

CHAPTER III

January - June 1866 The Transplanted Tree

“Pray for us, that is the only way we can water the transplanted tree and make it grow.” *To Fr. Leroyer, Feb. 6, 1866.*

Foundation in Brussels Feb. 2, 1866

- Introduction of the Roman Liturgy
- Adoration by five men for fourteen hours

At Death's Door

- Shingles March 1866

Rumors of expropriation in Paris

Spiritual Teacher

- Retreat to his religious in Angers
- Retreat to the Servants in Angers
- Public missions in Paris

Octave of the Epiphany

Octave of Corpus Christi

- Retreats in Brussels, Ghent, in Flanders, Bergerac, and Mauron

1696

CO 1694

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 137/145)

Paris, January 1, 1866

Very dear sisters,

I am writing early in the morning to wish you a happy New Year.

As usual, my first Christmas Mass was for the two of you. It pleases me so to offer you to the Child Jesus! for he is so good and lovable in his divine crib!

This year may God give you his love, dear sisters! Last year he gave you his cross; you received it well, bore and sanctified it well.

Praise God for everything, even for the cross!

I have often asked our good Master to soften and lighten your cross, to give you the strength and courage to serve him better by continuing your works of zeal.

I was very happy about good Mother Marguerite's visit to you. It must have made you very happy, as well as the visit of her dear sister. We don't often find such friends. I feel they are like our own family.

I am well, although very busy. As you know, these Ladies made their second foundation at Nemours (Seine-et-Marne) on December 8th. I hope that our Lord will really be glorified by it! We are preparing one for ourselves at Brussels in Belgium. I have just arrived from there, everything is ready; we are waiting only for a letter from Rome. Pray very much for me, dear sisters. I always need it very much, because too many concerns are an obstacle to piety.

I bless you wholeheartedly today and every day.

Your brother,
Eymard

1697

CO 1696

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 8/20)

Paris, January 1, 1866

Madame in our Lord,¹

Thank you for your wishes in prayer - I also wholeheartedly do the same. I ask our Lord and Master to bless you and your whole family. I would have been [happy] to know all its members, but divine Providence has postponed this pleasure for me.

I am very grateful to you for the kind invitation from Mme. Marechal, but our rules bind us in such matters. If they were not so wise, I would regret them in this circumstance! But duty comes first. I bless you on this beautiful day and in our Lord, I am Madame, your respectful and devoted servant,

Eymard

¹ Excerpt from a letter.

1698

CO 1695

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS

(VI 17/22)

Paris, January 1, 1866

Very esteemed Mother,

My first [New Year's] wishes are for you and your dear family. You know what my wishes are: a most abundant blessing upon your excellent and holy Work; a blessing on our modest collaboration, so that our good Master may be better known, adored and loved for, alas! he is acknowledged so little!

There is no news from Rome. They are on holidays there - what can we do? Wait a little longer, so as to do all things as God does, with order, deliberation and moderation.

You are all [included] in my family memento: I am sure you will do the same for us.

I remain in our Lord, very esteemed Mother,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard

1699

CO 1697

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

(I 159/181 VI 2)

Paris, January 2, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am writing to wish you a happy eucharistic year, and all your dear family as well. What can we wish for adorers, especially you, dear Father, except a more abundant grace of adoration in the love of our Good Master, and for his greater glory?

The year which has just passed was marked in part with the seal of Calvary, and you are still on the cross yourself. You are suffering for the good of the Society. Still, I ask our Lord to relieve and heal you, for "messis quidem multa, operarii autem pauci."² The worker of the first hour is more deserving than those who follow.

I went to Brussels to prepare the principal things, like beds, tables.... The Cardinal received me well. They really want to have us there, and there is much to do, especially as regards Roman Liturgy.

I still don't know when we will receive the answer from Rome. It will be difficult to go there [in time] for the royal feast of the Epiphany. I expect to go and begin it myself, when our Lord's hour will chime.

I leave you now for the terrible season of visits,³ and remain always united with you in our Good Master, and I am, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.⁴

² "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few."

³ New Year's visits.

⁴ S.S. = abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

The Transplanted Tree

January 3-4 - To Nemours.

1700

CO 1698

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 25/36)

Paris, January 3, 1866

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

I didn't have time to send you the wishes I formulated for you near the blessed Crib, nor those for New Year's day. I am writing them to you on the train. I tried to adore our dear mutual Master in union with you and the whole Work of Thanksgiving, because that beautiful work was begun on that day. The little grain, the food of the Elect, the Most Holy Eucharist, germinated at Bethlehem. It fell into the earth, there to become our bread of life.

So, the Cenacle and Bethlehem touch and complete one another. In both, we find the worship of adoration, consequently, of thanksgiving, because thanksgiving encompasses all love.

So, you must have been very happy on that beautiful day!

After yours, I gave a brief adoration⁵ at Nemours, where I am going to spend the day and then return to Paris tomorrow night.

The holy day of the Epiphany is the anniversary of our first exposition. Offer all your thanksgiving for me on that beautiful day! Then, you can tell me your wishes for me.⁶

I recommend to your [prayers] a foundation which we will soon be making in Brussels, in Belgium.

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

Totally united to you,
Eymard, Superior

1701

CO 1699

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 33/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, January 3, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I offered you to the Child Jesus at Christmas, to be his happy servant. On New Year's day, I offered you with my best wishes; I will tell you personally [what they are].

May the holy Will of the love of God always be accomplished lovingly in you, by whatever grace, virtue, or state that will please him! And may the yes of your heart be the answer to everything ... (omitted) ... tomorrow night, at 6 p.m.

I send this brief greeting with a blessing.

Try to come to Paris Saturday for our great Feast of the Epiphany, the anniversary of our first exposition and the day of royal adoration.

⁵ Retreat or mission.

⁶ He is waiting for her New Year's wishes.

The Transplanted Tree

In our Lord,

Madame,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard

P.S. I give you every permission you need, for always, to go into the convent.⁷

Eymard

1702

CO 1700

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

Jesus Hostia

[Nemours], Jan. 4, 1866

Dear Mother,

I will have time for you in the afternoon.
Accept my best wishes in God, both in Heaven and on earth.
My fond dedication,

Eymard

1703

CO 1701

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 18/22)

Paris, January 8, 1866

Very esteemed Mother,

The hour of the Eucharistic Epiphany has not yet come - I was happy for a moment, when I received a letter from Rome on the 3rd - I said "Amen. Deo gratias - we are ready."

But, when I opened the letter, my friend had written that Msgr. S. V. Vegliatti is ill and that our request has not yet been handled, but he is keeping an eye on it. And so we await God's time. Dear Foundation! It will surely be very beautiful one day, since its roots go so deep!

I no longer ask for your prayers, but I remain united in our Lord, in whom I am, very esteemed Mother,

Your respectful and most devoted servant,
Eymard

⁷ It was her custom to stay with the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament when making a retreat with Fr. Eymard.

1704

CO 1702

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 77/104)

Paris, January 10, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

My first wishes were for you in the presence of God and at the altar. Our Savior said: "What wish could I have except to see the fire of divine love embrace the whole world?" As for me, I want it to set your soul on fire. It is so dear to me in our Lord.

They say that fire makes the earth fruitful and makes blood flow into the heart; the fire of God's love is even more powerful and more fruitful. So then, love our Lord dearly, seek only to please him, to pour out all your sorrows and all your joys into his loving Heart, but above all, all your soul's affection, because if you love our dear Master so, he will be enough for you and you will be happy.

I've really neglected you, unfortunately! I was traveling so much and then I was so overwhelmed with business [matters] in December! We made a foundation of the Ladies of Angers at Nemours and I prepared one for us in Brussels where I hope we will be by the end of this month. I will go to begin this foundation myself, please God, and I may stay there a few months. I didn't go for the retreat in Angers, as I had told you;⁸ I didn't have time because of my trip to Brussels. I don't know when I will be going to Angers, but when I do, I really hope to go see you.

Believe me ever in our Lord, Madame,

Your totally devoted,
Eymard, S.⁹

1705

CO 1703

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 62/75)

Paris, January 10, 1866

Dear Madame,

You are right to scold a little, but with such a good heart. For the last two months I have been traveling or preaching retreats. It kept me so busy that I am behind with everyone, even with God. However, I can assure you that I wasn't so in my heart, nor in my prayer, but you would really pity me if you would see how busy I am and how I am called upon on the outside.

What can I wish you this year, except what you long for with so much devotion and grief? A little child from the Good Lord, yes, I am asking for it with you and for all of you, and I ask that he be perfect.¹⁰ Good mother, don't let yourself be frustrated by the suffering of expectation; on the contrary, strengthen your confidence and prayer.

And what shall I ask for you? Oh! Nothing other than one more spark of divine love, one of those red-hot sparks which burn away all dross, which purify gold and make it so beautiful.

⁸ The retreat of the Fathers and Brothers. He did give the one to the Servants.

⁹ S. abbreviation for Superior.

¹⁰ A little grandchild.

The Transplanted Tree

Keep your mind [free] from any sadness, because that would be to expose your soul to the most painful as well as the most dangerous of temptations. The heaven of your mind needs to be ever serene in order to see and contemplate the law of life, the truth and goodness of God.

In December, I made a foundation of sisters at Nemours; I am preparing one for us in Brussels. I recommend them to your good prayers, as well as your poor servant who is and will always be in our Lord,

Dear Madame,
Entirely yours,
Eymard, S.

P.S. When I will have the opportunity to see the sister, I will present your question; but she doesn't ordinarily have such insights. They are rather of a supernatural kind. Thank you for all the news about your dear nieces. I do pray for them, especially for Edmee.

1706

CO 1704

TO MME MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 11/19)

Paris, adame Mathilde, anuary 10, 1866

Dear Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for your good wishes.¹¹ Surely, we met at the feet of our Good Saviour Jesus at the first hour,¹² exchanging prayers, because we don't forget our loved ones and the old bonds of charity.

I am praying and I will pray for your hope so that it may happen and that, like Anna, you may be the mother of a Samuel, or even greater. The fruit of prayer and blessing is usually great and holy.

Continue to beg, request, cry to God: it is allowable and even glorifies God. But dear Madame, don't give in to sadness, to a fixed sorrow, because that would mean losing peace, harming your piety, and weakening your trust in God.

Always remain simple in your grace, pious at heart, happy and joyful in your way of life. In a word, always be pleased with God and he will be with you.

Thank you for your photograph, but it's not really you. It isn't natural.

I bless you with all the blessings of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and it is my wish to apply all its benefits to you.

Dear Madame, believe me in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, P.S.¹³

¹¹ New Year's wishes.

¹² of the New Year.

¹³ P.S. = abbreviation for Priest, Superior.

1707

CO 1705

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 160/181 VI 2)

Paris, January 11, 1866

Dear Father,

In your letter of December 5, you said that you would send me the necessary documents to withdraw your two quarterlies which are now due. Could the royal feast days and your state of illness perhaps have caused the delay? Angers owes our Good Master's candles, and I had set aside that bill for you.

As in the other houses, we are doing things as magnificently as we can for the royal octave of the Epiphany. I am preaching every day, and our little chapel is sufficiently well frequented. But that is so little, compared to the other houses.

So Fr. Deplace has been named Bishop of Marseilles. I think that it will soon be public, and then the Archbishop will give us his consent for Brother Jules.

A week ago we received a Spanish novice from Cadix. He has been living with Mr. Le Marchand for two years. Today he entered as a postulant, he is really edifying us. He has a beautiful Spanish personality.

My Epiphany greetings to the Fathers and Brothers. Believe me in our Lord, dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

1708

CO 1706

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 22/24)

Paris, January 11, 1866

Dear friend,

I would have liked to be the first to send wishes on New Year's day: I did so in God's sight as I was at adoration from 1:00 to 2:00 a.m.

My wish for you is that [your] graces, your spiritual and temporal blessings may continue, because as father and head [of the family] you must have both; it is in keeping with [the way of] divine Providence. I am happy that your family is gathered around you: a father is always a father.

May I recommend one of my spiritual children to you, Mr. Baret. He knows bookkeeping, does fine writing, is trustworthy and sensitive. He is leaving a business which is closing and will go to see his family in Lyons (rue de Trion, 20). If you could hire him, you would have a faithful and devoted man.

Please offer my same wishes to your wife and believe me in our Lord,
Dear friend,

Always all yours,
Eymard, S.

1709

CO 1707

TO MISS ZENAIDE DE ST. BONNET
(V 3/3)

Paris, January 11, 1866

Very dear Mademoiselle in our Lord,

Thank you for your kind letter. It brought me comfort, telling me that you accept to conform to the holy Will of God and surrender as a daughter to his plans over you. Yes, we must wait for some sign other than the present situation. The wound is still bleeding in the family, your position is still too painful; and then the good Master seems to be asking you first of all to bring comfort to all the pain which surrounds you, to bring relief to so much weakness and suffering.

Stay at God's disposal, to please him in general, and to serve him with gentle piety both at his feet and among your family.

I would like to see you take a lot of rest and sleep. You must have a great need for it. Your poor head needs to consider only the glory of your good and holy mother, her love for God, his divine goodness over you, and the daily bonds in this chain of graces from Providence. Go often to rest in silence before the divine Tabernacle. That is how you will renew your strength and rediscover your courage.

Thank you for your kind invitation. I don't know when I will pass through Lyons; but be convinced that you will have my first visits. We are praying and will always pray for you, counting on the same in return.

Believe me in our Lord,
Dear Mademoiselle,

Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard

1710

CO 1708

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

Paris, January 11, 1866

Mademoiselle,

I had welcome news about you from Miss Guillot. I thank God that your health is maintaining itself in spite of the bad season. The best season for fruit is the end of summer; they become tasty and the harvests ripen under the good sunshine¹⁴ Therefore, have confidence and trust; the hours of the last stage of life are worth years in God's sight....

¹⁴ An allegory of the spiritual life.

1711

CO 1709

To Count Jean Raymond De Cuers (Fr. De Cuers SSS)
(I 161/181 VI2)

Paris, January 16, 1866

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your kind note dated the 10th. We like to receive personal New Year's wishes from our old friends. May God be pleased with us, that is the most we can hope for.

I was very pleased with the good news about the priestly vocation you mentioned. We will be very happy to receive him on retreat.

We haven't received anything yet from Rome about Brussels. Msgr. Vegliatti, the Secretary, has been sick for two months.

I am returning the certificates to you so that you may simply endorse them. That is the answer they gave us at the Ministry of the Invalids.

The young Spaniard is called Saavedra Carmel Narcisse Joseph. He was in the Royal Marines as an officer and commissary. He is 27 years old, and really edifies us. He is a typical Spaniard.

The brother of Father Viguiet also entered; he is twenty-five years old and gives us good hope; he had not completed his studies.

Nothing new; our royal octave is over.

Religious greetings to everyone.

Believe me ever in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

P.S. I hope to see you before going to Brussels, but I still don't know when.

1712

CO 1710

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

Paris, January 19, 1866

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Thank you for your good letter dated the 3rd. At the feet of our good and mutual Master, I offered you the very same wishes and desires¹⁵ to be one in his holy service and for his greater glory. Your soul must be united to our Lord by the grace of the moment, in union with its various sufferings. The soul, which is a spouse in time on its way to Eternity, must pass through all the states of our Lord to reach the glorious mount of the Ascension. These sacrifices make love flower in the midst of the desert, guided by the eucharistic column.¹⁶ What you tell me about your deep peace of soul shows me that love is at work. Very good.

¹⁵ Traditional New Year's wishes.

¹⁶ Like the cloud in the desert guiding the Hebrews by day.

The Transplanted Tree

Always be simple and tender in your prayers to our Lord. Your soul needs it, since it cannot enjoy anything in this world, it must make up for it and strengthen itself in this divine conversation, faithfully following the impulse of grace, the interior movement of the Holy Spirit.

I was very happy to hear that your dear Albert is a religious. That was your great desire, it will also be your joy as a mother.

Your good and brave eldest son will be in Paris. He will pass through trials like the children in the furnace, so always continue to be his angel.

I recommend to your prayers a foundation which we are preparing in Brussels, Belgium, in that sad country where secret societies rule. I also beg you to pray very much for me, because so many concerns often dry up my soul!

Remember me to Mr. Tholin, Mr. de Lagoutte, the good ladies Favel, Thivel, Duvillard and Miss Fannie.

I like to pray for her. Believe me in our Lord,

Dear Madame and sister,
All yours,
Eymard, S.

c. Jan. 20 - To Nemours and Meaux regarding the foundation.

1713

CO 1711

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 318/395 VI 2)

Paris, January 21, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I've just received your letter and its contents: thank you. Since you are poorer than we are, you should have let us handle that small expense which, like the others, is exclusively for the service and glory of our Good Master.

I didn't write to you, nor anyone else, because I had some discomfort and it made me lazy. It's a change in the weather here in Paris; many people are affected by it. I wasn't ill in bed nor stopped, I was just too lazy to write.

I went to Nemours Friday, with a fine Priest: Fr. Courtois, our former novice. I am hoping that he will be the chaplain for our little Community. I would be happy if it were so, because he is devout, has some income, and loves us. He has a fine spirit. It will be settled this week. I must go to Meaux to speak to the Bishop about it. I already mentioned it at the Chancery yesterday.

I was very pleased with my visit.

I had really scolded and left Sr. B. under the impression that I was quite displeased

[The end of the letter is missing.]

1714

CO 1712

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 19/28)

Paris, January 21, 1866

Dear Miss Antonia,

I will visit your brother at Gaze tomorrow at 5:15. He is expecting me. I had sent him the message; he seemed pleased to see me. I would really like to do the same for him as for his brother. Pray for my visit.

I received a letter from your sister. It's a good letter. Now she is separated from all her loved ones, but she still loves the Good Lord. Then, we must excuse her because she doesn't see what we see: there are so many near-sighted people in this world!

God's goodness is beyond admiration, that there should be so much peace and charity when there are so many fools in the world.

So, you have been ill, holy daughter of the Good Lord! We must sometimes pass through heaven's inn: it's a bit costly, but very helpful!

Yes, I like it when you are a bit proud, while still being kind and noble. Have plenty of heart, but no eyes, no ears.

I am so pleased to know that you are with your good dear friend! Divine Providence loves her so, and you, too!

Goodbye! I bless you. I am going to say holy Mass and offer you to the little Child Jesus, in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard

1715

CO 1713

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 63/75)

Paris, January 21, 1866

Dear Madame,

As I read your letter I want to tell you how edified and happy I am to see dear Edmee be so faithful and generous. God will be more than a millionaire for her: her father and her family! May God bless and protect her! I am asking God to bring about, bless, and hasten the time for a little St. John¹⁷ for your dear Mathilde! Finally, you are as I wanted you to be;¹⁸ that's fine.

The first and last movements of the heart should always be for God.

It's possible that I may go to Marseilles shortly. I would be happy to pay you a quick visit as I did in the past. You know that you ordinarily get the first.

I bless you and leave you to go celebrate and pray for you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

¹⁷ A child.

