation wouldn't run away in fear. However, it's possible to be unfaithful. So, we must learn not to count on requests and promises until they happen, when our Lord draws them and binds them to his divine service. -- Sometimes when I am alone, it even makes me laugh.

For the moment, everything here is the same as usual. Everyone is preparing for the feast of St. Michael. Ask our Good Master to give me the graces and virtues I so greatly need; because it isn't sufficient to have children; they must be educated.

About my departure for Marseilles; I will leave only at the end of October, better still, during the week of All Saints: I need time to get things underway here and to prepare everything. We must pray to our heavenly Father to send good and genuine adorers to his divine Son. Thank you for your 50 francs and for the rest. I still don't know the total. Mr. Carri isn't able to go out yet. He's better, but not enough for his adoration or to attend all the parts of the Divine Office.

I'll buy the two lamps and send them to you.

I thanked the Good Lord for Fr. Hermann's good advice. I am sad to see that my words made him keep away. It's really true! We don't even deserve to be called religious. How can we dare prepare to join the holy and distinguished militia of the ancient religious Orders. So we will return to our rightful place, the last one. Mme. Bonnefoy is still here; it's a new cook who has fallen sick. Sr. Benoite has just left for Clermont to see her sick mother and for a change of atmosphere because she is still feverish.

The mail is leaving. Goodbye.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

On September 29th, under the patronage of St. Michael the Archangel, Fr. Eymard officially inaugurated the novitiate in Paris.

<i>Sep 30</i>	<i>Conf. Ser: Your work comes from God. Grace of foundation</i>
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874

CO 874

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 17/104)

Paris, October 2, 1859

Madame and very dear daughter in our Lord,

More deaths, crosses, and victims! Really, I would cry over it with you if I didn't consider these deceased persons as flowers and fruit ripe for heaven; if it weren't that our Father in heaven came to seek these children in exile to lead them to their beautiful and beloved homeland. Oh! This life is a life of death! Or rather, the death of a life which lets us see the vanity of all earthly and human things so that we might place ourselves and find our rest in God alone. Dear daughter, rest securely on the burning breast of our Saviour in the shadow of the tree of life, Calvary. Let your life come from him, be for him and in him alone. It's good that you should feel the bitterness of exile and the pain of divine love.

The pain of humiliation and powerlessness is necessary for you so that you may find your virtue only in trust in God and holy surrender. Continue to receive Communion: it's the bread of the poor, a remedy for the weak, a grace of love.

I will be in Paris until the beginning of November. I would be happy to see you before I leave. So come if you can arrange that with your affairs in Nantes.

Very dear daughter, believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,

Eymard, Superior SS

P.S. Thank you for giving me the sad news about Mr. Le Vasseur's death. I'm praying for him and his fine wife. I will write to her.

<i>Oct 4</i>	<i>Retr. Ser: Humility, giving oneself completely to God.</i>
<i>Oct 7</i>	<i>Conf. Ser: We must serve God according to our state.</i>

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 52/181 VI 4)

Paris, October 7, 1859⁷⁴

Very dear Father,

I received a charitable gift from Divine Providence. It came at the right time. It's our good fortune to be poor with Jesus Christ, and I dare hope, for Jesus Christ.

1. The brother you mentioned didn't come and didn't give any sign of life; so we shouldn't count on him any longer.

2. I don't know the source of the letter you returned to me; it mentions the arrival of a brother. Look into it and make a decision.

3. I don't have anything against Clement; it might be better to organize the kitchen with him and pay him a wage, rather than take a chance with the first person who comes along as a brother. If the one who is offering himself would present some references and knows how to do the work, that would be better.

I suppose you have someone for the kitchen. It would be suitable to have a brother for the community and for the parlor, etc., for nothing disturbs the house and good order so much as a vacancy in that employment. We suffer a lot from that here.

Since Brother Charles is alone here, he cannot really learn how to cook; and I really believe he would never do that employment well. I keep thinking of bringing him from here to Marseilles, hoping that God would send us someone else for Paris. We are praying and searching, but it's so difficult to find someone who gives himself fully and is coming for Jesus Christ alone.