¹⁸ Spiritually

1716

CO 1714

TO FR. HENRY BILLON SSS
(III 1/1)

LETTER OF OBEDIENCE

The Superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament (Faubourg Saint-Jacques, 68) begs the Chaplain of the Expiatory Chapel¹⁹ to allow Fr. Billon, bearer of the present letter, to celebrate Mass in the chapel.

Paris

January 22, 1866

Eymard

1717

CO 1715

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 19/22)

Paris, January 22, 1866, Sunday

Dear Reverend Mother,

Yesterday I received from Rome, at the same time as yours, the letter from the Sacred Congregation permitting and approving the Brussels foundation. Providence is with us.

Therefore everything is in order! we shall leave here next Monday, arrive in the evening and so be ready for your 40 Hours. I hope to get away earlier myself if it is possible! but don't expect me. I would like to be there on Sunday evening to prepare everything.

Please be so kind as to have 3 mattresses ordered from the manufacturer whom your porter knows, so that we may find them ready there.

I have just the time to commend myself to your prayers and say that I am, in our Lord,

Your respectful and most devoted servant,
Eymard

¹⁹ Expiatory Chapel of the Miracle; the Brussels foundation.

1718

CO 1716

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 34/52)

Paris, January 23, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I am leaving for Brussels Sunday night or Monday morning for a few weeks.

If you need me, I will be available Saturday or Sunday.

Pray for this foundation which is costing me a lot, but the glory of our good Master is never bought or obtained too dearly.

I like to think that your thoughts are always filled with a beautiful and soothing sunlight, your heart free like the air, and that the Good Lord is in you; that your will makes no choice other than that of the Will of God at each moment, loving all that God loves, indifferent to whatever doesn't converge toward God, spurning whatever is against.

Your poor body is given to suffering, you must always consider it as the little home of the Blessed Trinity, and always keep it worthy of such a divine dwelling.

In a word, root your life in the positive [considerations] of truth, grace, and divine goodness, and finally in the love which gives and receives lovingly.

I bless you in our Lord and leave you in his fatherly hand and his consoling service.

In Him, therefore,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard

1719

CO 1717

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

(I 162/181 VI 2)

Paris, January 23, 1866²⁰

Very dear Father,

I've just received the rescript from Rome for Brussels. We are preparing to go and begin there on the feast of the Presentation, February 2. And as the diocesan 40 Hours begin on the 30, 31 and February 1st, I will go to preach for them.

So I will leave for Belgium Sunday night or Monday morning.

I expect to send the following: Fr. Viguier, who will make his vows first, for his time is complete. He has been recognized to be a good religious and a good adorer. The council therefore admitted him to profession for Sunday. He has been on retreat since Monday. Brother Antoine and Brother Marius have been admitted to triennial vows. They are also on retreat, and I am reserving them for the house of Brussels, with Brother Alexander, who has learned how to cook a little, as the sixth.

I am still undecided between the brothers.

So, dear Father, you will pray and have others pray for us. I am the one who will begin. As

²⁰ Or the 24th? Troussier.

The Transplanted Tree

there are many questions to settle about the liturgy there and to start things in the right direction, I thought it was my duty to go: Fr. Champion can really maintain things here for a while.

We have a young priest from Beauvais (27 years old) for a vocation retreat. He seems fine and is arriving providentially.

We are giving you a lot of trouble for your money orders. But at the bank they didn't want to cash them without it. However, Brother Eugene, who had sought all the information, had told me that one would be enough.

I hope that my letter will cross yours with the references, as the Master's candle bills are overdue.

Doesn't the house of Marseilles owe the house of Paris a small amount for the cloth it furnished? In that case, when possible, send us the amount to keep the income regular. The mother house has so many expenses that it greatly needs its resources.

Believe me, very dear Father, in our Lord,

Your very affectionate servant,
Eymard, S.S.

1720

CO 1718

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 20/28)

Paris, January 25, 1866

Dear Miss Antonia,

I saw your dear brother Claudius only last night. He gave me a nice welcome, and I was happy to see him again. He resembles you in so many ways! I wish it were in every way... But there are many fine things about your dear brother: a heart of gold, a sense of honor, honesty. If he had faith with it all, he would really be a great saint. The romantic feelings are somewhat past: that is the fruit of eternal life which you must cultivate and bring to maturity.

We spoke a lot about you: imagine how pleased I was to see that he really loves you, because you will be able to help him a lot.

I like to think that you are feeling better and that everything is fine, especially the eremitic life at certain moments, the cenobitic life in the common life, and the great life of love [that comes] from the Cenacle. Because, my dear daughters, we need three colors in the flag of perfection: white for the life of the Cenacle, red for the life of charity, heavenly blue for the life of solitude. May the sun of confidence and joy always throw light on your path and your works. We serve such a good Master! And then, you have always been his and you will always be faithful to him.

So then, have courage! Your noonday sun is rising toward heaven where it will set. You must rise with it.

Sunday night, I will leave for Brussels, to begin a foundation there, at 24 rue des Sols. Pray for me and for everyone.

I bless you with my whole soul, and I am in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

1721

CO 1719

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 9/26)

Paris, January 25, 1866

Dear Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I am returning your ticket, made as you wished it [to be], thanks again. I like to think that your spirit is really at peace with the holy Will of God, that your heart is very strong throughout these family problems, and that your soul is still entirely given to our good Master.

Provided God is happy, let us be happy as well! When God loves us, what do we care about the rest!

When God is for us, how can we worry or become sad about what is against us!

In this divine center of the Heart of Jesus, how can we fear storms from the outside!

Even when Jesus seems to be sleeping, let us fear nothing, let us keep watch at his feet and rest at peace.

I beg you, don't let sadness take over your soul, nor worry take hold of your spirit. God is happy and loves you.

I will leave Sunday for Brussels (24 rue des Sols). We will begin a little foundation of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Pray for us, dear daughter. Needless to say that I never stop doing so for you and your loved ones.

Goodbye in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

1722

CO 1720

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 319/395 VI 2)

Paris, January 27, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I kept you waiting a while for this letter, do forgive me. I hardly have the time or the strength to breathe. I am leaving tomorrow night for Brussels with Fr. Billon and four others to begin adoration and the new foundation on Tuesday the 30th. My work is almost beyond my strength, but God is here. It is impossible to postpone our departure. (Write to me at Brussels, 24 rue des Sols, Belgium. Put two stamps.)

I read Fr. Champion's letter for Benoite. That's his way of writing, we must see only his intention. Then, it doesn't take anything away from virtue; on the contrary, it will make yours greater, and make you become even more maternal.

I saw Fr. Courtois yesterday. He is leaving for Nemours this morning.²¹ He will do very well, it's a really Providential thing, a miracle. Let us thank God for it, because I don't know how we could have managed, since I had to recall Fr. Champion.

²¹ To be the Chaplain for the sisters.

The Transplanted Tree

I will send him to you right away ... [6 lines erased].

Fr. Champion will be good; settle things with him concerning the Bishop.

Trust in your grace and your mission from God.

God has given you prudence and wisdom, but you lack a bit of strength.

Before leaving I'll send you the answer to your notes. However, be a bit patient and merciful toward me. I am pulled on all sides.

Goodbye. I bless you wholeheartedly and your daughters as well.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. You could have given the retreat to the young lady. You would have gotten to know her.

I believe that good Fr. Champion will arrive there Tuesday morning or tonight.

I am sorry that you gave the 100 francs since you are so poor! And I am also, because we gave you everything for Nemours. I am pressing for the sale of the mill, it's necessary. Imagine that Mr. Le Clere loaned 4000 francs for Nemours, and that we borrowed 6700 francs from the bank of France for you, which must be reimbursed soon. Oh, how many expenses poor Miss Sterlingue has caused us, and what a cross it is for the house! Poor woman! she really should be pitied. But then, her father caused her so much difficulty! We must pray for her.

1723

CO 1721

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 64/75)

Paris, January 27, 1866

Madame,

I heard that dear Miss de Revel gave you a recommendation for Mr. Baret, a wise and intelligent young man in whom I am very interested and whose family I esteem highly. If I had known that you knew Mr. Onofrio, I would have recommended him to you first, because I know how dedicated and happy you are to oblige.

I'm leaving for Brussels for a foundation tomorrow night (24 rue des Sols). I will stay a few weeks; I recommend this to your prayers.

I constantly pray for you and your dear daughter.

Believe me in our Lord,

Madame,

Your respectful and ever devoted,
Eymard, S.

Jan. 28 - Departure for Brussels to begin the foundation there, and to preach the diocesan 40 hours on Jan. 30, 31 and Feb. 1.

1724

CO 1722

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 35/52)

Paris, January 28, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to give you my last blessing before I leave. May God keep you, guide you and be your consolation and strength!!!

Surrender yourself to his divine and gracious Providence. Let it lead you by events, by the laws of necessity, of state and duty, and especially, follow carefully the impulse of grace. May your soul, like the sails of a ship, open itself to the direction of this heavenly wind, may it cling to it in order to follow its impulse.

A spiritual person needs nothing else.

I saw the person I had mentioned to you. He is a Maitre D' and not a head cook, so I was disappointed.

I confide to you the dear Work of First Communions.²² Love it, it is your harvest to prepare.

I leave you in the Heart of our Good Master, in whom I am,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

P.S. I just received the little note from the pastor at St. Thomas. I am forwarding it to you right away. Please thank him.

1725

CO 1723

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)

(V 11/14)

Paris, January 28, 1866

Excellency,

At long last, I am able to send Father Champion, the Assistant of the Society, to Your Excellency. I had to keep him at Nemours to serve the new colony from the Motherhouse of Angers, because the Bishop of Meaux had no priest available. Today, Father is being replaced by a fine priest whom I know, and I hasten to send him to work with Your Excellency for the good of the little Community of adorers which you love and protect so paternally.

Your Excellency, allow me to recommend to your prayers a little foundation which we are making at this time in Brussels, that boulevard of free-masonry.

His Eminence the Cardinal of Malines has wanted us there for a long time; finally, we accepted the kind proposals which are being offered to us.

Please receive my deepest respect and devotion as I am happy to be, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and obedient servant,
Eymard, Superior

²² She organized collections to help finance this Work.

1726

CO 1724

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 20/22)

Paris, January 28, 1866

Very Reverend Mother,

Tomorrow morning Fr. Viguier will come there with three Brothers. I was hoping to precede them or be with them, but as it is I won't be able to come until two o'clock, or 11:20 p.m., depending on how I can free myself from my duties.

At last, dear Mother, we are on our way, soon to be in the royal service of the good Master.

If you knew all the difficulties and obstacles which have beset us! But, God be blessed! Our Lord will have the victory, as late as yesterday and this morning the devil was about.

Yes, God wishes this foundation; it is marked with the cross and also with his love.

Until we meet, dear Mother,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup.²³

Jan. 29 - To Brussels to begin a foundation there and to preach 40 hours on Jan 30, 31, and Feb. 1.

1727

CO 1725

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 2/14)

Brussels, January 30, 1866

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,²⁴

I have just received your letter and I'm hurrying to answer so as not to keep you waiting. First of all, let me tell you that everything arrived here safely, people and things.

How can we thank you for everything you gave and sent to us!

You are depriving us of the merit of trials and poverty; nothing is lacking! Thanks again. May God repay you a hundredfold!

The Society's adoration will begin Friday at 8:30, as is the custom in our houses, with an opening sermon, and daily Benediction at 3:00 p.m. because of the parish schedule. On the feast day, there will be a second sermon at 3:00 p.m. to explain the purpose of the Work.

I was beginning to feel my migraine headache this morning, but it vanished in view of all the errands that needed to be done. We need to provide our small house with everything, and I don't want to entrust this to anyone else, so I go to the merchant's myself.

Now about you.

I read your uncle's whole letter; poor man! He is dead, more so even than your aunt. I advise you to avoid details in your reply. I would suggest the following:

"Uncle,

²³ Abbreviation for Superior.

²⁴ Linen-maid in Paris.

The Transplanted Tree

“I accept your accounts and consider them paid. Please send me the 357 f. 50. Thank you for the offer of the valuables, but I prefer to receive the money; I will not discuss the details of your letter which are personal to me.

“I never would have expected such distrust nor such humiliating judgements about my life from my uncle. I will bear the humiliation of it, leaving to God and time the care of justifying me, if need be.”

Poor daughter! In your uncle’s letter he reveals himself, his lack of faith, etc. See how low an impious person will sink. God wanted yet another sacrifice from you; but it gives you full freedom. Take it and protect it. Let this cloud pass by and live in [the light of] the beautiful sun of the Eucharist.

I bless you abundantly in our Lord.

All yours,

Eymard

The postage is only 30 centimes.

Miss Thomas
25, rue Humboldt
Paris, (France).

1728

CO 1726

TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES
(VI 2/7)

CONGREGATION OF THE MOST
BLESSED SACRAMENT

Brussels, January 31, 1866

Eminence,

The Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament, received with such good will because of your religious fervor, has three special works of zeal: the first is personal retreats for priests; the second is the work for First Communion for adults who might have neglected to learn Christian doctrine and receive this divine Sacrament; the third is an Aggregation of the faithful dedicated to the cult of adoration, who commit themselves to a monthly [hour of] adoration or to sanctify a eucharistic week²⁵.

So as to further the beautiful apostolate of poor churches, the associates received by us will form part of the Association of Poor Churches in Brussels.

Therefore, your Eminence, I earnestly beg you to bless the works to which our Society is dedicated, so that God may give them the grace which is the fruit of obedience and union with the authority of the Chief Pastor.²⁶

It is with the deepest veneration that I kiss the hem of your sacred Purple and am happy to be, through our Lord,

²⁵ Pay for the candles and flowers at the Altar of Exposition for a week.

²⁶ FACULTIES GRANTED BY CARDINAL ENGELBERT, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES to the religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Brussels, founded on Rue des 12 Aptres, 2 bis, on February 2nd, 1866.

(1) Opening of Solemn Adoration, 2nd February 1866.

(2) Perpetual Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

(3) Daily Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the evening. (There follows a list of VARIOUS HYMNS for DAILY BENEDICTION.) (Those indicated in the Custom Book of the Congregation.)

The Transplanted Tree

Eminence,
Your Eminence's most humble and obedient servant,

Pierre Eymard
Superior of the Society
of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Feb. 2 - Foundation in Brussels on Salazar street. He stayed there until April 23.

1729

CO 1727

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

(I 163/181 VI 2)

Brussels, February 6, 1866, Rue des XII Aptres, 2 bis

Very dear Father,

I am writing to give you some news about us; I've been so busy, that I haven't had a moment. I arrived here January 29 (Fr. Viguier, Brs. Francois, Antoine, Marius and myself). On the 30th, we took part in the three days of the diocesan Forty Hours.

Our foundation took place on the feast of the Presentation of our Lord. We made it as beautiful as we could for our Lord. In the morning there were a few people, at night a bit more, the bad weather held back the lazy ones. Every day we begin Exposition after the 7:00 o'clock Mass and finish it at 9:00 p.m. The church is beginning to have a few adorers; since nothing was established, or at least continuous, this church was a bit deserted. Then, the Belgians are cold; however, I hope that this little foundation will one day give great glory to our Lord. But this life of adoration is so little understood!

Our relations with Miss de Meeus are simple and fine. These women are fully dedicated to the worship of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Our great struggle was to put aside all the anti-liturgical Belgian customs and to establish what is purely Roman. It is done, but everything still needs to be taught, corrected and formed. I still haven't heard any complaints from the clergy or the pious cliques. It's true that we don't see anyone, we are absorbed by our service.

We give Benediction at three o'clock, because the parishes give it at four, and our Pastor would cause us difficulties if we gave it at the same time as he did.

We decided to have beer, because wine is too expensive here. Fortunately, Fr. Champion sent us Mass wine from his village. Everything is going fine, each one devoting himself like country people do.

But the finances are very meager, and if we didn't know that Divine Providence has always been so kind toward us, it would be frightening. I didn't want to ask for anything, either from Miss de Meeus, or anyone. Until now, we haven't lacked anything. But I do have a debt for some of the bedding and the chairs. Couldn't you send me what you deposited with Mr. Guerin (500)?

I just received a letter from Brother Francois, in which he is asking me for the money he gave when he entered, in order to go and embrace his mother before she dies and then go into solitude. Poor Brother, how mistaken he is. I don't know what amount he gave. It is written clearly in Paris, but I don't have the notes here.

See whether it's possible to have him wait until my return to Paris. The difficult part is that we don't have a Brother cook to replace him in Marseilles. That shows how necessary it is to have Brothers in each house learn how to cook, in case of need. I will have them begin that here and in Paris.

The Transplanted Tree

We had problems here one day. On the day of the feast, I had to do the kitchen myself, Brother Francois had a strong migraine headache.

I beg you, dear Father, not to forget the new daughter of the Blessed Sacrament.²⁷ She is small and frail, but she has good will.

I remain closely united to you in our Lord, and I am,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. - My fondest regards to the Fathers and Brothers.

1730

CO 1729

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 320/395 VI 2)

Brussels, February 6, 1866, Rue des 12 Aptres, 2 bis

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Here I am. I was so busy that I didn't have a moment of my own. We are only five for the Master's full service and for the house: they are Fr. Viguiet, Brothers Francois, Antoine, and Marius.

The foundation began February 2nd. A foundation is always a bit crucifying, but it also has many consolations. What greater and more delightful one than to give our Lord a new throne!

I received your 300 francs, many thanks. I wish you hadn't deprived yourself that way. I do hope that you will please God by offering him all your difficulties.

I would like to see you a little like myself, with crosses that I cannot remove or prevent. I try to behave as we do when it is raining and we don't have an umbrella: we receive the rain from heaven.

I am fine and God does everything.

I have time only to bless you. I know that Fr. Champion is with you. I hope that he will help you.

Have courage and confidence! dear daughter.

All yours,
Eymard

²⁷ The new foundation.

1731

CO 1730

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 78/104)

Brussels, February 6, 1866, rue des Douze Apôtres, 2 bis

Madame in our Lord,

I have been here in Brussels a week. This foundation, which we have been planning for many years, began on February 2nd. We are only 5 to begin.

Beginnings are always difficult, naturally speaking, because we found the four walls bare. But God is so good to his own! Then, we must submit our confidence to the test of faith. Here as elsewhere, the devil is master for the most part, especially because of secret societies. We are hoping that the new king will do some good and correct some of the evil done by his father. The late king, once so highly praised, ended his reign despised by all who had moral values, even Belgian Flanders would have received him only as a reject.

They say it was time that he should die. He is leaving four illegitimate children, and in spite of all his skills for government, his son is inheriting a throne fraught with many difficulties. That is how the great ones who are without faith end their lives. I expect to stay here at least a month; so I will have time to hear from you and also to reply.

I won't say anymore today, since it's only to keep you informed.

I remain very closely united to you in our Lord,

Eymard

Excuse me if I don't stamp the letter. However, it's only 30 centimes!

1732

CO 1728

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 38/54)

To dear Father Leroyer

Brussels, February 6, 1866, rue des 12 Aptres, 2 bis

Very dear Father,

I wanted to write to you from Brussels at the very beginning to tell you about the foundation, but we have been busy until now. We took over and settled here on February 2nd.

Everything worked out very smoothly with the Ladies.²⁸ They are so devoted to the service of the Chapel, and even toward us. But on that level, we are reserved and ask nothing for ourselves, since we can manage with the minimum.

I am consoled to see the good spirit and joyful generosity of our religious here. Each one lends a hand to everything.

Then the Roman Liturgy is taking its place in the midst of all the Gallic customs the Belgians have. We are firm on that point.

²⁸ Congregation of Miss de Meeus.

The Transplanted Tree

I haven't yet established anything for our works. I would need one of your forms for each work of the Aggregation, the Eucharistic Weeks, etc. Please send them to me in the mail as soon as possible. The Eucharistic Week that you sent us is limited to a small subscription for the luminary. I think I will speak about the Aggregation on Thursday. I already said a word about it in the pulpit on the first day: the ground must be prepared. They say that the Belgians are slow to take up new ideas.

So I hardly saw anyone, or rather no one. We have been so busy! Then, the church needs to form its audience. Everyone has fond memories of you, especially Miss de Meeus.

Those whom I brought here are Fr. Viguier, Brothers Francois, Antoine and Marius. We are few, but it is enough for the moment. I will stay here another two months to prepare the ground well and handle the major difficulties.

Pray for us, dear Father, as that is the only way we can water the transplanted tree and make it grow.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1733

CO 1731

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 3/14)

Brussels, February 7, 1866, rue des Douze-Aptres, 2bis

Dear daughter in our Lord,

The cross is truly following you! But so is God's grace and love! You had to be detached from everything while being crucified! Remember that love is stronger than death. I pray a great deal for you, because I feel that you must need it.

Poor Marie! She came to see her dear old friend. Where could she go if not to the one who always showed her such pure and loving devotion?

I feel the best thing might be to send her back to rue du Theatre, where she was. I find it difficult to understand a medical ailment that would require her going two hundred leagues away; what care could Mr. Evrat's friendship and great knowledge then provide her!

I think the Ladies of rue du Theatre would take her back. However, it is easier to judge on the spot, so I submit my judgment to one who is more knowledgeable.

I pray a great deal for poor Marie, because I feel real compassion for her. I feel a need to entrust her to God's care, her situation is so sad! However, God is supremely good and wise; so we must adore his hidden plans when our own limited vision sees only difficulty and pain.

When you have a free moment, give me news about yourself. It will make me happy.

I am so busy because we are only five for adoration. The good Master keeps us busy and we are happy about it.

Believe me, dear daughter, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1734

CO 1732

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I9/29 VI 2)

Brussels, February 11, 1866, Rue des XII Aptres, 2 bis

Very dear Father,

I am sending you Brother Alfred's letter. I don't know his address. If you don't have it, I believe that Mr. Guillemain, rue Vaugirard 65, at the corner of Bonaparte Street on the right, can give it to you.

Everything is fine here; but we will need to have a sixth person soon. I see many problems in having Fr. Billon come now. We can't neglect the house of Paris. There is only Brother Henry, now that he is better. What do you think about it? We can wait a little while longer: nothing seems difficult, especially at the beginning. People are beginning to come often to the chapel.

Send me at least 100 francs, because I don't have enough to pay for the customs on the wine and the shipping. I don't dare talk about our poverty here. However, we must say that our Good Master has taken good care of us. We have until the end of the month to pay the accounts.

Lent is here! Follow our little morning tradition: not too much, nor too little; rather less than more, just to have some relief.

Believe that I am, dear and beloved Father,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1735

CO 1733

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 321/395 VI 2)

Brussels, February 11, 1866, Rue des 12 Aptres, 2 bis

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I imagine that you must have received my letter of thanks for the 300 francs; it was truly Providential. When it came, I was going along the streets of Brussels with a down payment toward our debts, and I opened your letter. Imagine how my eyes turned toward Heaven and Angers! How good God is!

We are well, though busy like never before, since we are only five, our service comes every four hours. With a happy heart, nothing is hard for God.

Fr. Champion wrote to me that the Bishop received him kindly, that he will give you the conferences, that your house is going well, that everything is fine. I am happy about it, I didn't doubt it.

I think it would be well if Fr. Audibert were your extraordinary confessor. I even feel that it's desirable. It would attach him to your house; I will write about it to Fr. Champion.

Yes, Fr. Champion, Superior, as you say.

Lent is coming, be broad-minded toward the weak ones; nor do I want you to fast either.

The money for Nemours frightens me! What can there be for us to pay? What! twelve thousand francs to Nemours! May God be praised! But what a lesson!

The Transplanted Tree

We must absolutely sell the mill. Miss Sterlingue no longer has anything to do with it, unfortunately! However, we should pity her, because she is most unfortunate. She had been well-intentioned and wanted to be generous.

I bless you, you and all your sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

The Council will be as follows: Sr. Virginie, Sr. Marie, Sr. Claudine.
I am writing this to Fr. Champion; but tell the sisters and read this note to them.
The postage costs only 30 centimes.

1736

CO 1735

TO FR. CYR-ARMAND CHAMPION SSS
(15/5 VI 2)

Brussels, February 13, 1866, rue des 12 Aptres 2 bis

Very dear Father,

I am very happy to know that you are in Angers. I had promised you to the Bishop such a long time ago. I was sure he would welcome you.

Stay there as long as you need to settle and organize everything with His Excellency and with Mother. Together with knowledge, God has given you a conciliating and broad spirit, I bless him for it. Form them to the choir and to the religious life, as you did successfully at Nemours. Do encourage these dear daughters, they have been very deprived. You must see whether it might be better that Fr. Audibert be their ordinary confessor, and Fr. Crepon their extraordinary confessor, because confession every week is the ordinary rule.

The Bishop was to read the third part of the Sisters' Constitutions and make his observations.

Mother shared them with me. Here is my reply:

Page 1. - 1. The Bishop's idea that the visit of the houses should be done by the Superior General or by a delegated Sister is better than by an Ecclesiastical Superior, who has no mission for another diocese.

Page 2. - 2. The Chapter should have three Councillors instead of two.

Page 3. - For loans beyond 300 francs, the Council is required.

No. 2. - Twelve Chapter members.

The Superior has the right to challenge a chapter member.

Absolute secrecy by the chapter members about the deliberations.

Eliminate the election of two Councillors to remain in the Mother house to correct abuses, etc.

Not to give all the houses the copies of the Chapter deliberations.

Dear Father, I find all these notes by the Bishop to be very precise and wise: so then, we should receive them with respect and gratitude.

As for the nomination of the Superior for life, the Bishop is opposed to it.

I know that in Rome, the tendency is to name the first Superior for life, not only for the unity and stability of government, but also to avoid all the commotions that surround an election. Then, it is up to God to take the responsibility of removing a Superior.

On this point, make my observations and yours. If the Bishop absolutely holds to it, consider it as coming from God. In the way that His Excellency proposes, a person could be elected twice in a row, and a third time with the consent of the Bishop, which amounts to 18 years. I believe that in this way, it really is for life. But then, I would have liked it to be as it is for us.

The Transplanted Tree

Instead of one month at the Motherhouse for perpetual vows, the Bishop wants six months.

The cloister is necessary. This chapter is lacking; it should really be done.

Good Father, act in accord with His Excellency and Mother. Cut, remove, I give you all possible permissions. Since, according to the Bishop, six Councillors are required, the matter is already settled. There are six perpetually professed Sisters.

Name them immediately, in order that the Council might be formed and the Bishop approve it.

If the Bishop holds to having 12, take the professed Sisters lacking in Angers from Nemours. They will be named by right in case of need.

Ad alia:²⁹

I saw two beautiful confessionals here for 600 francs: Gothic, oak wood. Therefore, the workman from Paris who received 680 francs is well paid and beyond. How much that man cost us!

I wrote to Mr. Saunier from Nemours, before leaving for Brussels, about selling the mill. Sr. Benoit should have him come to the house to put pressure on him. I will write to Paris, for the deed of sale at Mr. Meignen's, in order to send it to Nemours. Fr. Chanuet wrote to tell me that 14,000 francs were sent to Nemours. I believe this good Father made a mistake; that it is 1400 francs. How could we have such an amount to pay? Ah! dear House. It will be a good one in the sight of God, because it is very dear in the sight of men.

Everything is functioning here. We have been busy with the service of adoration, from 7:00 (a.m.) to 9:00 p.m. These Ladies are admirable in their devotion for the church and in their desire to be of service to us, but I am careful on that point. We had misjudged Miss de Meeus. She is excellent. Write me again from Angers. Try to go see Mme. d'Andign.

Courage, good Father. God will repay you for the good you are doing for these good Sisters.³⁰ They are more deserving than we are. I will write to you shortly about the house of our Fathers.

All yours,
Eymard

(Postage, 30 centimes)

1737

CO 1734

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE SERVANTS (III 1/1)

To dear Sisters Virginie, Marie and Claudine,

Brussels, February 15, 1866

As Sr. Benoit was sent to Nemours and the Council of the motherhouse lacks one member; Sr. Claudine will be the third councillor. So, for the moment, the Council will be composed of four members, including the Reverend Mother. May each councillor seek in Council only the glory of God and the good of the little Congregation, and not the particular good to the detriment of the common good. But also learn to unite patience and strength, gentleness and strictness, charity and truth.

Decisions on vocations are always serious, so they must be made before God, with God, and for God.

I bless you with my whole heart, dear Sisters, and am in our good Master,

All yours,
Eymard

²⁹ *ad alia*: to other things.

³⁰ The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament in Angers.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 322/395 VI 2)

Brussels, February 16, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to tell Fr. Champion to stay as long as necessary for your formation; so he will be staying in Angers. He must be expecting a letter from me. I asked him to explain the 12,000 or 14,000 francs, because Fr. Chanuet is quoting me 14,000. I want to see the accounts from Nemours before we pay; it isn't possible that we owe that much. Here we are furnishing our house with 1500 to 2000 francs. It's true that at Nemours there is the cult, the initial cost of the sacred vessels, etc., but 14,000 francs! In addition to the rest which has already been given! In short it is Miss Sterlingue's fault and ours as well for having given her carte blanche. She seemed to imply that she would be the one, and that we should let her take care of it. Today we are paying for it.

I like your way of proceeding. Yes, dear daughter, let no one (except God and me) know the depths of your sorrow, of your thoughts on these difficulties. Be very strong on that point, reproach yourself for any indiscretion, and punish yourself for it. My secret as a Superior belongs to God and to myself: let that be your rule.

Take what is good in each one, use that for the benefit of the good Lord's work. As far as faults are concerned, pinpricks, personal crucifixion, that is just manure for the tree. Use everything, but only for the Master's service.

This is what comforts me: our Lord is adored. He remains on his throne of grace and honors his Father, He is saving souls. What does it matter if mosquitos are buzzing at the door, or if the wind is gusting, or flies are bothering us! None of that disturbs adoration.

Yes, write as you said you would. Respond to what is good, guide what you feel can be corrected. However, regarding what is personal to you, what is put in question, a criticism or a condemnation, reply, not as a superior, but as a servant of the Lord: "I will try to learn from it"; or "I will examine before God what would be better"; or "I will seek advice"; or finally, "Thank you for your charity."

Be at peace about the future of your little Society; it will be great and holy. However, each one of your daughters will make you die twice for her vocation and for her perseverance. Divine life is purchased by death.

Since God blesses superiors and wants and loves good order, whatever might be said or done against Angers is like a single person's work. I'm not in favor of that idea. I want unity and subordination.

Let God act; you know that he has always blessed me beyond my hopes, in spite of my great unworthiness and limitations. I don't believe that Sr. Phil. would be so strong-willed by herself; if she is, it can't go very high or very far, no, no. Rather, I am afraid that she is too much of a confidante, but what can we do? Nothing ... [four lines erased].

I thought I had noticed in my last trip to Nemours ... [two lines erased]. I am afraid that that is disturbing them; however, they did not reproach me for it.

Always uphold authority. That is the first law of good government; make excuses to your sisters for human weakness and good intentions. Dear daughter, always keep your head above the storms, let thunder and lightning break out only at your feet.

So this is a long letter. Study the chapter about enclosure that I sent to Fr. Champion. Delete or add what would seem appropriate.

I bless you.

All yours,
Eymard

1739

CO 1738

TO MOTHER GUYOT

(V 7/8)

Brussels, February 16, 1866

Dear Mother and daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your dear letter. I was also thinking of giving you news about us here, because you are still the first adorer.

I won't say that I am busy, but that I am bound. Fortunately, it is to the throne of the Lord, because, since we are only five, we are doing the full service of the good Master. So we hardly have enough time to get some air. As for myself I don't, but our religious are happy, devoted, pious; they are doing the work of twelve. They have the initial grace of foundation. - We begin Exposition from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., with 5 or 6 Masses.

People are beginning to come to our adoration; but since I don't have time to see anyone or to hear confessions, I keep to myself and leave things for my successor. It's quite useless for me to make new acquaintances. I have enough, even too many of those which relate only to this world or a natural level.

I am fine. Imagine that we drink beer as bitter as boxwood. [We are] without a garden, without the little comforts, because poverty is the soul of every real foundation [that comes] from Heaven. Whatever Brother Francois asks me, and he is always asking, I say: I have nothing! Then God arranges everything. I don't perform any miracles, but God does.

Now about you.

Yes, both penances, but not the one at night, except on Fridays, if you are no more tired than usual.

Yes, spend Lent well in order to die and rise. - There are three Maxims for that:

Nothing for myself in my relations with others.

Nothing by myself in my religious life.

Nothing in myself in my prayer and thanksgiving.

Don't seek your satisfaction in your service of God. Please our good Master, be happy to see him loved and served by your daughters. As for you, be the happy portress who introduces fine gracious visitors to your good Master.

I leave you on that note. I still don't know when I will leave here. If I consulted myself, it would be tonight; but we must do all the planting first, then Our Master will tell me when his Heart wants us to leave. And so, I sleep quietly at his feet.

I bless you and all your sisters and daughters.

Eymard

Excuse me if I do not stamp this, I cannot at this time.³¹

³¹ Custom allowed letters to be stamped either by the sender or the receiver.

1740

CO 1736

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 10/29 VI 2)

Brussels, February 16, 1866

Very dear Father,

Thank you for the 200 francs; only my heart is sad when I realize that you have taken from your own needs and as soon as I have something, I will send it to you. The Good Master we are serving will not abandon his servants; however, it is true that we are serving him so poorly!

Thank you for the candles and the rest: the case for the clock. We are a bit lost without a clock, the soul of the eucharistic service.

You must have received my letter for Cormery through Brother Alfred, he will be pleased. The dedication of our Brothers is admirable! That's how I recognize true and genuine novices: when Brother Francois gets a migraine headache, everyone becomes a cook, and I am the chef. Then the service of Adoration is done joyfully by four persons. We are doing everything here as if we were 20. Each Brother serves two Masses and what I admire and praise God for, is that there is not a word, not a sign of being overburdened: these are true loving adorers!

We don't see anyone, because we are almost always with our Good Master; we have no garden, no wine, no heat, no jam. Well! We are happier than all of you: our Lord doubles our portion of graces.

Goodbye, good and dear Father. The more time passes, the more I see how much the good Lord has loved us by calling us to such a holy, such a beautiful, such a glorious vocation.

In our Good Master,
All my wishes to all of you,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Notice how many hours your six candles burn, because there is an adjustment that needs to be made.

P.S. Have Brother Eugene eat meat on the days when it is allowed. He needs it. Read the letter for Mr. Davon and send it to him.

1741

CO 1739

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 11/29 VI 2)

Brussels, February 17, 1866

Very dear Father,

I have a few Masses here which are urgent. Please have them said for my intention: there are 11 of them. I will give you the stipends for 2 francs, the regular offering. Therefore, I will owe you 22 francs. Please begin them right away. Here, we are both bound by the daily foundation Masses.

Nothing new, except that our strict Roman liturgy has caused loud complaining, even by Jesuits. Fortunately, their reasons are very weak. They say: it's the local custom. What a custom!

it's contrary to the formal decrees of the Sacred Congregation of Rites. So the law moves forward and we let them scream. Knowledge, reason and virtue will come later.

Yes, keep dear Brother Henry a while longer, it's better for him to heal well; we are managing here for the moment. I hope that we will be able to send you 100 francs soon to help you. It makes me sad to feel that you don't have anything.

Limit yourself to necessary expenses. Let things which would be merely useful, wait. We will do the same here. I imagine that Brother Pierre is working at the garden.

Goodbye, good Father. May God sustain you, direct you and fill you with the strength of his love.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1742

CO 1740

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 1/11)

Brussels, February 17, 1866, rue des Douze-Aptres, 2bis

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

May our Lord always watch over and fill your soul and your life!

I read your letter [which was] so full of devotion! I would have liked to answer right away; but I was bound by our service and lack of time.

I do thank you for your kind prayers. They are precious to me, since you have so much charity for me which I don't yet deserve to such an extent, since I have done so little for your soul.

I would be very happy if I could be of great help to you, since you go to God with so much directness and determination and you have such a great desire to love and serve him with your whole heart. You do well, dear lady, to go to God in this way. But as for myself, I have nothing to say, because the Good Master's doorman is embarrassed to be the object of so much gratitude only for opening the door to Jesus and bringing close to Him a soul which is so dear to him.

You love St. Peter, my patron saint. You want to give your eldest son to the Most Blessed Sacrament: may God hear your prayers and mine, for he seems to be your echo, your very self.

I would advise you not to write to your relatives before bringing your son to Montmorillon. Since you have already decided, it might be better to do so only afterwards, in order to avoid comments and difficulties, because the devil always opposes good plans. Nevertheless your acquaintance with the family will enable you to be a better judge of what is appropriate: here I can judge only by what seems prudent.

You love your solitude, and you do well. It is solitude from the world, but a happy dwelling with God and his saints. In such good company we are well. So the Imitation says and rightly so, that solitude carefully maintained is delightful because Jesus shares it with us.

Yes, good daughter, God has really loved you. Your life is a fabric of grace and mercy. You must tell him: "My Good Master, since you loved me so much when I did not love you, now that I do love you and desire a perfect heart to love you more, how much must you love me now?"

Always go forward on this path of gratitude and the joy of serving our dear Master. It expands the heart and wonderfully prepares us to be generous.

Believe me, I read your letters with the grace which has led you to our Lord. So write things as they come, cross off, erase, do not do it over: I like simplicity.

I will accompany you with prayers and blessings for your dear son and will be there in spirit on the 24th. I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I know Mr. Billon's brother who is living with his parents in Paris. He seems fine to me, but I don't know him well. He made a good impression on me.

Madame T...with Fr. T...
Seminary of Montmorillon (Vienna)

1743

CO 1741

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 36/52)

Brussels, Rue des Douze Apotres, February 17, 1866, 2 bis

Postage is only 30c.

Madame in our Lord,

I just received your letter, and I'm hurrying to answer it. I didn't answer the first one, I was waiting for the second which would confirm your return to l'Isle.