4. We expect to leave here on All Souls day, November 2nd, or the next morning.⁷⁵

We'll have First Communion for our adults on All Saints day, there will be six in all. We have to hurry them, because after All Saints day they can no longer come. After that they'll be working every day until ten o'clock p.m.

I'm really hoping that Mr. Perret will be here at that time; you must have seen him or will see him when he returns. He's really loved here: he's such a devoted apostle and such a good friend!

5. You did well to give the Good Master everything for when the King is lodged and happy, his servants are happy.

I understand that the benches are better than chairs. So I am asking God to pay for them. That reminds me to tell you that in Rome there are two separations at the altar of Exposition: the first is reserved for those who have a choir attire. The second is for religious in their habits, guards, etc. Couldn't we have a moveable separation in the choir; one for us who wear choir attire, and the other for the lay adorers who would come to share our adoration as associates?

6. Prepare what is essential for those who will arrive in November, so that these fine soldiers who are still not too accustomed to war and to temporary encampments may have the ordinary things of life.

Now I will discuss the local news.

1. Join us in thanking our Good Master: he sent us two fine priests, who preach, sing, adore and obey well. One is from Angers, the other from Moutiers in Savoie. You must have seen him in Paris; he is a fine and excellent priest who will become a fine adorer.

See how good our Lord is! We weren't expecting them, and they came to us, drawn by the love and grace of the divine Eucharist. I'll bring them both to you, as well as Brother Charles, if necessary. If a third should come, I would give him to you as well.

⁷⁴ October 7 and not October 1, as published. (Troussier)

⁷⁵ To go to Marseilles.

When we see these two fine gentlemen, who are so dedicated, Fr. Champion and I say over and over: How good God is! He wants Marseilles!

2. Mr. Clavel preached a week ago. He stunned us all, his voice could shatter windows. He has a broad range, and he gave us a beautiful instruction on the Eucharist. Eloquence seems to come easily to him: imagine how nervous I was at first. But then, our Good Master knows that he needs both disciples and apostles.

3. A priest who is as devout as an angel came to make a retreat! Mr. du Coudr from Angers. He is the one who was supposed to begin the Reparation branch with Fr. Colin and Mother Marie Therese. He told me all about it; but I doubt that he will come. He has his own piety, his own works, he is 68 years old, and has 1500 pounds for income. He told me that what had been holding him back until now was the question of the vow of poverty. If he should come, he would be a devout adorer, but I would be very surprised; it could happen.

4. A good priest from Vannes came to see us. He is 35 years old, I like him. He was sent to me by someone who is fully dedicated to our Work. When he left he had decided to follow the advice of his director (who is a Jesuit). He has just written to me that his director is encouraging his idea to come, but advises him to discern a bit more. That is cause for hope.

5. Mr. Chanuet came to spend a day with us. Before giving its consent, his family obliged him to submit his vocation and his actual entrance to Fr. de Pontlevoy, the Superior of the Jesuit Fathers. He told him to give up his thesis, to leave everything, and to come to us immediately.

May God reward that good Father a hundredfold!

6. Sister Benoitte is at Rioms with her sick mother. She saw a good and holy priest whom she knew and spoke to him about the Society. She writes that this priest wants to come to Paris for a retreat with us, to study his vocation.

7. The novitiate began on the feast of St. Michael. Everything is going well. There are two conferences a day, one at 11:00 on the liturgy, the rubrics; at night on religious life. When the scholastics come, there will be a theology class at 3:00 p.m. Mr. de Leudeville hasn't made his vocational retreat yet. I know that he is thinking about it; it was postponed until November. We must pray for him, because, although he is very generous and devout, he will still have many sacrifices to make.