Let's begin first with Lent. No fasting... if you can do without meat on the three prescribed days, you would do well. But if you aren't well, you should eat meat. It's understood that you would eat meat at both meals. - "But what would my penance consist of?" In the regret of not being able to do like everyone else; then, in your weakened state, and finally, in obedience.

What can we say, dear Lady! There are some poor people³² whom God feeds without any effort on their part, to whom he gives Heaven, so that they may always say a great thank you, who go to Heaven with the appearance of pleasures but who suffer from everything and everyone, - who do nothing good, or worthwhile, but whose heart belongs to God, their will is submissive, they love by the strength of love and not by its consolations and outbursts - beautiful souls who accomplish their purgatory, who are pleasing to God, who are always his in every situation and in every place. Don't change.

I assure you that our good Master loves this state [of soul].

Find your enjoyment in God, not in human beings. Besides, God doesn't will it, nor do you. Well! When a ray comes [our way] we are happy to receive it. When it disappears then we must wait for the sun, knowing that it is behind the clouds. Besides, God loves me, what is more beautiful, more fulfilling!

I am praying for your collection. I'll write to Madame your sister later. I'll go to visit her, if you think it would be well to do so.

Our foundation is progressing here, keeping us busy. I am not paying attention either to strong or weak whistling winds, to the criticisms or surprises. Our Lord is on his beautiful throne; it is for him that we have come, he is exposed 14 hours for five adorers.

What a treasure! What beautiful audiences! My soul is rebuilding itself a little in the presence of this good and beautiful Sun. I don't see anyone so to speak, nor do I have the desire to do so. Be sure that I present you, that I give you, that I constantly repeat your name to our good Savior and King.

Write a bit more often. You are free, and your letters will be a consolation to me.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

³² Using the third person, St. Peter Julien describes her state of soul.

TO COUNTESS DE FRAGUIER
(v 1/2)³³

Brussels, rue de Douze-Apotres, February 18, 1866, 2 bis

Madame Countess,

I don't know how to thank you for having so kindly espoused the work of your good sister, Mme. d'Andigne, by accepting to take charge of the collection for February 27th.

It is such a beautiful Work to help 150 workers a year to make their First Communion, who would probably never make it [otherwise], since they are beyond the age of going to catechism lessons in the parishes. They work every day from 7:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.! This produces such lamentable members for society and inadequate Christians who have received only baptism! Then, they marry without religion and live the same way! What poor families result from that! But once they make their First Communion, it becomes a starting point for their salvation. The conditions are in place for a Christian marriage, a powerful motive present for their return to God. When our Lord has taken hold of a man at least once through holy Communion, he leaves an indelible memory and the mark of his passage: it is like a conquered kingdom, where Jesus has reigned at least a few days.

Oh! Unfortunately, this work of salvation, which is even a social work, is not sufficiently understood. They prefer to give bread to human animals, clothe them, feed them. That's fine, no doubt; but to take both body and soul and make them Christian is infinitely better. - In Paris there are many unbaptized persons. There is no First Communion that takes place here without some child being baptized, because Paris has a touch of China, Oceania, and Africa.

Oh! How I would like to see this beautiful Work of First Communion established in four or eight centers in Paris: one at Batignolles, a second at Belleville, a third at faubourg St. Antoine, a fourth at Grenelle, a fifth at Vaugirard, a sixth at the center of faubourg Mouffetard, then at the gates of Fontainebleau, and finally, here! That would enable us to launch an assault upon all these fortresses of the devil. - I have been thinking about this beautiful mission for a long time. We would rent a room in those quarters; and I would send out two catechists from the center every night.

Dear Lady, that is my ambition. We have begun with one. Pray so that apostolic workers may come to us. As for the money, the One who will send us knows very well that we must dress and help these little children of his grace. So then, you will do it for those who are preparing themselves, dear Lady. How pleased our Lord will be with you! That is surely when he will say with truth and love: You clothed me in my communicants, you gave me spiritual bread and some material bread! I say material bread, Madame, for when these poor little workers are out of work, they come to us whom they call their Fathers.

Thank you in advance, dear Lady. I will pray for you and for those who contribute to this beautiful and holy Work.

In our Lord, Madame Countess, I am,

Your respectful and devoted Servant.
Eymard, Superior

³³ Sister of the Countess d'Andigne.

1745

The document is deleted because it is the same letter found in Volume VI Doc. #2123 (CO 2123)

1745

CO 1743

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 164/181 VI 2)

Brussels, February 24, 1866

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your 200 francs. We paid for our beds; I'm happy. Paris also sent me 200 francs. Now we have caught up. Thanks again. No matter how economical we try to be, at the beginning we need everything; but now, we have only ordinary expenses.

I am putting forth all my efforts to organize the Roman liturgy, the blow has been dealt. There was some complaining, especially from a Jesuit Father. I told him and everyone as well: "We have come for our Lord, with the liturgical rules of Holy Church, and nothing will make us change. We will follow the prescriptions of the Ordinary; that is liturgical."

The church, which had been somewhat neglected, is beginning to come to life. There was so much to do! The Ladies next door have been so dedicated for everything which concerns worship. On our part, we have been sensitive, and we have kept our freedom.

It has been cold during the last few days. Otherwise, it has been like the moderate temperature in Paris. Our religious go joyfully to their service of adoration and there is a good spirit. It is easier with few; I'm very happy. I can see that the novitiate was very practical.

Take care of yourself a little, dear Father, during this Lent. As weak as you are, have coffee several times a day, since it helps you serve the Master.

Believe me as ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

(The postage is 30 centimes for 10 grams. Fr. Leroyer's letter cost 1.50.)

1746

CO 1744

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 39/54)

Brussels, February 24, 1866

To dear Father Leroyer,

Thank you, dear Father, for the forms. I am waiting for the one you promised. We are having difficulty organizing the Eucharistic Weeks. As it was only a fund-raising effort, it must be given its true spirit as at Marseilles. It will come.

I bless God that I came here at the beginning, as there are so many difficulties to avoid, to remove, to foresee, and then so much prudence and means to be taken, that I hope to leave this place ready and free for the one whom God and Holy Obedience will send here.

You are doing good, a great deal of good at Marseilles, dear Father. You ought to be happy about it: as a good religious, you only want to do the good which his love entrusts to you, and what you are doing in Marseilles is greater and more serious. So then, have good courage!

Believe me in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

1747

CO 1745

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 12/29 VI 2)

Brussels, February 24, 1866

Very dear Father,

First, let me begin with your questions!

1. I will be united with you for the devotions of the month of St. Joseph. Put your whole heart into them: the chapel to be built, the house under compulsory sale, good novices, and lastly, that all become holy adorers. I will ask this good Saint for some money for you.

2. Do what is suitable for the chapel of the Blessed Virgin: Hugon still owes me. We might as well have him repay in this way.

3. Yes, a great big yes, begin perpetual adoration with the month of St. Joseph, the great and first adorer of our Lord. We must move forward with God's blessing! Our heavenly Father will pay for his divine Son, and the Holy Spirit will renew his eucharistic Pentecost. God loves strong acts of virtue: his grace is in it. As for your children, I still don't have anything to say, as I don't see a direction or a practical way for the moment. Divine Providence will show us later.

4. You would do well to preach on Sundays during Lent. We are doing it here. We must nourish souls a little with the divine Word.

5. A fine American! May God heal him, and let us receive him for he struck me as a holy adorer. We need saints, but we need a healing, which is easy for God to do. So awaken his faith in miracles.

6. Yesterday, I was meditating on the following text from the Imitation,³⁴ chapter 24, book III: "Domine, hoc opus est perfecti viri, nunquam ab intentione coelestium animum relaxare, et inter multas curas quasi sine cura transire." Apply that and what follows that number. It really describes a soul that is truly free in God and a prisoner of God; given totally to everything and to nothing, to everyone and yet to God alone. We need to extend ourselves toward our neighbor, but "in sole posuit habitaculum suum."³⁵

God loves you very much, dear Father; he tells you so every day. Be truly his "absque tui propria."³⁶

I am affectionately one with you in our Lord,

And all yours,
Eymard, p.³⁷

³⁴ IMITATION OF CHRIST, Book 3, Chap. 24. "Lord, it is the business of a man of perfect life never to loosen the bonds that bind his heart to heavenly things, to make his way through a crowd of troubles as if he had not trouble at all." (Trans. Knox)

³⁵ "But he put his dwelling in the sun."

³⁶ "Without anything for yourself."

³⁷ Abbreviation for priest.

We don't have the volume of the Breviary you mentioned to Fr. Vigiuer.
I am having flyers printed for the Stations of the Cross, wait for them.

To Rev. Fr. Chanuet,
Master of Novices
68, Rue Faubourg St. Jacques
Paris

1748

CO 1746

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 323/395 VI 2)

Brussels, February 24, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Let the good Lord act, he always does what is good and best. Seek only the good of the Work in your search for truth, or the reason for things, or the common good, and God will always be on your side.

Before you speak, suggest or act - don't wonder what people will think, say, or do, but consider whether you are following the law of duty, for the common or individual good, and God will always be with you.

God is always for order, truth, and justice.

God always draws his glory from personal sacrifices, from self-sacrifice. Entrust your reputation to him, dear daughter, the affection you need to do good things, the humiliations and sufferings too; then the divine Pilot will guide you to port by the ways of Providence.

Let them say, think, or do against you personally whatever accusation they want to make against you: your indiscretions, your past weaknesses, your faults, your sensitivity, as you say. Don't be humiliated or ashamed, nor ready to make fifty apologies, but thank God for this grace. It is like a spider-web which has been broken and removed; it's a liberation, a grace, greater glory for God. Maintain silence, and if you need to speak to avoid the impression of pouting, say that you'll try to learn from it all, and thank them for their good intentions.

Trust in the grace of your mission, but never rely on yourself.

Look for the grace at work within each person, to put it to use.

Should your neighbor be helpful or even Superior to you, don't behave toward them like a trusting child, that would be absurd, nor with total surrender, which might often be imprudent, but with a motive of faith, a motive of prudence, seeking the grace of the moment.

These, dear daughter, are a few simple helps, but the great one is: a sovereign, tender and dedicated love for our Lord, in whom I bless you very paternally.

Eymard

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

1749

CO 1747

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS

(III 4/14)

Brussels, February 24, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am sending you this short greeting. I wanted to thank you sooner for your letter but I couldn't. The good news about Marie really makes me happy. Oh! how kind and charitable you have been to her! God will repay you for it, through friends loved in God and for God. I am praying for you, I can feel the burden of your life, but I thank God for his virtue and strength in you.

I am praying for poor Marie. How good God was to her! How sad it makes us feel when we think of her future!

May God be praised!

My health is the same as usual. Our church is going well, the Brothers are happy. I hope that our Lord will find his greater glory there.

I bless you abundantly in his divine love.

Eymard

1750

CO 1748

TO CAROLINE DE BOISGROLLIER (SR. MARIE DU SS)

(III 2/5)

Brussels, February 24, 1866

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

I read your reflections with great affection and attention: basically they are right, I thank you for them. At the opportune moment we will use them.

As far as what the Bishop of Angers said, it is true, you are in the Church through him, and under him, the holy Council of Trent gives him this right and responsibility.

Because of the Bishop's approval, you are almost canonical. In Rome, a religious body is never approved unless it has first been approved and tried under the direction of the Bishops. - So my good daughters, you should be very happy to have found such a good Bishop who is interested in you, and who gives you the benefit of his experience. As for me, I constantly thank God for it.

As far as diversities of opinions or points of view, that will all be settled when you will be presented to Rome. My dear sister, I want you to accept the charge of Councillor. You were among the first professed, your only responsibility is your vote; so your conscience cannot be troubled by it. Do it then for the love of our Congregation.

I bless your eyes. Poor eyes, I am the one who is tiring them! So then put my notes aside.

May God bless you as I bless you with my whole soul.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

P.S. Do pray for us. However, everything is going well. I thank God for the news I've just

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received. The Bishop wants you to be assistant. May God be praised! I want you to be, since God wants it. I never would have dared to ask you this sacrifice, but the good Master is asking for it. Accept it, trusting in his grace.

To very dear Sister Marie
Servant of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Mar. 1 - At Paris the beginning of strictly perpetual adoration.

1751

CO 1749

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)

(VII 9/20)

Brussels, rue des 12 Apotres, March 1, 1866

Madame in our Lord,³⁸

I am writing to you although I am still ill. I do not know what is wrong, whether it is measles, but I have been listless lately. Nonetheless, I keep going, in spite of the pimples which come and go - that is because I consider myself somewhat like a soldier on the battlefield.

I am truly sorry for having made you wait so long for my letter. This is to say that I will correct myself next time.

I find that their absolute interdictions are too strict. It's enough to kill you twice. - A middle way needs to be found. - The divine flame needs a little activity. I would distinguish between works which are required by one's state, position, or charity, and works which are binding, ever extending their influence and demands. I would be more strict about these and tell you: don't bind yourself, don't be the anvil, but if you are now so in fact, withdraw from the responsibility and use your health as a pretext.

It is understood that neither fast nor abstinence is binding because of your health - offer this as a sacrifice.

But, dear Madame, there are no limits or degrees for the love of God, the gift of self, personal self-denial. We must die daily and be like the sun which always rises as if it were the first time that it is obeying God, and follows its course until its setting. Live especially in the divine Eucharist. I will grant you the first blessing. I have just had the form printed for the Aggregation. I am sending you the first copy, you will be my eldest from Paris.

I bless you very faithfully in our Lord,

Eymard

You will have the consecration after Communion.

Mar. 2-10 - Fr. Eymard suffered a violent attack of shingles.

³⁸ Excerpt from a letter.

1752

CO 1750

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 324/395 VI 2)

Brussels, March 3, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Yes, I thank God for the twenty one years, and the initial grace.³⁹ So don't thank me for it, dear daughter, I've done so little! I can only say that your soul has always been dear to me, and that I have always been dedicated to it in God. God wanted us to work together, both for the Mother and for her Son. Now we need only to continue to suffer well, by means of everyone and everything, to water the little tree and make it grow. We must be humiliated, broken and ground into good fertilizer dust for his glory.

Is our Lord adored? Is he served? Is his service spreading? - Yes. The rest amounts to nothing. The poor ego must be oil for the eucharistic lamp.

Let's be happy when it is so.

I bless everything that is being done for your Councils and Chapters. It was necessary to begin.

I'll try to have Fr. Champion return briefly to Angers after Easter to satisfy the Bishop.

We must pray for Sr. Virginie; she is being seriously tempted.

Sr. Benoite has not written to me; it's also true that I haven't written to her either.

I believe that God is making up for it and then, I wanted to see how things would be.

Please take better care of yourself. Don't worry about me. God is taking care of me.

I won't thank you for your second letter. My God! it's too much. Since nothing was coming from here, I can see that God sent it from elsewhere; but enough!

Thank you for the news about La Mure, Mme. G., your dear sisters. I will write, but I've been so busy that I can hardly keep up.

Goodbye dear daughter. Let us work very purely, humbly, and devotedly for the service and love of our good Master. I am very close to you in his divine Heart.

1753

CO 1751

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS

(I 13/29 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Brussels, March 5, 1866

Very dear Father,

Don't worry about me. Today I returned to my eucharistic service. I don't feel any more fever, the belt of fire [shingles] is lessening, and disappearing. I didn't know why my shoulder hurt so much recently during the night, nor why there was so much pain next to my heart, when on Friday morning, I noticed those large pimples. The doctor came; I did what he told me; I'm not going out. Fortunately, he didn't order me to bed: that would be like putting me in purgatory.

What made me weak during these last few days was the purgative he gave me, but I am fine now; don't send anyone. If I should feel the illness returning, I would write to tell you. They had frightened me with the possibility of measles, or smallpox, but it was neither. I preached last night: that shows you how much better I am.

How did you manage for your monthly bills?

³⁹ Anniversary of her admission to the Third Order of Mary.

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I have a few hundred francs here that were given to me which we had put aside for candles. I'll send them to you. If you don't have anything, Mr. Ravon would certainly wait a little longer. If divine Providence has come to our help, give the money to Mr. Ravon for the Brussels account and keep 50 francs for the house of Paris. The money for the eleven Masses said for my intention will be included.

True, good Father! Without mortification, it is impossible to have genuinely religious men: all that sentimental piety, with feelings of joy and happiness, is like a trip in a nice coach. I don't have any more faith or confidence in it. First of all, we must form men of virtue; that is, men of sacrifice. After all, our Lord established the basis of evangelical perfection: abneget semetipsum [deny yourself]. Whoever loves his own freedom and comfort, his own health and his little privileges--none of that is self-denial, but self-love.

God has allowed us to have rather bloody experiences in that regard. We can no longer hesitate: whoever cannot be led to the virtue of personal self-denial must be tried gradually and then sent away. As far as I am concerned, Brother Arsene is already judged on that point: I have seen very little generosity in him and very little initiative for [the practice of] virtue. Tell him clearly that it is his last grace period, or rather tell him: we have considered your virtue and made our observations to the Very Rev. Father; he had already seen the same as we do. He doesn't think you have enough virtue and courage to be with us. Either you are paying too much attention to yourself, or you are sick: make a decision. Then you will see what he does. If you think there is [possibility of] improvement, give him some time. If not, send him away.

You did well to make corrections; don't get weary. Come back on the same point in the same situation. In this case, the tone doesn't matter, but the content. Surely, if you can be calm and give reasons for your corrections by using the Rule, examples, etc., you would do better, but pray first and proceed with confidence.

I bless you wholeheartedly.
Eymard.

As it is too late to send you my letter, I'll send it later.

1754

CO 1752

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 37/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Brussels, March 5, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for telling me about the collection. God blessed it, may he be praised! as well as you and your good dedicated sister! I expect that it will be sufficient for our most urgent needs; and then, divine Providence is the loving and vigilant mother and provider for God's poor.

Please ask your sister to keep the money until my trip, after Easter, because it will give me an opportunity to go thank her at Mee, where I would like to see you.

So God wants you in his hermitage at l'Isle, his Martha in his Bethany. You are his respectful, devout sacristan, Mary at his feet, sometimes on his Heart, always in his love.

He wants you alone, no longer to be your own, but to be more his. He wants to be the means, the bond, the direction of your life towards him. That is why everything you would like to have as a means of edification, instruction, and help, is lacking: small loss! Since you go directly to Jesus and your efforts are more integrated because they are all directed toward his divine service, in his love, and his divine Will.

I have this great wish for you, convinced that it would increase the glory of God and your

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virtue as well. It is that you would avoid soul-searching for the love of our Lord; that you would consider as very small what you suffer, what you give him. But especially, don't be so dependent on feeling his love, his peace and the consolations of love.

God loves me: that is a truth. In all things he only wants what is good for me, I am all his and I want him alone. My weakness is my claim, my poverty is my treasure, my imperfections are my need for his grace.

This, dear Lady, is what must ever be put into practice, and you will find the kingdom of God in you.

I will stop now. For several days I have been suffering from what is known as shingles. I am better, since I am up, and I must be pleased with that, since it is passing more quickly than the doctor expected.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

Please don't say anything about it in Angers. I see that it won't be anything. For the sake of prudence, I am not going out. It's only a rash. I don't feel any more fever. My God! I'm sorry I told you, but I don't have the courage to rewrite my letter.

1755

CO 1754

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 14/29 VI 2)

A.R.T.⁴⁰

Brussels, March 12, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am feeling better, although there are some traces of the illness left, and it is slowing me down. They say that it could have become serious, but I didn't feel weak until Saturday. So I had to eat meat, which I had expected to avoid. What comforts me is that I suffer more in bed than up and around. So, it shakes off laziness a little.

Fr. Champion will return tomorrow. It is good that he has seen the situation. He will bring you what I had reserved for Mr. Ravon.

As soon as you receive my letter, please send Brother Eugene to Mr. Coltat to order a gross of medals for the Aggregation, like those from Marseilles. I need them for next Sunday; otherwise don't order them.

Have them include a gross of medium size medals of St. Benedict in the same package. Please don't forget it, because I am beginning a eucharistic retreat on Monday the 19th, and I would need these medals for the opening.

I received a letter from Brother Arsene. It is a good one. It seems that he was holding back a little secret which prevented him from being open.

Please have Brother Eugene entrust the enclosed petition, with that of Mme. Berthier, to the Mother Superior at the military hospital of Vincennes. Ask her to give it to the Minister of War. Please have Brother Eugene advise Mme. Berthier, rue Tombe Isoire 3, that this petition is being sent and by whom. If he cannot go, he should write her a note: that would spare me a letter. Or rather, let him do it only after giving the petition to the Mother Superior.

Continue to pray to good St. Joseph: he will come in his own time. I hope that the month of this dear Saint will not go by without our receiving its blessed fruit.

⁴⁰ A.R.T.: abbreviation for *Adveniat Regnum Tuum*, Thy Kingdom Come.

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Goodbye, good Father. Pray for next week's retreat, so that I may have the needed strength and grace.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1756

CO 1753

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(U VI 20/22)⁴¹

Very Reverend Mother,

Father Champion will stay here until Sunday night - we have enough time to see to your requests. I think we need to prepare the final clause for our contract at Ostreignies.

You had told me that you ordinarily give your offering to the University of Louvain. I am waiting for it to bring our collection to the Dean. With the 190 francs from M. Decock, it amounts to 132 fr. 150.

Since I keep forgetting my little messages, I hope you don't mind if I write them [to you]:

1. The umbrellino - Nothing urgent; however, since there are so few in the procession, if one person would carry the umbrellino alone, the others could carry the candles.

2. The multi-colored Conopeum - If it cannot be ready [on time], it can ordinarily be replaced by white, but not by the other colors.

3. I am sending you the Sunday cope to have a wider border added to it.

4. You would really please Fr. Champion if you promised to let him soon have the small strip of land from your garden where he could let our young men exercise. Their heads are stuffy for lack of air. It is the first thing he asked me about. I told him that I was the one who had put it off because of the bad weather.

5. I have the bottles of Mass wine.

Fr. Champion is thrilled with Brussels, your church and you - I praise God for it.

In our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

1757

CO 1755

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 2/11)

Brussels, March 12, 1866

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I felt deeply about your suffering due to the illness of your eldest son. Your care and prayers hastened his cure. I really prayed for your dear son on his ordination day. Now, he has ascended another step in the sacred hierarchy, surely with an increase of virtue to accompany the holy orders

⁴¹ Previously unpublished letter from the archives of the Religious of the Eucharist, found by Fr. Stalmans SSS, 1994. This note was written while Fr. Eymard was in Brussels itself.

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he received. He is a beautiful example for his other brothers and a gentle consolation for their good mother.

So, dear daughter, you are now in your little Nazareth, be happy there. For that purpose, invite Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, and be their happy servant.

Yes, work at holy recollection. That is, share your life of divine union and love with our Lord. May your recollection find its vitality in your heart rather than in your mind.

Always consider God's goodness for you; his past graces, his present love, his divine promise to be all yours forever.

Your strength comes from the heart, that is everything for you. That is how the good Lord has laid hold of you and keeps you. Since the heart's love brings more suffering than joy, you will have to suffer for God and with Jesus. The cross is love's struggle and its glory.

Oh yes! Love the good Lord dearly, the rest is nothing! Love him as he loves you, as he leads you to love him.

Thank you for your prayers, I am feeling better. The divine Master has given me a warning of the end, so that I may work better during the little time I have left. I never believed that shingles were dangerous. So, when they mention it to me, I say that the good Lord is my doctor.

I am sending you a form for the Aggregation which I have just had printed. It will be one more bond in our Lord in whom I am, Madame and dear daughter,

Devotedly yours,
Eymard, Sup.

1758

CO 1756

TO MOTHER GUYOT

(V 8/8)

Brussels, March 13, 1866

Dear Mother in our Lord,

I am writing to give you news about myself.

The good Lord didn't want me. He is leaving me here to do a little penance, so that I may not stay so long in Purgatory.

However, I have become a little lazy. It's my natural defect: totally on fire, or totally asleep.

So you feel a little hindered, because you weren't able to follow your attraction for penance. You can see that our good Master makes his [penances] pass first because they are the best.

No doubt we must offer, give, begin the crucifixion, like Abraham on Mount Horeb. Then God, who is pleased with our good will, will change the victim; the heart has been offered.

You complain, dear Mother, about your difficulties in becoming recollected; that's because recollection is the beginning of Paradise. But as no one enters Heaven except after having suffered, so it is with recollection, since it is defined as life in God, with God. Well, that is really Heaven.

So then, let your mind, then your heart, be recollected, then try to come as close as you can to a recollected awareness of the constant presence of God.

Oh! If we could see God more in everything, if we would consult him like the Angels do, we would behave more wisely, we would be more self controlled in everything, because we would be in such good company.

This, dear daughter, is what you must apply yourself to very much. Let that be the subject of your prayers. Begin first by chasing the mosquitoes⁴² in church, to be attentive only to God and

⁴² Image for distractions.

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yourself, and you will gradually gain control over yourself.

Now, I leave you with God. I do pray and I will pray for you, your children and your sisters, counting that it will be reciprocal.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1759

CO 1757

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 11/20)

Brussels, March 13, 1866

Madame in our Lord,⁴³

I am feeling better, although still dragging a little and still weak. It's a great comfort for me to be able to follow this limited schedule and to be able to get out of bed. They exaggerated about the shingles. You know that some doctors get alarmed. But then, it's my own fault, if I had said nothing, it would have passed unnoticed. Good lesson!

Keep yourself strong in the struggle, peaceful in action, free in the midst of a thousand and one things, but ever in God. Never work for the sake of success, but to fulfill the Holy will of God, which is his glory first of all. Then [seek] the good, the salvation of your neighbor.

I know that you don't like half-measures, nor half-permissions, but there are situations of transition, of preparation for a situation, which are naturally quite unclear. What should be done in such a case except to consult obedience if possible, or one's duty, one's personal situation, one's attraction of virtue?

The great days of penance, of crucified love, will soon be here. Enter more deeply into the wounds of Jesus Christ, and don't forget the Mother of Sorrows. Be her compassionate daughter.

Eymard

1760

CO 1758

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 325/395 VI 2)

Brussels, March 14, 1866

... [heading erased] ... [four lines erased] I don't know anything about it. I only know that ... [a line erased]. If that should ... [one line erased] ... then at the end ... [a line erased].

On leaving this world, my only regret would be if I had not served our good Master well, for being so lazy and so negligent. Then, I could see one thing clearly, that at such time strength lies totally in trusting in the mercy of God and surrendering to his divine goodness.

Oh! how ugly our virtues seem then and how shabby our good works!

Place yourself safely under the wings of divine mercy, of compassionate love, of tender charity, and your peace will grow with your trust. Oh yes! no doubt we must work, pray, perform every

⁴³ Excerpt from a letter.

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Christian work because God commands it and wants it. But that being done, we must do like a child returning to his parents after school; enjoy their goodness and love which is greater than anything he can accomplish.

You asked me for a few thoughts on the Way of the Cross. Here are a few:

1st Our Father. - Adore the sacred wound of our Lord's left foot, the pain he suffered, the steps he took to seek his lost sheep. Kiss that divine wound with Magdalen and the holy women at the Resurrection.

2nd Our Father. - Adore the wound on our Lord's right foot. Kiss it with respect and love, for it traced the road to Heaven for you. He tired himself to search for you, to come toward you.

3rd Our Father. - Adore the wound on the Savior's left hand, the hand on the side of the heart, which took your hand to lead you and support you. Kiss that divine hand lovingly. Receive upon your head the divine blood which flows from it to purify you.

4th Our Father. - Adore the wound on Jesus' right hand. This hand bore you in your weakness, defended you in danger, protected you in struggles, blessed you so often. Kiss it gratefully, place it upon your head, on your heart, on your mouth.

5th Our Father. - Adore the deep wound in the Sacred Heart of Jesus; place yourself below this divine wound, so that the water flowing from it may purify you, and its divine blood sanctify you. Kiss this divine wound, breathe in the beautiful and lively flame which issues from it. Enter into this divine dwelling, place your heart there, in union with his.

That is one approach. You may add others, especially when you want to use this form to make the Way of the Cross as reparation:

1. - The wound on the left foot: ask forgiveness for sins of heresy.
2. - The right foot, for the sins of Christians who live like pagans.
3. - The left hand, for ingratitude.
4. - The right hand, sins committed in the sanctuary.
5. - The Sacred Side, the infidelity of hearts consecrated to God.

I will stop now ... [two and a half lines erased].

I will recommend to you a retreat which I will be preaching next week from the 19th to the 25th ... [two lines erased]. I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. - About that, I ... [a line and a half erased]. God ... on the contrary, ... everything that you have. But ... [two words erased]. No, No.

1761

CO 1759

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 5/14)

Brussels, March 14, 1866

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I am sending you a brief greeting in the Lord.

Fr. Champion will tell you that my illness has passed. It could have become an illness, in fact it was only a passing discomfort.

I received the little package containing woolens, covering, etc. As I know you, I can thank you, but I didn't really need it.

Next week I will be giving the retreat to the Associates here. I recommend it to your prayers. These people are good, but they are so slow and so cold! They may be better because of it.

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You are a bit lazy in writing to me, and yet your letters interest me twice as much.

I pray very much for you, dear daughter, so that your mission may be crowned with success. It's difficult to save souls, dear daughter, and Calvary is the condition for God's glory.

So have courage and trust, God has and will bless you.

I remain very united to you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. I wrote a word to M. His (her) silence makes me uncomfortable.

1762

CO 1760

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 79/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

rue des Douze Apôtres, 2 bis, Brussels, March 14, 1866

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

Telling you that I've been ill and am still suffering from shingles may excuse me a little.

I've been so busy - we are only five for fourteen hours of adoration - and then, there is so much to do. It seems that the sudden change from cold to heat made the rash break out. They tell me that it's fortunate, otherwise it could have killed me.

The fact is that I'm not working as usual today, but to the extent that my weakness allows.

I wasn't near death, except last Saturday. Oh! Then we see that life is nothing! that our pretended virtues are insignificant! and the little good we have done, defective! There is only one recourse left: the divine and inexhaustible mercy of God, the fatherly goodness of our Lord.

I really promised to place myself fully in our Lord's wounds so that his justice would touch me only in his mercy!

Our foundation is going well. There are many visits and prayers to our Lord. I hope that this grace, which is new here, will be a source of mercy for this poor country where evil rears its head and prevails. There are hopes that the King and Queen will provide a better kingdom than the late king who, in spite of his political skills, left the kingdom worse than before; so much so, that all of Flanders had withdrawn their respect for him, greatly despised him and would have insulted him.

Scandal brought to a head what had been begun by Masonic impiety. Unfortunately, Catholics were too silent, they were patient when they should have reacted, they hid when they should have spoken out. Now they are weak, because Freemasons are everywhere, make the laws and are at the ministry. But with the present king and with prudent and planned energy, they can stand up again. So, now I am into politics! Enough of that. Now let's speak about you.

1. Please, don't give up Fr. Rich; you would deprive yourself of the direction of a holy and knowledgeable man. Whatever you would gain exteriorly would not make up for this loss. He knows you, - he respects grace's action in you, - he uses life to direct you and not small personal means. So, don't give him up.

2. Yes, it would be a good thing if you confessed yourself only every two weeks, in order to avoid the images and memories which make you feverish. However, there are times of sorrow and struggle when we need it weekly. Adjust to your need, but aim to go less often.

3. I would surely scold you for fasting and for having fasted, if it weren't too late. You shouldn't fast, don't be afraid. Your illness, whooping cough, your weak health, nerves, and finally obedience, which is even more important, all these things tell you to be at peace.

I would really like to receive news from you. Your first letter written January 30th was forwarded to me in Brussels, but it ended up buried under a pile of other letters.

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I hope that won't happen again. So, give me news about your dear sister and your family.
I'm sending you a new form for the Aggregation. It's better than the first.
I bless you very faithfully in our Lord,

Eymard, Superior

1763

CO 1761

TO COUNTESS DE FRAGUIER

(V 2/2)⁴⁴

Brussels, March 14, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I do need to thank you for your dedication to our little Work of First Communion for workers. It was impossible that our Lord would not bless it; it is directly for him, it is his Work.

You say rightly, Mme. Marquise: it is entirely a Work of faith. There is nothing conspicuous about it, very little consolation, etc.; but it's a rebirth of Jesus Christ in his children. Oh! How much more fortunate is your family of nine!

These dear children are brought up in your house, a great and tremendous grace! They avoid the almost certain dangers of contact with wayward youth. They benefit through innocence, piety, and family virtues, as much as they could gain in college life by edification, conflict and the contact of personalities. Small advantages compared to the first! A virgin soil is always more fruitful than soil which skill has spent.

You ask for our prayers; you can be assured of them, Madame, because we are becoming your debtors.

I am not forgetting the poor distressed person you mentioned to me. St. Joseph is so powerful and kind!

When I return to Paris, which will be Quasimodo Sunday,⁴⁵ I will be happy to go thank you personally. It would be a joy for me to offer my religious regards to Mr. de Fraguier and to see your whole family.

Please receive the respectful sentiments,
Madame Marquise,

Of your very humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Allow me to send you this little Aggregation.

⁴⁴ The sister of the Countess d'Andigné.

⁴⁵ Sunday after Easter, also called Low Sunday.

1764

CO 1762

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 18/19)

Brussels, March 14, 1866

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to greet you briefly as a member of the family and to recommend to your [prayer] a eucharistic retreat which I will preach here next week.

These people are cold but kind. When they learn more about the Blessed Sacrament, they will become good adorers.

I will be here until Quasimodo. When Fr. Champion comes to replace me, I will return to Paris.

I will not give you any news about my health; Fr. Champion will tell you that I am fine; it was only the shingles which makes the skin painful when it breaks out.

I am sending you a lovely engraving of the Blessed Sacrament. You have belonged to the Aggregation for such a long time.

I bless you very cordially in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. Excuse my poor stained paper; I don't have the time to rewrite my letter.

1765

CO 1763

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 10/26)

Brussels, March 15, 1866, rue des Douze Aptres, 2 bis

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

What must you think about my silence? I wasn't well and I'm still sick with shingles (a belt of fire) which really made me lazy. It's better now. God wanted to let me see the nothingness and poverty of this life.

I'll be here until April 10th or 12th. Then I'll return to Paris.

If Rennes were on my way, or only a few leagues away, I certainly would go for a quick greeting from our Lord.

So you have been through a lot of pain, dear daughter. It was necessary to gain your freedom and become strong towards yourself.⁴⁶ It's clear to me that the good Lord wants this sacrifice from you. You have taken a stand. I praise you for it, and I ask God to let this become an habitual virtue. Ask for the strength for it, because there will be times when it will cost you dearly. Since reason, love and generosity are on your side alone, everything in you will suffer and want to rebel. It then becomes an opportunity for great merit which should not be lost, because it comes only once in a lifetime.

Dear daughter, find your peace in God, and it will never be disturbed. It will always be gentle

⁴⁶ Alternate translation: strong inwardly.

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and strong. Is God pleased with you? Yes! What does the rest matter?

Oh! We must struggle against our natural self with strength and perseverance in order to attain the freedom of grace and of supernatural life!

Everything needs to happen at once, the fire, l'Eveque Street, suffering, then distress, sadness and pain:⁴⁷ all together it makes a beautiful bouquet for God.

Have courage dear daughter, we must often raise our heads and hearts toward the cross, and then toward Heaven. It brings encouragement and consolation.

You would receive too much love and be greatly inclined to love and render services on a too natural level, if God didn't surround you with a few thorns.

Remember me to your dear holy Carmelite. You should know that I did want to write to her and that I couldn't find the name of her Carmel!

I count on your prayers, and remain, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Try to buy the Retreat by Fr. Huby on the love of God at Ruffet's or Perisse, in Paris.

1766

CO 1764

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 26/36)

Brussels, March 16, 1866 rue des Douze, Aptres, 2 bis

Dear sister in our Lord,

I don't know whether you are waiting to hear from me, but I am waiting to hear from you. It has been so long since I've received anything from you! - since January 4th; but you didn't have my address!

So our foundation took place last February 2, the feast of the Presentation of our Lord. It was made by God alone and with God alone, but for the greater glory of our Lord. The church is already beginning to fill with people and our good Master is prayed to and adored there! This is a great victory in such an evil city as Brussels, where the Freemasons rule.

I've been sick with shingles [belt of fire] for the last two weeks. If only it were a belt of divine fire! However, I am able to work, because it is very painful to stay in bed with this illness; but it's nothing.

There are five of us here; exposition begins at 7:30 [a.m.] until 9:00 p.m. We have what we need to live from our Lord and for our Lord. I expect to be in Paris for Quasimodo Sunday.⁴⁸

If Mauron were on my way or were not so far, I would certainly go see you. I want to see you and speak with you about the Most Blessed Sacrament, because I would like to see this fire break out from under the ashes and become a blazing fire. I know very well that we must wait for God's time; but who is telling you, dear daughter, that it hasn't come? As for me, I believe it has and I tell you: Have courage! Get to work! People must be forced to open the tabernacle door. Our Lord must not remain hidden to this indifferent or unbelieving generation. The Sun of the Eucharist must rise to scatter all the shadows of the night, melt frozen souls, and frighten away its enemies, if they aren't touched by his love.

⁴⁷ He lists the current trials she is experiencing.

⁴⁸ Sunday after Easter called Low Sunday.

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When will I go to Brittany?⁴⁹ I have no idea. I expect to go to Angers at the end of April. If the detour were not too great, I will see how to get to Mauron.

Agreed!

I feel very happy about the year 1866. It seems to me that God will do great things for his glory!

Give me a lot of news about yourself. You are lazy and tend to finish a letter quickly. Please! correct yourself.

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

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. I am sending you one of our holy pictures.

1767

CO 1765

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 21/28)

Brussels, March 16, 1866

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

You must also forgive me because of my illness.