8. Fr. Champion suggested that I call Brother Michel to simple vows. He has been with us for two and a half years, and very dedicated to the community. In fact, he has rendered and is rendering us many services with total selflessness. He is fine, and on the days of exposition, he makes four hours of prayer. Brother Michel also asked me to let him make his vows. For my part, I don't see any obstacles either. He has really worked on his character, and when he commits a few faults, he quickly corrects himself. Tell me your feelings about it. I'll receive Mr. Carri for vows. It has also been one year since Mr. Clavel entered; he could also be admitted.

I will have Brother Charles make his vow of obedience; then everyone will be bound to the service of our Good Master.

I see through experience that it is better not to delay the vows too much, otherwise worry and sadness overcome one's spirit. The Church, which is so wise, has foreseen all that, by determining the time of probation, intending that we dismiss them after that time, if there is no vocation.

9. I've often thought that the space between your altar and the wall is not sufficient to pass comfortably with vestments. The entrance on the Gospel side is neither beautiful nor dignified, with so many doors to open and close. Then, too, heads can be seen passing behind the altar. However, if the rubrics are such, I bow to it. It's just that I would like something better.

10. I wonder how we will manage for the trip. Pray to the Angel who carried St. Philip to carry us also; at least that wouldn't cost anything.

Think about all your errands from Paris before we leave.

The mail is leaving. Goodbye.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

The Mustard Seed Grows

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Religious of the Blessed Sacrament
7 rue Nau Marseilles

876

CO 876

TO MR. JOSEPH AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 5/24)

Paris, October 9, 1859

Very dear friend,

Last night I received your lovely and tasteful gift made for the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you in the name of our good Master and our own! It's our most beautiful vestment, and so it will be used for our great feasts. The names of all the members of your lovely family are written on the book of the Most Blessed Sacrament, but even more in the heart of Jesus and his love. May God repay you with temporal and spiritual blessings.

I will pass through Lyons, but without stopping, during the first week of November. I hope to pay you a brief visit when I return.

In the meantime, believe me ever in the divine charity of our Lord,

Dear friend, all yours,

Eymard, Superior S.S.

Mr. Carrel
Textile Merchant
Quai d'Orleans, 3
Lyons

877

CO 877

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 8/14)

Paris, October 9, 1859

Very dear friend,

I am leaving for Marseilles the first week in November. I would have liked to visit you before leaving.

Have you had your retreat? Has it confirmed you in your present state [of life], or do you have something else in view? Whatever may be the outcome of this supreme and decisive resolve, you will still be a dear and beloved [friend]. What pleased me so much in this matter is that you chose a director outside of ours or any other Congregation. At least your decision will be made very freely and purely because there are two things at issue here:

First: A general vocation to the religious life;

Second: A particular vocation to a certain group and with this purpose.

At this very moment, dear friend, I have received your letter telling me that you have one more angel in Heaven. I deeply share in the sorrow you all feel because it's a great loss. And then, it's

The Mustard Seed Grows

so painful to leave one another at this time, when we love one another! But for the Church, it's an eternal birth, and for Heaven, a beautiful victory. That poor child wouldn't want to come back to this world even if it were given all the crowns in the world. That's because Heaven is our goal, and this world is only an exile.

In any other circumstance, I would have gone to see you. I will make up for it by prayer.

Please! My friend, have courage! We will be in this world such a brief time. We must hasten to glorify our good Master and be entirely his.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Mr. de Leudeville
at Leudeville-en-Hurepoix
Marolles-les-Arpajon (Seine-et-Oise)

Oct 11	<i>Conf. Ser: That we must serve God according to the interior condition of grace, strength of attraction, vocation, gentleness.</i>
Oct 14	<i>Conf. Ser: Interior attraction of recollection, of vocation, of perfection, of direction.</i>

878

CO 878

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET, NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(VII 1/17)

Paris, October 17, 1859

Madame,

This letter is, in the first place, to thank you for writing about the vocation of Mr. [Chanuet], your son. Dear Madame, I understand the prudence and wisdom underlying your desire that Mr. Chanuet not make vows until the time of his priesthood. I will let you judge the matter for yourself, I will do nothing without you. - My opinion that your dear son is called to the religious life was confirmed by the feelings of Fr. Pontlevoy. I just saw him recently and he assured me that he has recognized this vocation in him for a long time. Through prudence, he had let him finish law, and now, he is of the opinion that he should enter right away.