In your dear letter you thank me for my visit to your brother: but isn't he your brother? Besides, he has such beautiful qualities, he would soon be superb if he knew our Lord Jesus Christ better. A heart like his could quickly catch fire and become dedicated. It seems to me that his great intelligence must be humiliated by the hideous and wretched idols of the flesh and vanity.

So you have been ill? That is the blossom of holiness, because you know that the vine weeps before blossoming and so does the beautiful chestnut tree. We suffer when we are crucified with Jesus, we weep and we are joyful: our two natures each yield their fruit.

But as you have great courage and you are stronger than your own strength, I'm not afraid.

I see that you have been prudent and strong during the little storms of l'Eveque Street. We need to know how to let these storms pass: it's time wasted to oppose them.

Patience and self-respect always finally get the upper hand, because, since passion has neither reason nor honor for its own, it finally surrenders, so we should not spoil anything.

We must know how to dominate our heart, in order to proceed only when we have safeguarded the rights of acquired freedom.

Continue to love the good Lord dearly. You are made only for that life, that feeling, that contagious happiness. Jesus is the sun that shines on the flower of grace: it can open only under that divine sun.

How happy I am to know that you are with Mme. Lepage who is so kind and has been so crucified!

Goodbye! I always bless you and I am always in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard S.S.

⁴⁹ At Mauron, in Brittany where Virginie lives.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 39/52)

Miss Stephanie

Brussels, rue des Douze-Apotres, 2 bis, March 16, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I owe you a few words; were it only a prayer, I pay that debt⁵⁰ toward you every day, but my poor pen has been lazy, as you also are a little....

Keep in mind these three rules of behavior which I am giving you:

1) Do everything to please God; let that be the general and specific intention of your actions: this rule refers more to awareness than to a constant thought. It blends with everything and allows for the simplicity of your actions. A general intention is sufficient. However, when there is something more difficult to be done, a sacrifice which is very painful, then a specific intention is very good for the soul. To please God means to love what he loves, to will what he wills; it also means to reject whatever is evil.

The second rule consists in dedicating yourself to everything in a spirit of simplicity, that is, to do things in a spirit of interior freedom, clinging to them only insofar as God wants and as long as he wants; in a spirit of peace, doing things in an orderly manner, one after the other, with moderation and patience; working to do things well, but not to get rid of them. Let your model be a child, who does everything through obedience and whose life is not bound by anything.

The third rule: Live a little more in God as center, and nothing will be a burden; nothing will distract you; you then will be aware of the presence of God who gives life to everything, who sees everything and who directs the soul in all its ways.

Oh! how loved you are by the good Lord, dear daughter! He has kept you as his and for himself! and that, in spite of everything. He loves you with a tender and infinite love! If he leaves you dry, arid and suffering in his presence, that is the condition of those souls to whom our good Master gives outward responsibilities so as to keep them united to himself by interior suffering, and also by a spirit of pure faith.

Continue to go forward, yours is a good path, God is the one who traced it for you. After holy Mass and adoration are done and your rosary is recited, if God calls you to outward duties and healthcare, that is fine. Then when you are free again, get back on course.

Goodbye dear daughter in our Lord. I bless you. I am very happy that our divine Master has returned to his tabernacle;⁵¹ love him and he will be happy to remain there and be your friend of Bethany after all.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

⁵⁰ literally: duty.

⁵¹ The Blessed Sacrament was reserved in the family's semi-private chapel.

TO JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 54/76)

Brussels, March 16, 1866, rue des Douze-Apotres, 2nd floor

Read Miss Stephanie's letter

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I am very late to answer your letter. I hope that you will forgive me in your charity! I had (and I still have) the shingles, or belt of fire, which made me lazy, but I am fairly well.

I wasn't bedridden. The pain came as an external eruption; and then also, I am too sensitive. Someone else would have ignored it. In short, it's really humbling to be so inept in the means to benefit from God's graces.

Dear daughter, you have been ill again since your letter! Jesus crucified is visiting you with a particle of his holy Cross. Continue to receive it, for in this way you become the little garden which he cultivates with affection.

These small illnesses become retreats of the soul in God, in his holy Will, in union with Jesus crucified. Prayer is then the loving offering of suffering; prayers are prayers of invocation, and, since the mind is weak and sleepy, the heart must replace everything, offer and give itself in a thousand ways.

Dear daughter, believe me, your prayers of dryness and powerlessness are more pleasing to God than the most beautiful readings and the most sublime thoughts. At least you will be in God's presence like a poor person, a cripple and a child who doesn't know how to say anything but who loves.

Dear daughter, you know that the great natural temptation during convalescence is agitated irritability, impatience; these are our natural thorns. Yes, we must then really stay close to our Lord in order to be gentle and humble of heart as he is.

Surrender yourself ever to God's holy Will for you, dear daughter. You know that it is the great law of life, your grace and only virtue, and it is the mother of all the others. It is the sovereign virtue of Jesus.

Goodbye dear daughter. Give me news about yourself. I am longing for it here, so far away! I will be here until after Quasimodo Sunday.

I bless you with my whole soul.

Eymard, SS

Madame Gourd

Passion Week (date unknown) - Retreat in Brussels. March 25-April 1

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 326/395 VI 2)

Brussels, March 18, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I was in pain and not ill. I didn't want to tell you because you have enough troubles of your own.

I read your letter carefully with the reasons you give me to change houses.⁵² You would surely be better there; you would have what you need to make a lovely and larger chapel in the left wing. The partitions could be thrown down and you could even make a vaulted ceiling.

That was my first plan when we wanted to buy it. The house is very solid and well built, with a magnificent garden. It would also free you from debts on the Bardet house. But in order to do this I would need to go to Angers to see things at closer range. Personally, I wouldn't like a common church between you and us; it would amount to cancelling you out. Then, prudence warns against it. Our Lord would also be losing a throne that way. God forbid!

You are at a time of transition, dear daughter. You must spare the Bishop who received you so kindly.

Experience, time, God's grace, all these will show what must be retained and what must be eliminated.

I would surely prefer to have you near Paris, not in Paris itself, because they would force a priest from the city upon you as a superior: that is an absolute rule in this diocese. The place where I would want you to be and wanted you to be from the first, would be at Versailles, a half hour from Paris, with such a kind Bishop. I hope that this initial thought will take place some day. Then everything will fall back into its proper place and order. You are still underground to ripen and sprout.

Don't think about Rome now, it isn't time yet. That would amount to backing away from the difficulties. We must be established first, because later we will be bound.

I agree with you about forming a mistress of novices; that is the most urgent thing in the world. We'll see to it as soon as we get to Paris.

... [three lines erased].

We share the same feeling toward ... [name erased]. But since it comes from the good Lord, we must benefit from the virtue which is present there, or the cross which results from it.

I beg you, dear and good daughter, keep your head free from upsetting things and difficult people. Always keep your head in the sun, calm and strong enough to repulse whatever is untimely, unsuited to the grace of the moment; that is my constant request and prayer for you.

I bless your sick sisters, and the little one from Lyons whom you will receive. I have one in Paris too, but she has a sufficient dowry.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Be happy with God, calm toward yourself, good and even-tempered toward everyone, and I will be happy.

Eymard

P.S. Fr. Champion told me as coming from you that Mr. ... had an accident. I was very sorry about it. I didn't know about it. He told me that Miss had told you.

⁵² Move the chapel to the other building.

1771

CO 1769

TO CAROLINE DE BOISGROLLIER (SR. MARIE DU SS)

(III 3/5)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Brussels, March 18, 1866

Dear Sister Marie,

I read your letter very attentively. Thank you for the comments and observations it contains: they are always for the greater good of the Congregation. I understand that a single direction is required in order to have the same spirit, and for that purpose the proximity of the two motherhouses. However, there are very great difficulties for Paris, and also the principal reason that if the Archbishop were to receive you, he would impose a priest from the city upon you. That is the general rule in Paris. This reason alone would make us adjourn this plan.

It is necessary to pray very much for Nemours, it is a daughter of Angers. We should not pay too much attention to persons, but to the glory of God and his grace. We must ordinarily pass through the pain of agony to reach the life of God.

Continue to be kind and encouraging for your daughters. You have the grace and mission to do so.

Goodbye, dear sister,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1772

CO 1770

TO MME. LEPAGE

(IV 11/26)

Brussels, March 18, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I hasten to tell you to leave it at that with Y.M.⁵³ The more you do the more demanding she will be. It's self-interest, a hurt ego and stubbornness. Let her come and go, but for your part, don't weaken: that would ruin everything. That is my advice. You are not a child: your position and situation left you single, that's true, but you are also the head of the house, you have the same rights as when your dear husband was alive.

You must consider your M.'s condition as a temptation and an illness. Pray for her, but don't allow yourself to think about it. When you must go, go as a duty and without expecting any return.

Oh yes! Go quickly to Bergerac, you will be better there.

I am also feeling better, although always dragging a bit.

I bless you and your dear friend.⁵⁴

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. We will really pray for the return of your dear father,⁵⁵ especially tomorrow, on the feast of St. Joseph.

⁵³ Difficulties with her mother? Ed.

⁵⁴ Antonia Bost, who was living with her.

⁵⁵ Return to the faith.

1773

CO 1771

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 165/181 VI 2)

Brussels, April 2, 1866

Very dear Father,

Fr. Champion told me about your feelings and prayers for me. I feel that they exaggerated my condition, based on one remark from the doctor. Yes, it could have become serious; God did not will it. Is it a warning? I must profit by it.

I really felt ill only for two or three hours, and then I was thinking of having you come before things became worse, in order to embrace you one last time. Then the reaction led to a change in my condition.

I asked God to let me die, for am I not more of an obstacle than a help? I place myself in his hands; he knows what I need. I don't refuse to work and devote myself; but for nothing in the world would I want to be Jonas in the ship which is bringing us to the shores of eternity with the graces and mission of the Society.

I will return to Paris next week, Fr. Champion will come here, for a while. Brother Paul has caused new difficulties in Angers by his behavior. I had him come to Paris, for he would have settled in Angers, and what difficulties would come of that! We found a place for him so that he would not be left on the street.

Adoration in Brussels is getting a following and is increasing. The Aggregation is beginning to catch on little by little, things go slowly here; but we must hope that it will be solid. Brother Henry is here. We are six now, and that is very helpful.

Goodbye, dear Father, my fond regards to all the Fathers and Brothers. I'm praying and did pray much for you all on the great feast of the Resurrection, as we all need to become stronger and more perfect in the risen life of our Lord.

Believe me ever, in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

P.S. - Here is the form for the Aggregation. I haven't made one yet for the Eucharistic Weeks, it is difficult to organize. We will prepare the ground for it up North.

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Superior of the religious of the Blessed Sacrament
7 rue Nau
(France) Marseilles

1774

CO 1772

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 327/395 VI 2)

Brussels, April 2, 1866

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I received what you sent me, may God repay you! Part of it was used to adorn the high altar suitably for Easter. That is enough though, and even too much.

Put off Mr. de Russon. If they pressure you, say that you are expecting me at any time.

Take care not to buy the land behind Mr. Allard.

To buy land where we would need to build everything means throwing ourselves into enormous debts. Personally, I can't say anything about the Russon house. If you were to buy the Allard house, it would be useless. If you don't buy it, it's because it is too soon; why buy it with the condition that Mr. de Russon would stay there until he finds a house to buy?

Bide your time, and don't let the Bishop finalize the matter without me, for any reason whatever.

I am pleased that Fr. Champion should go to Angers right away. He will get here sooner to replace me.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I hope that you will rise⁵⁶ into a more abundant life in the spirit and love of our Lord.

Listen to everything with consideration. Judge everything with the interest of your Society in mind. Do everything for the better service of our Lord. Beyond these three motives, do nothing to please human beings.

I bless you all,
Eymard

1775

CO 1773

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 328/395 VI 2)

Brussels, April 6, 1866

Dear daughter,

I do share in your cross; it also makes me grieve. Oh! the death of the saint of the house will be a great loss. I am really praying for her, I hope for her healing; yet may God's holy will be done! She will be happier in heaven, and will pray even more for us there. If God calls her to himself, have a simple but appropriate funeral, as is usually done for religious. She may certainly make her perpetual vows. Poor Sr. Françoise! Oh! Yes, I surely do bless her, and you also, dear daughter and tender mother to your children. Religious motherhood is paid dearly!

I will be here until Fr. Champion arrives.

Please! Have courage! Have trust and holy surrender.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁵⁶ Allusion to Easter.

1776

CO 1774

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I40/54)

Brussels, April 8, 1866

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your letter and the two forms it contains. I sent one which was printed here with the beautiful picture of the Dusseldorf. We had to be concise to fit it in. I modeled the consecration on our vows, with the necessary modifications.

I still haven't dared organize the Eucharistic Weeks. Things must be done slowly here.

I am beginning with the Aggregation as the core of the other branches of the Aggregation. They have been slow to understand it and to come. Now they are coming: we have more than 120 Associates, at this moment, from Brussels. The retreat I gave to the Associates during Passion Week shook up the sleepers a little.

I hope that you will come to give a good retreat here later, and that you will complete what has been begun.

Belgium is cold, Brussels soft. We must say and repeat the same thing, but, with God's help, his eucharistic family will be formed.

Miss de Meeus was touched by your kind remembrance. She remembers you also very eucharistically in our Lord.

I hope to be in Paris at the end of the week. Now I can see that everything here is under way.

There would be a great deal to do for the English people in Brussels. Fr. Champion is beginning to bring them together for a few conferences.

Goodbye, dear Father. I'm very happy with your work and its success in Marseilles. I am praying for your new (young) vocation. Here, a Flemish man came. He stayed only two days, and he had enough.

My fondest regards to good Fr. de Cuers, to dear Fr. O'Kelly and to all the Brothers.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

(France)

Fr. Leroyer

religious of the Blessed Sacrament

7, rue Nau

Marseilles

1777

CO 1775

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 80/104)

Brussels, April 8, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I will be here until the end of this week. Then I'll return to Paris, and after a few days I'll go to Angers. This time I am planning to go see you in Nantes, even if it were only for a half day. I'll let you know a few days in advance.

The Transplanted Tree

Here things are beginning to be like Paris. I am called on in so many ways. It's my lot, it seems, to be everyone's poor errand boy. Happy would I be if I were the good Lord's!

I can see that too many occupations harm the soul, especially when we have very little of the virtue of recollection. You yourself aspire to this holy state of inner and exterior recollection. You are right: as we come closer to the end, we must come closer to our Lord's family and live more closely with him. That's the ordinary rule for the grace of holiness: we must let our good Master do what he wills.

I'm convinced that the frequent illnesses which force you to stay at home are signs of our Lord's divine jealousy, in order to have you be more with him.

I won't say anything more about my poor body. There are still some remnants of shingles, but I continue to go on and with God's help, it's as if I were not suffering.

Goodbye dear daughter. May our Lord be your all,

Eymard, S.

1778

CO 1776

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 329/395 VI 2)

Brussels, April 9, 1866

To the Honorable Mother Superior
of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament of Angers
rue de l'Hopital, 10

Very Honorable Mother,

I am sending you Miss Lefort as a postulant. I tested her long enough to believe that she has a good vocation. Please receive her as one of your daughters. She has a great love for the life of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Her only regret is that she did not give you her early youth. She is giving herself totally.

I am in our Lord, very Honorable Mother,

Your respectful and dedicated servant,
Eymard

1779

CO 1778

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

Brussels, April 9, 1866

My dear Father,

I know Miss Lefort! She seems to me to have the necessary qualities for the vocation of the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I have spoken in her favor to the Mother Superior in Angers (rue de l'Hopital, 10 bis), and she can go there to try. I enclose a letter of recommendation

The Transplanted Tree

on her behalf.

Yes, dear Father, I shall indeed pray for your intentions, which are all for the greater glory of God, and also for you, who are very dear to me in our Lord, in Whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard

1780

CO 1777

TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES
(VI 3/7)

Brussels, April 9, 1866

Eminence,

I dare to petition from your kind charity to grant us the faculty to set up the Stations of the Way of the Cross in our community chapel, under the patronage of the Most Blessed Virgin.

Before I return to Paris I shall, if Your Eminence judges suitable, solicit the faculty of Confessor for Fr. Champion (Amandus Cyrus) and Fr. Viguier (Carolus). The former is named Superior of the Brussels House. He is Assistant of the Society and has been a professor of theology. His chief study is Canon Law and Liturgy. He was entrusted by His Eminence Cardinal Morlot to direct the publishing of liturgical works at Adrien Leclerc in Paris. If Father can be of any service to you in his field, I offer him gladly to Your Eminence.

One of the main reasons which lead me to deprive myself of his presence in Paris is that he has a perfect knowledge of English, having been in London for three years as Superior and Pastor. He could do here what he has successfully done in Paris - religious lectures to English people residing in Brussels. Fr. Viguier has been a priest for 8 years.

I know that it is the rule in the diocese to give faculties for Confession only after an oral examination. However, Your Eminence, there is always a little more freedom given in the case of a foundation, and if it is acceptable I would beg Your Eminence to delay such an examination and grant provisional faculties for Confession.

It is with the deepest veneration that I call myself

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

1781

CO 1779

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 15/29 VI 2)

Brussels, April 10, 1866

Very dear Father,

Oh yes! I also am longing for the foundation of the house of solitude, just as you are, I think about it day and night, it's the object of all my prayers. It seems to me that it will be the heart of the Society and the soul of the whole eucharistic life of our religious. That is the first thing I will

The Transplanted Tree

concentrate on when I return to Paris. So, dear Father, we have the same thought and the same desire, only we must pray a great deal. Besides, this is a good time with the transfer and the compulsory sale.

I wrote to Mr. Tassus' brother that it is impossible now; that we would see later. As for the one from Magny, I won't even answer him because this young man may not know that we are informed about his past.

I'm sorry to learn that your sister-in-law is ill. Let's all pray for her recovery.

I won't go to Paris this week, since Fr. Champion wasn't able to come here.

Next Friday, I'll go to preach a eucharistic retreat to a beautiful Association at Ghent.⁵⁷ I won't be in Paris until the Sunday of the feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph. Please tell Fr. Champion that he must be here Saturday at the latest, since I must leave Friday morning for that retreat, which could be useful for the Society and broaden its influence.

So, give up the Sunday sermon; it's too much for you. Put Benediction only at 5 o'clock. That was the agreement for the period between Easter and All Saints.

I'll probably bring you an 18-year-old novice, that is the flower we obtained from St. Joseph. He couldn't come sooner, because he drew his lot, and was a military substitute.

There isn't much to say about my health. I'm working the same as usual, although there are still some remnants left from the shingles, but it's nothing.

I'm happy that Brother Rene left for Angers.

Try to reason with Brother Alexander and Brother Peter: what makes them so self-centered is a lack of light and religious spirit.

I really long to see you.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

⁵⁷ In the archives of the Religious of the Eucharist in Belgium, the following notice was found by Rev. Fr. E. Stalmans SSS in 1994. Another handwriting, perhaps that of Miss de Meeus, reads:

"Notes written by Fr. Eymard, Superior General of the religious of the Blessed Sacrament, to be published in the *Bien Public*" before a sermon he was to preach in Ghent in April 1866."