Madame, this gift you are giving to our Lord will be repaid a hundredfold. It's the most beautiful as well as the greatest which you could offer him; I hope that in his divine goodness [God] will let you find some joy in this gift. Your dear son is coming to be with friends. He will find his center of devotion. You will come to see him, and if you cannot, I will send him to be with you a little during the holidays.

We are expecting him toward the end of the month to organize the classes.

Dear Mother, please consider us henceforth as your family, and believe me in Jesus Christ, your respectful and devoted servant.

Eymard, Sup.

Mme. Chanuet (widow)

The Mustard Seed Grows

at Lantignie via Beaujeu
(Rhone)

Oct 19	Conf. Ser: Eucharistic attraction, attraction of recollection.
Oct 21	Conf. Ser: The Eucharistic thought

879

CO 879

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 18/104)

Paris, October 23, 1859

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm still praying for the dear little one, for her heroic mother, and for you who are the center of this pain while being the friend of those who suffer. While I see heaven open over this suffering angel and the glory of Jesus Crucified increased by the virtue of her mother and everyone, yet, life is a grace, and can be requested. I do request it as God wills. I dread receiving some news of bereavement, your silence makes me hope there is an improvement. Praise God!

Dear daughter, you must be suffering in the midst of so many crosses. Don't lose sight of Jesus' gaze; it will be your strength.

On November 2nd, I hope to leave for Marseilles; our house is on rue Nau 7, Marseilles. I will stay there some time, perhaps a month. I will write to you a few days before I am due to leave there.

I hope to hear from you here one more time. I'm sad and upset for all of you.

Our Lord sent us two more priests, praise him for us.

I bless you in his divine heart.

All yours,
Eymard, SS

880

CO 880

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 25/52)

Paris, October 23, 1859

Miss Stephanie

I read everything you wrote to me with interest, dear daughter, because everything that concerns you is dear to me: everything that can interrupt you on the path to Heaven distresses me.

To begin, what good, holy and happy news! Your grandfather had the joy of receiving Communion! desiring to receive Communion! doing so in public! Oh! How good is the Good Lord! How infinite is his mercy! Yes, I do thank him and I will thank him with my whole heart so that he may crown his work of mercy.

The Mustard Seed Grows

So you are finally rid of that poor housekeeper, so much the better! It should have been done a long time ago! There is nothing to be gained by jealousy and selfishness. Let her say whatever she wants; don't say anything negative about her to outsiders.

You did well to answer your new servant in this way. Don't become too intimate with your servants, while still full of charity and trust toward them. It would expose their pride and sometimes also their virtue [to temptation].

Don't inform them about your personal affairs before you are sure of their prudence. What I mean by personal affairs are your external good works.

Alas! Poor daughter, how can you expect to find selflessness, dedication and gratitude, when people hardly fulfill the bare minimum of their duties to God.

Then, the times we live in have overturned [patterns] of thought, revolution can be found even in the heads of servants. What can you do? Bear with it, encourage the weak ones, correct faults with charity and insist on a sense of duty before all else.

As for your dear mother, it's your daughter's love that longs to see her be more prudent about herself.

It's true, she should take better care of herself; but there are circumstances when it's better to leave others alone than to ruffle them: it would hurt them.

Approach it otherwise. When you see that your dear mother insists, let her be. She has her reasons and you know that God blesses her.

Surely, this dear mother ought to take better care of herself.

We expect to leave Paris for Marseilles on November 2nd. We will bless you as we pass. I won't be able to stop in Lyons on the way. I hope to do so when I return. If you need to write to me, here is my address (two words erased).

Dear daughter, belong entirely to God through love, entirely to your neighbor through a gracious charity, entirely to the divine Eucharist by the offering and sacrifice of your whole self.

Bear with yourself in the patience of our Lord. Try to serve him as if you were always happy.