The notice, in Fr. Eymard's handwriting, reads as follows:

The Society was founded in Paris in 1856.

Its principal purpose is perpetual adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed - according to the four ends of sacrifice, that is: solemn worship with all the splendor of perpetual forty hours, thanksgiving, reparation and continual supplication for the Church, for the spread of the faith - the conversion of sinners, peace and harmony between Christian princes, and the reign of Jesus Christ by the Holy Eucharist, so that all may adore, love and serve him as their Lord and God.

It is a beautiful work, which was lacking in the garden of the Church; it was right that, like the other Mysteries of our Savior, the greatest, holiest and most loveable of the Mysteries from Divine love should also have its religious group entirely devoted to its worship and glory and be, as it were, its Guardian and Apostle.

The thought of seeing priest-adorers praying for those who, like Evangelists, go to proclaim the good news, must be a powerful encouragement for all.

The religious of the Blessed Sacrament do not limit themselves to the worship of adoration; the fireplace always has a flame or it dies. These religious receive priests for private retreats in their Cenacle, they even intend to found, as soon as they can, a large retreat house in order to receive, together with active religious, veterans of the priesthood who, before ending their pastoral career, wish to recollect themselves at the feet of their divine Master before dying. Besides this work of priestly retirement (retreats), the religious devote themselves to teach Christian Doctrine to the poor workers in the large cities who have gone beyond the age for first Communion, have neglected this primary Christian duty.

They also preach, but only retreat exercises, retreats of adoration, for first Communion and their motto is: May your Kingdom come - to adore, love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ, to make him known, loved and served by the whole world, that is the law of their lives.

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 330/395 VI 2)

[April 10, 1866]⁵⁸

Dear daughter,⁵⁹

I thank the good Lord for the improvement of Sr. Françoise [health]. I hardly dare to ask for her healing. However, if I were there, I would order her to ask for it for that holy woman must be very pleasing to God.

You will be receiving Miss Lefort from Paris, about whom I spoke to you. She has 10,000 francs: 500 francs of pension. She is strong and I have examined her long enough. She will give you a letter from me. A few vocations are possible here, but they must be studied carefully.

It is the lot of the Motherhouse to always be ill-served. Charity deprives itself for others. However, in case of need, everyone must be asked for a subsidy.

I have said and repeated: if Nemours should separate from you, they would separate from me, and I will no longer set foot there. There can be neither reasons, nor accusations. For me, there is only one thing: you are their Superior. The house of Nemours depends on the house of Angers. The fact that Rome has not yet approved your Congregation is not a reason to separate. On the contrary, it is a reason to unite, because after all, the vows are there.

Let them be, and be patient. God always blesses order and obedience. If you have faults they want to correct you for, that is a bit much. However, you understand how things are and how they see things.

Let us learn from it, when it relates only to ourselves personally, but when it refers to the role of Superior, the Rule must be followed.

I wrote very clearly to Fr. Champion to have them sell the mill at Nemours, I hold to that. I am surprised that they want to put it off; that doesn't agree with me.

You do well to be kind toward Miss Sterlingue. She is weak-minded. She needs our indulgence, unfortunately. Oh! God alone, the pure glory of God, our own self-denial, and even our own humiliation for the greater glory of God, that is the Superior's rule.

I will now be in Paris only on the third Sunday after Easter. I will give a retreat of adoration beginning next Friday.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I bless you and your Sister Françoise, so that our Lord may heal her.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁵⁸ Probable date. Troussier.

⁵⁹ This letter was copied from a text in Mother Marguerite's hand, not from the original. The date is probably April 10, 1866 (Troussier).

1783

CO 1781

TO BROTHER AIME FERRAT, SSS
(VI1/2)

Brussels, April 10, 1866

Dear Friend,

About your little cousin: truly, his great desire touches my heart. If you wish to bring him with you, I shall give him a try. This is the first time I have made an exception, but if it is the good Lord who is calling him to so holy a life, one can never enter it too soon.

However, he must reflect seriously to find out whether he really has the good will to give himself to God. If he has the aptitudes, we will help him study to become a priest, if God is calling him to it.

Eymard

April 13-21 - Fr. Eymard preached a triduum at Ghent, the capital of Flanders.

1784

CO 1782

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I16/29 VI2)

A.R.T.

Ghent, April 14, 1866, Quai-au-bois 40

Dear Father,

I have just received your letter and I am answering briefly.

I am here at Ghent, the lovely capital of Flanders. There are truly beautiful souls here; I would love to have a house here later on. The Holy Father is loved and served here as nowhere else. The retreat began yesterday morning at 9:30.

During the interval, I hope to go see our religious in Brussels for a few hours.

Tell Father Champion not to hurry: all the steps have been taken for the Sunday offices. He had told me about the absence of the Bishop of Angers, but I couldn't turn away from my commitment to Ghent any longer. Please ask him insistently to bring me a 2-franc bottle of eye lotion from Montmartre Street. Brother Eugene knows the address.

I am pleased about the visit from the borough-surveyor. I hope that during this year our Good and Royal Master will leave the little stable of Bethlehem. I am pleased about the things you are trying with the novices and with you. We only know well what we have seen and felt. Ah, egoism! That is the great enemy to be pursued and chased from heaven as seen in the proud Angels, and from the Church, in heretics; from religious life, egotists. This is the shout of life and death which we must constantly repeat: *si quis vult post me servire, abneget semetipsum, the Sine sui proprio, the Oportet autem illum crescere, me autem minui.*⁶⁰

Be strong, dear Father. You have seen a lot and won a lot in this struggle. It was good to see you at work, and also, God with you.

⁶⁰ If anyone wishes to serve me, he must deny his very self, without any self-interest; He must increase and I must decrease.

The Transplanted Tree

I will leave here Saturday morning. I will go to Brussels and probably not leave here until Sunday, the next day, at 2 o'clock. I will reach you in the evening around 9 o'clock, with a good Franciscan Father and a young novice. Have the two retreatants' rooms ready.

See you soon, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Poor old man Ricoux! I am very sad I cannot see him, I am weeping with sadness. If you see him again, tell him my deep affection and that he will always be remembered in the Society.

1785

CO 1783

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 3/11)

A.R.T.

Ghent, April 14, 1866, Quai au Bois, 40

Dear Lady and dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for the lovely bouquet for the holy feast of Easter. It lasted during the whole octave. It spoke well of your wishes and love for our risen Jesus.

I liked to think of you in seeing the violet, because it is so loved by God! and in the five beautiful white flowers which, like a crown of five florets, shine forth with purity and zeal for our Lord's glory.

You were expecting me Thursday and I am still in Ghent, the capital of Flanders, preaching an Adoration retreat until next Saturday. I will be in Paris only the evening of the Third Sunday or Monday, and who knows whether I shall return to Paris? If it should please God to shorten my path and bring it to a close here in a foreign land and call me to Him! Alas! I would leave many beautiful and holy plans unfinished! But God's hour is better than ours! May his holy will be done!

Continue to love our good Master; that is eternal life.

Always stay close to him; his hand will never leave you.

Often rest at his feet, it is the servant's place of love and honor.

Goodbye dear daughter, we shall see you soon.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Madame T.
Recommended to Brother Charles

1786

TO FR. FAURE⁶¹
(VI1/1)

This document deleted because it is the same letter found in Volume VI, Doc. #2154 (CO 2155).

1787

CO 1784

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI21/22)

ADVENIAT REGNUM TUUM

Brussels, April 23, 1866

Very Reverend Mother,

I am about to leave for Paris. I am sorry I didn't have more time. I would have gone to see you in Lige. God wills this sacrifice from me.

I had the consolation of receiving, on Wednesday, the Rescript from Rome for the Brussels foundation. His Eminence has graciously given extensive powers to Rev. Fr. Champion and Fr. Viguier.

Today they are setting up the Stations of the Way of the Cross in our little inside chapel, which was my little bedroom. I am leaving the Community established, the chapel with its services organized, all will be well. Good Fr. Champion is full of goodwill towards you.

Now it only remains for me to commend you all to the grace of our good and common Master, whom we serve with joy and happiness.

I assure you that I will not forget you in my poor prayers, nor your religious family. I ask you for the same grace for us.

Your good daughters in Ghent will give you news about the novena.⁶² I found it most edifying. I trust that the good Master will nurture the grace he has sown in the hearts of the good people of Ghent.

I remain very close to you in our Lord, very esteemed Mother, and I am, respectfully,

Your most devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup.

⁶¹ Pastor of Lavaldens (Isere)

⁶² The religious community.

1788

CO 1786

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 12/20)

A.R.T.

Paris, April 25, 1866

Madame in our Lord,⁶³

I have been in Paris for two days and I am totally at your service. Thank you for what you have done for Mr. Ravache and even more for your good prayers. I repaid you a little.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1789

CO 1785

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 166/181 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, April 25, 1866

Very dear Father,

Finally, I am writing to you from Paris, where I have been for a few days. I left Fr. Champion in Brussels with the service of the Good Master well underway.

I brought two novices with me: one from Amsterdam, a young 20-year-old man who seems fine; another who is 25, from Anvers, who is studying Latin. A theologian from Nevers entered yesterday. All are on retreat. It is the result of the month to St. Joseph. A few other requests, which are actually not serious, have been made. It is a beginning. And how is yours doing? Is there good reason to hope? A young man coming from the Premonstratensians came today, saying that he had been at the house of Marseilles. We delayed him for more information.

The question of the compulsory purchase is stirring at this time. They say that there may be definite news by the month of July. We are trying to know something definite, in order not to be taken too much by surprise.

The month of April is here; if you could send the necessary documents to withdraw your pension, I would be grateful.

Make an effort so that the exercises for the Month of Mary take place as usual. We have such great need for the powerful help of this good Mother.

My fond and faithful regards to our Lord's whole family.

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

⁶³ Excerpt from a letter.

1790

CO 1787

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 81/104)

A.R.T.

Paris, April 28, 1866

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I returned to Paris a few days ago; I still haven't had time to breathe. Oh, yes, I am thinking about Nantes! But I must get some of the more urgent things out of the way; three months of absence have left many things lagging behind.

I share in the joy which is yours in Brittany for the wonderful success of our good and holy Fr. Richard. I was in Rome with him when he was pursuing this beautiful work.

I have nothing else to say today, except that I am entirely at your service,

And all yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S

May 1 - Beginning of the spiritual exercises of the scholasticate in Paris.

1791

CO 1788

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 167/181 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, May 1, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am returning your document, in order that you may have your reference.

Fr. Audibert is here for 24 hours. It seems that there was an old debt to be paid to the carpenter. If so, please send him the 750 francs directly.

Today we received the four retreatants to the postulancy, and so we are beginning a little eucharistic nursery. A very distinguished family offered their only son, who is 12 years old, to be brought up in the religious life. This young oblate is a blessed child; pious, intelligent and in good health: he has everything. We will see whether we can find three or four, first of all, to begin a real core group. St. Benedict and many great saints were offered to God in this way. Youth is necessary for solid and strong vocations. I hope that this little seed will have your joy and blessing.

For now, our novitiate is building up a little, as the departure of the six for Brussels was a big loss.

On second consideration, we refused the postulant from the Premonstratensians. The whole thing was nebulous. They are talking about July or October for the compulsory purchase. So we are condemned to look for something. I am looking, but I hope that the Good Master won't forsake us. Please give this form to good Fr. Leroyer. He will find the part he was looking for. The rest⁶⁴ was only for Brussels and just a few.

⁶⁴ The rest of the form.

The Transplanted Tree

Is it true that Fr. O’Kelly is causing you difficulty? I was told about it today. Fr. Champion wrote me so. What! This poor Father would oppose you and become stubborn? I’m waiting for your reply to remind him of his duties.

In our Lord, very dear Father,
All yours,
Eymard

1792

CO 1789

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 331/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 2, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I’ve been here in Paris for a week, and so busy that I don’t have a minute. I hope that after this initial phase is over, I will have a little more free time.

I still cannot come to see you in Angers, because of the many affairs which are lagging behind. It would be a real joy for me to go see you as soon as the good Master wills it.

I found Miss Sterlingue more satisfied after her trip. The visit and your kindness helped her; she is pleased with you.

I thank the good Lord that Sr. Benoite made the trip; it will scatter prejudices and temptations, if there were any. I saw her very little, as I was very busy that day, but I could see that she was pleased with her trip.

When I have a moment, I’ll go to Nemours. We must absolutely sell the mill ... [two and a half lines erased] ... because we are all exposing ourselves to blame.

And then, I want to see the bills that are paid or need to be paid.

It’s true, our Lord is being glorified. But, poor Nemours, how high the price! No matter, the glory of our good Master is worth much more than all these small sacrifices.

I’m very happy about the improvement of Sr. Françoise’s health. I would like you all to be well. Take better care of yourself.

I bless you, dear daughter.

Eymard

1793

CO 1790

TO FR. VAN DERKER, S.J.⁶⁵

(VIII 1/1)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, May 3, 1866

Dear and very Reverend Father,

I have to thank you for your very beautiful Relic of Blessed Berchmans. I have given it to the Novitiate so that this holy Protector may also be its model.

⁶⁵ Jesuit Superior at Ghent.

The Transplanted Tree

You must have received from the Superior of the Adoration the Manuale Decretorium.⁶⁶ At the end of it you will find the question about Holy Communion at the Mass for the dead.

I would like, very dear Father, to be of service to you in Paris. At least I shall count it a joy to pray for you, and for your holy and militant Company.⁶⁷ I ask you also for a small remembrance in your memento.⁶⁸

Times are very grave at this moment. The wise men of our generation are losing their heads. I was told yesterday that the Emperor had sent a message to King Emmanuel, telling him that if he made war on Austria, it would be at his own peril. France is strongly opposed to the war; debate begins today in the Chambers, and they say it will be lively.

The bankruptcies in the stock market are terrible - the god of wealth is cursed by despair.

Alas! if those who govern had at least some degree of faith in the Church of Jesus Christ! perhaps they will have it when they find themselves on St. Helena's rock,⁶⁹ or in tribulation.

Believe me, in our Lord, good and esteemed Father,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS

1794

CO 1791

TO THE MODAVE FAMILY
(VII 1/4)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, rue fg. St. Jacques 68, May 4, 1866

To Mme. and Miss Modave
Dear Ladies in our Lord,

You have been so kind to us, that I am writing to thank you again from Paris.

Among my few acquaintances in Brussels you were among the first, so I do not want to, and cannot, forget you in my poor prayers. What I ask God for you, first of all, dear Lady, is health, and then at least by means of trust, the joy and holy liberty of the children of God's love, who live from day to day, from moment to moment under the wings of a maternal Providence, who see only the good side of the heart and of things, because they live in love. Your sun, dear Madame, is always beautiful and gentle, let it be without clouds and you will be the happiest of all.

As for you, Mademoiselle, I pray that you may also love our good Master and work for his glory. Your rosaries make people happy and they will also make saints.

I am like the poor sailor surrounded by waves here in Paris. My beautiful days in Brussels are over, that lovely Brussels which was so dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Ladies,

All yours,
Eymard

⁶⁶ Manual of Decrees.

⁶⁷ The Jesuits.

⁶⁸ Prayers at Mass.

⁶⁹ Mount Calvary.

1795

CO 1792

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 10/20)

*Paris, May 6, 1866*⁷⁰

Madame in our Lord,⁷¹

I do thank you for your interest for God's House. I do not know any of the jury [members]. I am going to Mme. de Padoue since you advised me to do so for the greater good.

God will repay you what you do for him and for us.

I bless you in our Lord.

1796

CO 1793

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 16/17 VIII 26)

Paris, May 9, 1866

Mademoiselle,

Thank you with all my heart for your letter which was so good and so affectionate. It is very comforting to be on your list of friends. With all my heart I hold you in the same esteem and with the same duties [toward you], because I see the world just as it is, as you do. If it weren't for God and his law, I would even like to cross it out of my mind. Alas, this poor world is vain and poor without God! God is wise to oblige us to go to him by means of his goodness and also by detachment. St. Paul said that he was dying daily, and you can say the same thing. Then, real death will be powerless. It will only open the door of blessed eternity. It is a great grace of God's mercy to lead us into old age. It gives us time to sacrifice everything and love him for himself.

If we can work less at that age, we can have greater wisdom and the life of the heart replaces that of the mind. But, dear Mademoiselle, let me tell you that your mind is always as young as your heart. It is true that because you dwell in the truth of things and not in their seductive prism, your mind sees further and higher. The clouds of this world cannot darken your sun.

Can it be that you have been a recluse with God and his Holy Will for eight months now? I would pity you if I weren't afraid of being scolded, that is such a long time! It is true that the good Master goes to visit you from time to time and perfumes your stay with his adorable presence and his graces;⁷² and then, you love his holy will above all things. See how this divine conformity is a good companion, how it is a gentle consolation. It has been your virtue and now it has become your peace and joy.

I hope to go to Marseilles during June or July. You will have my first visit. It is due and it is so good for me. I left Brussels with a beautiful exposition, now I am planning another.

Believe me ever in our Lord.

All yours

⁷⁰ May and not March according to Fr. Troussier.

⁷¹ Excerpt from a letter.

⁷² perhaps that Holy Communion is brought to her.

1797

CO 1794

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 168/181 VI 2)

Paris, May 11, 1866

Dear Father,

I am returning your document, so that you may endorse it.

In Angers, we owe 1000 francs for candles; poor house! But our Lord is working on it.

Yes, let Brother Anthelme make the annual vow of obedience. Thank you for the comforting news about Fr. O'Kelly.

We are on retreat for First Communions. Sunday, 40 young workers will have the joy of receiving our Lord!

Nothing new about the compulsory purchase. It has been delayed, perhaps for lack of money. May God watch over it!

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

1798

CO 1795

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 82/104)

Paris, May 11, 1866

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Madame in our Lord,

Wednesday I will be going to Bergerac (Dordogne) at the Carmelites, to preach a Triduum, on May 17th, 18th, and 19th, in honor of Blessed Marie of the Angels. From there, I expect to go to Angers in order to give the retreat to our Fathers during Pentecost week and return to Paris after my retreat, which will close on the feast of the Holy Trinity. That is my itinerary. If I should change anything, I will let you know right away.

In Angers, there is an eminent and very devout doctor, Mr. Dzaneau. He is the doctor for our religious. What if you came to Angers to consult him? Needless to say, if you don't come to Angers, I'll go see you in Nantes, were it only for a few hours.

I bless your sufferings and urge you to make a novena to the holy Curé d' Ars. I am enclosing a small piece of cloth of his for you.

Poor daughter! suffering is your daily bread. It purifies you, protects you and unites you to God, it's true. How your poor human nature must long to be delivered from it!

Love the good Lord above everything.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1799

CO 1796

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 27/36)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, May 11, 1866

Dear sister,

I would really like to accept [the invitation] to preach your retreat for July 15, and insofar as I can, I do accept while admitting that it is more to see you and scold you, if I should, because time is passing. Finally, we will see then and there with God's grace. However, dear sister, if our good Master should place an urgent obstacle at that time, don't be angry with me if I had to stay here because of it. However, I don't foresee any. It seems to me that the good Lord would find his glory in it. What about my meditations? Please, get to work.

I bless you in Jesus Hostia,
Eymard, Superior

1800

CO 1798

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 17/29 VI 2)

Bergerac, May 16, 1866, (Dordogne at the Minor Seminary)

Very dear Father,

I reached my destination safely.

All day yesterday I prayed to God for your visit. Surely, I asked only for the holy Will of God, but also for his greater glory and the good of the Society.

I didn't stop at Tours, and it was a good thing because I would have been late.

Be careful not to tell Miss Michel where I am. Recommend the greatest discretion from Brother Eugene and Brother Charles in her regard, because that would block everything. Please remit the enclosed letter to Miss Thomas.

Send Brother Aime to La Mure after Pentecost, so that he may have enough time to take care of his business. Tell him to write to us from La Mure about the vocations he may find there, so that we can study them. Tell him what conditions of health, character, virtue, and the spirit that we require: to give oneself unreservedly, with a free status, to the Society of the Blessed Sacrament, so that she may give her children to the service of our Good Master as she judges best.

Pray for my little mission. I am staying at the Minor Seminary. Oh! If the God of the Eucharist could glean a few grains of wheat here!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Send me a page of the Ordo; I forgot mine. Open one of my letters carefully and slip it in.

To Rev. Fr. Chanuet
Master of Novices

The Transplanted Tree

68 rue fg. St. Jacques
Paris

May 17-19 - He preached a Triduum (three days devotions) for the beatification of Blessed Mary of the Angels at the Carmel of Bergerac. He stayed at the minor seminary, where he also preached to the seminarians.

1801

CO 1799

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 332/395 VI 2)

On the train to Bordeaux, May 22, 1866

Dear daughter,

I did not have enough time to write to you. I've just given a short retreat near Bordeaux with a eucharistic theme as always. I barely have time to breathe.

You can imagine that I can't pass through Tours without going to visit you briefly [in Angers]. I'll arrive there tomorrow night, Wednesday, or Thursday morning without fail. Let Fr. Audibert know, he must have expected me Tuesday. Please don't forget me before the Lord.

I'll go for a brief visit to Mme. Sauvestre at Poitiers, since I will be passing there.

Tomorrow, I'll go see dear Mr. Dupont and the devout Rosemberg family, while waiting for the evening train.

I've been eager to see you, dear daughter, for it has been a long time and my life has been so chopped up and scattered since your last visit. That is how the good Master wants it: fortunate will I be if I fulfill my task well!

See you soon, dear daughter. I bless you very paternally in our Lord.

Eymard

1802

CO 1800

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 83/104)

On the train to Bordeaux, May 22, 1866

Dear Lady,

I am here on the train to Angers. I will arrive there Wednesday, tomorrow night.

My first plan had been to go directly to Nantes tomorrow and arrive on the night express at 7:30; but, as I was afraid not to have enough time for you, as I must preach Thursday evening at 4:00 and so I might miss you, I'll wait to hear from you in Angers. Please write there to me right away, as I'll only be staying there a few days.

However, if you were ill and would like me to come right away, send me a telegram at Mr. DuPont's, 10, rue Saint Etienne, in Tours, before 2:00 p.m.

My religious respects to your kind sister.

I bless you.

All yours,
Eymard

Tonight I'll spend the night at Poitiers, since the train goes no farther. I'll be in Tours at 11:00.

1803

CO 1801

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 65/75)

Angouleme, May 22, 1866

Dear Madame,

I am writing to you on the train.

I have just come from Bordeaux to preach a retreat. I received your fine letter there. Thank you.

You know that I spent three months in Brussels for a foundation. They say that I almost died. But, I was like a poor worker who had not finished his task. I ruin so many things!

I am going to Angers; I'll be in Paris in a few days. I thought you were at Calet. I pray for your poor silkworms; especially for a little saint for your dear Mathilde, as well as for the mother and the grandmother. I'm sorry that you no longer like Calet. God is the one who makes it beautiful! and God is still there. Please, look a little more closely at the good Lord's flowers.⁷³

Thank you for the edifying news you give me about your dear nieces. I pray for them and bless them.

Be very recollected in your solitude, find how beautiful God is, how good God is! and become holy and good in order to be very beautiful in Heaven.

Goodbye.

If I go to Marseilles during the summer I want to see you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

P.S. I will return your little book in the mail.
May 23 - Traveled to Angers.

1804

CO 1802

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 18/29 VI 2)

Angers, May 24, 1866

Very dear Father,

Your letter telling me that you haven't found the Tabor (stand) for the Eucharist yet makes me double my prayers.

I must go see a house near Tours, it was a Benedictine abbey. Right now I am gathering information. All our prayers will surely bring results.

You will find the key for the safe hanging by the chimney of my room.

⁷³ Probably her blessings.

The Transplanted Tree

Don't do anything about Nemours. I will be able to end the bail.

Divine Providence will surely come to our help.

I don't expect to leave until Saturday or Sunday. Our Sisters have a profession [ceremony] which they delayed for my trip and I would really like to see that house near Tours which they say is very isolated.

I'm sending you the letter from the priest so that you may see whether we should begin his vocation retreat, or whether you think it is better to wait for me. Send him word that I will be in Paris Tuesday night.

The little house of Angers is functioning the same as usual. Our Sisters are fine, Sr. Francoise is better.

See you soon, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I addressed Fr. de Cuers' letter to you. Have the check withdrawn; the money is for Angers, minus 25 francs.

Fr. Champion is begging Brother Eugene to send him the 500 or 600 hosts as soon as possible. He wants to go back to the large wick (60 threads) for his candles, because of drafts.

He tells me that shipping 22 kilos of candles costs as much as 100 kilos.

1805

CO 1803

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 84/104)

A.R.T.

Angers, May 24, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I have been here since last night. I want to leave for Paris on Monday. Therefore, it would be too late to come only next week. Come on Saturday if you can. If you had come today, as you had thought, I would have been pleased.

I believe that tomorrow, Friday, I'll be busy all day.

It's most likely that I'll still be here Sunday.

I am so sorry that I'm not going to Nantes!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S

<i>May 27</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Virtues of a postulant, a novice, a triannual Professed. (Profession ceremony.)</i>
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1806

CO 1804

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 169/181 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, June 7, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am a little late to write and thank you for your pension. I was in Angers where everything is the same as usual. I can understand how your good will and your weak health made the burden seem a bit heavy, but you have a good assistant. Then it seems to me that our Good Master must bless you more than others. However, I would be inconsolable, if I were the cause of your illness by not giving you relief. I will come to see you toward the end of June. If you think it would be a favorable time, now that Corpus Christi is passed, I would give the community the annual retreat. We could begin on the evening of Sunday the 24th, the feast of St. John the Baptist, and close the following Saturday. What do you think about it?

I did receive your request from Rome and the letter from the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars. I didn't understand the reason for it, thinking it wasn't necessary to gain the indulgence; I will respond as you suggest.

We are still looking for houses, but especially for a house near Paris to rent or buy for the Novitiate. They say that the compulsory purchase will come soon. Once the Novitiate is established, it will be easier for us to find a house to rent, if necessary. However, the prices are so high that we don't dare settle anything, especially without knowing the estimate to be given by the jury.

Good Fr. Chanuet, who is ever so devoted, is offering to pay for the Novitiate house, if we find one which has all the necessary conditions.

You can see, dear Father, that we really need your prayers.

We will make the royal octave⁷⁴ as beautiful as we can, in our little chapel, with daily instructions. Yours must be magnificent in Marseilles. My very fond regards to Fr. Leroyer, to Fr. O'Kelly and to the whole family.

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

1807

CO 1805

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 333/395 VI 2)

Paris, June 7, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm late with you, as always. I've been running so much lately, then preaching, and then so busy! Forgive me.

It has been arranged with Joseph that he will actively search for a garden to rent. Be firm about it. If it should be a bit far, it doesn't matter. Then, with the raise you mentioned to me, he will be

⁷⁴ Octave of the Feast of Corpus Christi.

very pleased to work.

June 8

I am leaving at this moment for Nemours, I've been travelling again.

Let Miss Lefort go. If I had known her better, I would never have received her.

Please receive this young aspirant. I'm sending you her pastor's letter as reference. Keep it for later.

I bless you as I leave. I'll write to you from there.

All yours,
Eymard

June 15-21 - Retreat preached at Mauron (Morbihan) to the group of Virginie Danion.

1808

CO 1806

TO FR. JEAN-VICTOR BARET
(V 6/6)

Paris, June 26, 1866

Dear old Friend,

I owe you a letter, not of apology, but of regret because I did not succeed in helping your nephew, Baret. What I obtained was a letter of explanation, because, since there was no personal reform, they said they couldn't pass it on the basis of the family [reputation]. You can understand how happy I would have been to fulfill your hopes.

I imagine that his parents will make a sacrifice to exonerate him from service, because it's a bad time. Then, as you said so well, he is needed badly by his respectable and fine family.

Dear friend, I thought I could go to La Mure on my way to Marseilles but I am retained in Paris because of the compulsory sale of our house for Boulevard Arago. I must be there. Times have really changed, the future seems dark. Will God strike us? He is greatly offended, especially by the bourgeoisie with their pleasures, by the wicked and irreligious business world, and by evil workers. Oh! Secret societies are Satan's great lever and are preparing the universal reign of Antichrist. You cannot imagine their power in Europe. They are everywhere, they managed to get into all the key positions, they imposed themselves upon sovereigns, they control like invisible steam controls machinery. Alas! What hatred for Catholicism! What bad faith against the Church! Truly, I never could have believed that deception could be so well disguised and respected.

You are fortunate, especially you, in your peaceful countryside with your lovely church and all the good that you do!

May God always bless your work which is so apostolic, fill you with the joy of the Good Shepherd.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Dear friend,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

1809

CO 1807

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 38/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, June 27, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

In your charity, please forgive me. We've just bought a house for the Novitiate, two hours from Paris, and it has kept me quite busy. I've just learned that, in a few days, we will be subject to the compulsory sale for the Boulevard Arago. God be praised!

God is blessing our house, we are twenty. My health is maintaining itself. Our good Master is the One who is doing everything.

On July 15th, I will be at Mauron (Morbihan) at the rectory, to preach an 8-day retreat. If you need to write to me, I would gladly receive your letters.

I received a letter from ***. I certainly do think as you do, but there are situations where we are obliged to let ourselves be led by divine Providence. It's only right that the Works of the Blessed Sacrament should proceed through crosses and death; fortunate even, to be the unworthy instruments of so many graces!

I can assure you that the good Lord is too kind toward me: I would deserve to be treated very severely because of my omissions, my laziness and pride. That is what humiliates me, and in spite of it, the good Lord is blessing the Society. It is growing, and I, poor man, am here as its plowman.

In your last letter you don't tell me about yourself, which leads me to think that our good Master is pleased with his servant, and the happy servant is happy with such a good Guest. Yes, yes, be pleased and grateful! There is certainly enough reason for both sentiments. What is [the value of] this earth, people, and the goods of this world in the presence of our Lord? Nothing, only trouble. Learn how to be recollected at the feet of our Lord in the silence of love, to listen to him in peace of heart, to see him, contemplate him in his divine and awesome goodness, to give him to himself by giving yourself. You must always keep before your soul the beautiful mirror of our Lord, his virtues, which are the beautiful garden of evangelical flowers; but especially the divine motives for the Incarnation, for our Redemption, for the holy Eucharist. Before such beautiful scenes, the soul finds delight, or at least keeps itself delightfully occupied in God's sight.

Goodbye, etc.

1810

CO 1808

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

(I 170/181 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, June 28, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am writing to tell you and your Fathers and Brothers that we bought a house with a field two hours from Paris, by the Orleans Railroad, at St. Maurice, on the Vendome line. The stop is the Breuillet Station. This is a stroke of Providence, because there is everything we need for the Novitiate and later, for a house of solitude: 5.75 acres of enclosed land, a house in good condition which can immediately provide 25 rooms, and a suitable chapel. The property was sold in court as

The Transplanted Tree

a minors⁷⁵ property for the price of 77,000 francs. Good Fr. Chanuet, who is always so generous, will pay for it, at least most of it.

It is time to take our Novitiate out of Paris, where our young people are too distracted and are becoming a heavy burden. Besides, that had already been decided at the General Chapter.

The mother house, which is remaining in Paris, will become more simple and uniform. Then also, they say that the compulsory purchase order will be given soon, perhaps at the beginning of July. Mr. Legrand, the agent of the city for Arago Boulevard, is already pursuing us to buy our house on friendly terms. Tomorrow we must try to find out his offer. However, I believe it is better to take it to court and be well represented.

So now we are seeking for a third house in Paris. This time it will be the Cenacle, following Bethlehem and Nazareth. As we don't know what compensation we will be able to obtain, we are looking without committing ourselves. It's very difficult to find something suitable, and then everything is so expensive! But the Good Master, who has never forsaken us, knows that without him we can do nothing and that through him we can do everything. There are 20 of us, among whom is a Dutch priest who is 35 years old, he seems fine.

I can't tell when I will have the pleasure of going to Marseilles. I'm riveted to Paris because of this business with the city.

Pray for us, dear Father, especially for the one who is,

Very united to you in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

P.S. - The July quarterly has come. Please oblige me by sending it to Angers, they need it.

1811

CO 1809

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 334/395 VI 2)

Paris, June 28, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Finally, I have time for you, laziness got the better of me again. I won't excuse myself to you: your charity is broad enough. I had so many worries about D.M. Finally she is in a convalescent home. So, that is a big cross behind us.

We've just bought a house for the Novitiate which is two hours away from Paris. It is quite necessary for the formation of our young people, also because we will be obliged to sell in the month of July. So we will have to establish ourselves elsewhere. But where? How? God knows.

Fr. Crepon is on retreat about his vocation. He is entirely dedicated to you. Pray for him for he will need much strength if God is calling him to the religious life.

Dear daughter, I believe that you have received news from Sr. B.; I also received some. She has been better for about two or three days. It seems that she was bed-ridden for 8 days.... Fortunately, her kind secretary was there.

I received a letter from Mme. Gourd. She is in Vichy, as you may know. May God help and heal her! She is a beautiful person, pleasing to God and helpful to others.

The entry of the postulant is quite providential. As I said to the Pastor, we can at least give her a try. A working sister pays her dowry in fact.

Now I am riveted to Paris because of this compulsory sale and the little repairs we are doing to

⁷⁵ Could be "miners".

The Transplanted Tree

our novitiate house.

Now I am a little like elderly fathers who live from their children's labor. For the more I go, the busier I become.

However, we will have to settle the question of a sister for the Mistress of Novices, to help you. It's impossible for you to do everything. Make a novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After that we will settle the matter and do whatever will be for the greater good of the novitiate.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Whether I write to you more or less frequently, your rights and my dedication are ever the same.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1812

CO 1810

TO JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 55/76)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, June 28, 1866

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I have been wanting to write to you for a long time, a very long time, and I also wanted to have news about you directly.

Thank you therefore, for you know how precious your soul is to me in God's sight as well as everything that concerns you.

God has touched you with the tip of his Cross. You have been suffering for a long time; put it to good advantage. It is Purgatory in this world, but more sanctifying and more glorious to God than the other.

A state of suffering always comes from God. It is the state which he chooses for our greater good and to grant us some special grace.

Let yourself be led by divine Providence and be simple enough to take the remedies which your illness and obedience to the doctor require.

Yes, you must eat meat when you go to the springs. You did well to submit to that. When we are in a situation which sets a direction for our life, we must accept the consequences.

They say that the springs enervate the soul. It's possible, but never one's heart. May your heart ever belong to God through purity of intention, by attachment to his love, by trust in his divine mercy. Often make aspirations of love toward this good Master. These aspirations are for the soul what breathing is for the heart. They are its life.

Have no more vocal prayers than those you mentioned; it is enough. If the 33 Our Fathers should tire you, put them aside while at the springs, always leave them aside when you haven't said them by 10:00 p.m.

I would really like to come see you, it has been such a long time! I must go to Marseilles toward the end of July. Where will you be at that time? I will write to tell you the precise time of my trip when I know it.

Please have courage, dear daughter. Continue to love our Lord who loves you so much, and in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard, SS

1813

CO 1811

TO MOTHER AGNES DE ST. JOSEPH⁷⁶
(VI1/2)

Paris, June 28, 1866

Very Reverend Mother,

Allow me to commend Miss Philomene, Sr. Beatrix to you. This good person has no joy nor peace since she left you. Assuredly, the accusation against her has no foundation - she was judged to be inclined to extraordinary ways and lacking in obedience. I must tell you in all sincerity that I have long known her to be most obedient. I believe her nature is stable and she even has an attraction for the interior life.

Take her back, most esteemed Mother. It has been a sad trial for her, and in spite of it she still longs to be with you. Besides, you know her well, and she has often told me that [you] showed a motherly concern for her.

In union with the work and the adoration of our common Master, I am
Very Reverend Mother,

Your respectful servant,
Eymard
Sup. of the Soc. SS.⁷⁷

1814

CO 1812

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 40/52)

A.R.T.

Paris, Feast of St. Peter, June 29, 1866

Miss Stephanie

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to answer your last letter. Thanks be to God! you know yourself well. If you could get rid of all your spiritual weaknesses, you would be so happy! But you will have to carry them and drag them after you, dear daughter, because they are the baggage for your journey in this world. However we must [know how to] draw profit from them.

I will begin by saying: Continue your diet and have coffee without any scruples. Don't worry at all about gaining weight and do nothing different than what you are doing. Be sure to sleep, because the lack of sleep makes you nervous: you need it.

For spiritual matters, you would need to make a retreat of renewal. You will have to do it at home, when you can manage it, I will give you the subjects for it. It seems to me that it would shake you a little, because you have been following your ordinary routine for such a long time!

Always assure the essentials:
Attend holy Mass;

⁷⁶ Superior General of the Reparatrix Sisters.

⁷⁷ Superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The Transplanted Tree

Go to Communion daily;

Spend one hour in adoration;

Recite your rosary;

Make your examination of conscience at night, for three minutes;

Include a brief reading for a half hour, or at least a quarter of an hour, except on days when you have had an instruction. So much for piety.

For your interior life; walk with God, work with him and for his glory. Often make invocations to God, especially when the clock chimes.

Be patient toward yourself; poor, sick and infirm; always accomplish your duty whether you like it or not.

It seems to me that your soul is experiencing famine, that you don't concentrate enough during your meditation with God. Go to prayer with a set thought as your beginning topic, then our Lord will help you to develop it or he will give you a better one, because you will have prepared it.

Remember that a daughter's charity must be your great virtue in the family. As for your nerves, your little emotions, quickness of temper, it's nothing. Let God become your tranquilizer and begin to advance as before.

I bless you very faithfully before God and at the Holy Altar.

Belong entirely to our Lord, by your heart and intention.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mme. Gourd