We began the novena for a Pastor. We are really praying so that God may give you one who is pleasing to his heart.

Don't share your troubles or worries with him. Keep your treasure of the Most Blessed Sacrament and, if you mention it, let it be only to give this explanation: the Bishop and the deceased Pastor gave us the Blessed Sacrament; they would not want it to be removed now.

Goodbye, dear daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

881

CO 881

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

(V 37/76)

Paris, October 24, 1859

Good and dear daughter,

I share in your happiness. I thank our Lord wholeheartedly and ask him for perseverance.

Continue to have a childlike trust in our good heavenly Father. Belong to him at every moment and depend on him for everything. God has neither past nor future, he always is. Well, dwell in his existence of love, in his divine Providence of the moment and leave to him the care of the future and of the past. This is the prayer which is in your heart-locket:

The Mustard Seed Grows

“Oh Mary, Mother of Beautiful Love and holy Hope, receive this weak pledge of my gratitude and love. Keep in your heart these hearts which I give you. Save all my family. May they always love Jesus and you. As for me, the poorest of all, take charge of my weakness. I want to belong entirely to Jesus through you, my good Mother.”

I must leave here November 2nd. I will bless you in passing. I will stop in Lyons when I return. Excuse this poor letter which I am sending with this blot.

All yours,
Eymard

Oct 25	<i>Conf. Ser: We must renew our fervor in the love of our Lord.</i>
Oct 27	<i>Conf. Ser: The Eucharistic thought. (Idea or project)</i>

882

CO 882

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

(I 53/181 VI 4)

October 29, 1859, Very dear Father,

We will be leaving here Wednesday, November 2, at 1:45 in the afternoon. We won't make any stops, and we will reach Marseilles Thursday night, around 6:30. The gentlemen's names are Fr. Leroyer (from Angers) and Fr. Golliet (from Moutiers). Our Lord is really the one who has sent them.

For the last month, we have been working only on the rubrics. When you get them you will find them a bit thinned out. However, the Office in choir isn't perfected yet.

I spoke with Fr. Champion about your comment regarding Matins. He thinks it would be better simply to sit and listen, as one would listen to our Lord preaching, etc... For my part, I won't oppose it. I'll leave this house free until God shows us more clearly. No one says the Office until seated, since they rise for the responses: the principle to recite the Office standing is safeguarded.

I saw Mr. Koll. The last job he finished will cover the difference, if you agree. He keeps saying that he never expected to furnish the hinges at his own expense; that that is not usually done, that if he had known it would be that way, he simply would have added this additional expense in his memo and that he gave very close estimates.

All the orders will come with us, even the one from Mr. Picard.

Since the arrival of the new adorers, we have added adoration on Wednesdays and Saturdays until noon.

On All Saints day, we will have a lovely First Communion for 12 of our children.

This morning at 7:30 we will have the Baptism of a Protestant Lady whom we instructed and who is very well disposed.

Mr. Clavel has faculties from Paris and a paper which I obtained for him. He's very happy about it, but he still has a long way to go. Still, he has improved.

Nothing new, except that a theology student is requesting entrance. But like so many others, he has no money.

Mr. Chanuet hasn't arrived yet.

Mr. de Leudeville hasn't made his retreat with the Jesuits to settle his decision. Kind Fr. de Pontlevoy is the one who will discern his case, his parents hold to this.

Goodbye, dear Father. I hope that our Good Master will also bless us in Marseilles, because we want only his greater glory.

The Mustard Seed Grows

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

P.S. We received all the money you sent as specified.
To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Priest-Religious of the Blessed Sacrament
7, rue Nau, Marseilles

883

CO 883

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 111/145 VI 10)

Paris, November 2, 1859

Good and dear sisters,

I am leaving for Marseilles today; I will stay about one month, I'll write to you from there.

I am bringing a few religious to our new foundation.

Continue to pray for us and our beautiful Work.

I am sending your form for the Aggregation. I'm feeling fine. Everything is fine. God is blessing us beyond our hopes.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard, Sup.

I have time enough only for this short note.

Miss Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere