

CHAPTER IV

Foundation of the Congregation of the Fathers and Brothers of the Blessed Sacrament

Discernment Retreat Ascension-Pentecost, May, 1856

Contacts with Church Officials

Official Beginning - Corpus Christi

Material and Practical Concerns

Spiritual Friendships Resumed

TO MME. SAUVESTRE DE LA BOURALIERE

(V 1/3)

Paris, rue des Ursulines, 12, Feast of the Ascension, May 1856

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,¹

I have been in Paris for a few hours; my first letter must be to you. It's written from the house of Reparatory Adoration. So that tells you that I have arrived here. Very Rev. Fr. Superior General permitted me to make a decisive retreat: either favor the Work of the Blessed Sacrament or give it up entirely.

What I desired most was to begin my retreat with the Queen of the Cenacle and the Apostles, as they returned so joyfully from the Mount of Olives, still magnificent with the glory of Jesus. And I, I come to the Cenacle like a soldier returning from the battlefield, I don't say victorious, but still harassed and frustrated by the battle. If God, in his infinite goodness, tells me: "Go forward, climb this Calvary of fire" with the [help of] his grace and desire for his love I will consume the sacrifice. The sword and the victim are at my disposal: the dispensation of my vows. But its effect is suspended until the end of my retreat. If, on the contrary, in his infinite kindness, because of my unworthiness, God tells me to return to Lyons, I will leave immediately, without any other regret than the one of not having been holy enough to aspire to the honor of serving this dear Jesus, this great King of love more directly and more completely.

This, Madame and dear sister, is my frame of mind. Please pray for me, for the Work, for the greater glory of God. I am praying very much to Mary, Queen of the Cenacle, to St. Joseph of Jesus (I mean of Bethlehem, of Egypt and of Nazareth). I chose the Archangel St. Gabriel, the strength of God as my protector.

I learned about your offering here, it's the first one, nothing more consoling. May the One who has said: "Whoever feeds the prophet has the prophet's reward," repay you a hundredfold.

Now, dear sister and Madame, if I knew that the good Master would tell me: "Throw the net in high seas, prepare a Cenacle for me, I would find my delight in it," I would tell you: "The first amice, the first alb, the first cord, the first vestment must come from your hands; the first bouquets which will decorate the altar of the Lamb must be your work and your tribute. You must be the mother, the sister and the servant."

What I say about you I also say about your good, fine sister, whose heart I am privileged to know and to whom I ask you to present my deepest respects.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Madame and good sister, All yours in his love,

Father Eymard, PM

P.S. A first difficulty: They have communicated to me, as coming from the Superior (masc) that I cannot make my retreat at the Reparation.

I am here in a very poor Community, but a divine tabernacle can be found here: that's enough and replaces everything. Send your crucifixes to: Fr. Eymard, rue d'Enfer, 114 Paris.

Madame Sauvestre de la Bouraliere
near the Major Seminary
Poitiers

¹ Taken from a copy in Fr. de Cuers handwriting, not the original.

TO FR. BENOIT LAGNIET, S.M.
(VI 1/4)

Ascension, Paris, Rue des Ursulines, 12 May 1, 1856

Very dear and very Reverend Father Lagniet,²

I don't want you to learn from anyone else but myself about my sudden arrival in Paris. I arrived last night toward nightfall. I am here, with the consent of very Reverend Father Superior General, to make a decisive retreat to conclude in one way or another with the thought which for several years, and especially for the last two years, has been worrying me, making me suffer. You know what I mean. Since this feeling is not just a judgment of mine, nor an attraction of heart, but a feeling which touches my conscience, of fidelity or infidelity to grace, I have come to find light in a retreat and to consult a stranger who is educated, experienced and rather strict, and to submit myself to his decision. I'm going to pray for a few days, before choosing him, and be concerned solely with being at peace, free of self, putting aside all previous ideas and desires; in a word, everything which could favor this idea, in order to be completely detached, ready to return immediately to Lyons to do whatever they will, without afterthoughts nor regrets. Or, if the man of God to whom I will sincerely confide both pros and cons tells me to go forward, I will take the big step and bury myself for a while. I have suffered too much. Someone said: "Make an act of simple obedience." I did so a thousand times, but this question of conscience (true or false) would come back to lay hold of me again. The answer which Father Colin had given me when he was still General was constantly before my eyes. You see, good Father, how much I need your prayers and your charity.

To make the test complete, I exposed to Very Rev. Father my intention to make an independent retreat in the chapel of Adoration with Fr. de Cuers. Providence allowed that when I arrived last night I should find the apartments which Bishop Luquet had occupied now free. Because I was neither expected nor even announced at the Reparation, the Rev. Mother Superior was surprised by my arrival and my request. (We had not seen nor written to each other for more than 4 years.) She didn't want to take this upon herself for fear of hurting you. She wrote about it to her Superior (masc.) I don't know the decision; I presume it's favorable because I want to stay only during the days of my retreat.

I would go see you only next Monday, dear Father, that is what Very Rev. Father Superior and I had agreed upon. You know that he will arrive at your place on Sunday morning at 5:00 a.m. He is coming on the early express. However, if between now and Monday you should see some obstacle to my coming to the House, I count on you to kindly write and tell me, and I assure you that whatever the decision, I will see it as coming from wisdom and prudence.

Oh! Dear Father, this morning I wrote my feelings to you as they came to me. When my letter³ left I would have had so many other things to tell you, but I didn't have the heart to do so. Please don't speak about my story or my retreat at the House, if possible.

Believe me ever in Jesus and Mary, very dear and very Reverend Father,

All yours,
Eymard, P.M.⁴

Rue des Ursulines 12
Ascension '56

² Fr. Lagniet was the local Superior of the Marist community in Paris, at this time.

³ We do not have this letter.

⁴ Marist Priest.

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P.S. After Holy Mass, Rev. Mother communicated the answer from her Superior (masc.) to me. Fr. Gaume doesn't think that it is prudent for her to allow me to make my retreat at the Reparation. I immediately decided to go into a little community on Rue d Enfer, 114. I don't know either its name or its purpose. It seems that it is like the Trappists.

To Rev. Fr. Lagniet
Provincial of the Marist Priests
Montparnasse, 31
Paris

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CO 566

TO ARCHBISHOP MARIE DOMINIQUE SIBOUR (OR THE CHANCERY)
(VI 1/5)

[May 4, 1856]

Your Excellency,

I am a priest from Lyons imposing upon your kindness for a private audience. I have come to Paris, especially to consult Your Excellency on an important matter which could advance the good of the Church. I will not take advantage of your kindness, Excellency. It is my fond hope that you will not refuse this favor.

I have the honor of being, with feelings of deep respect, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and obedient servant,⁵
Fr. Eymard

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114
May 4, 1856

⁵ *Note by Bishop de la Boullerie, Bishop of Carcassone, written on the preceding letter:*

I am really sorry, Excellency, that my short stay in Paris does not allow me to have the privilege of seeing you. I nevertheless take the liberty of adding a postscript to the request of good Fr. Eymard.

He will speak to you about a project which I have been informed about for a long time, but which I am no longer in a position to support. I see that it could be very useful from many points of view, to guarantee the future of our Works of Adoration. I know, Excellency, the interest you have for these Works and how much you help them.

Allow me to thank you for it by recommending to your charity and zeal the devout plan of Fr. Eymard.

+Francois
Bishop of Carcassone
May 5, 1856

TO FR. BENOIT LAGNIET, S.M.
(VI 2/4)

Paris, May 4, 1856

Very dear and very Reverend Father,

Here I am again. I thought that it would be more prudent for me not to come to see you until the end of my retreat. If the decision is in favor of my first vocation, my visit will be more brotherly. If, on the contrary, it is to make the sacrifice, I understand that prudence will require more reserve and that I be completely forgotten. I am [residing] in a community of the Holy Heart of Mary. I do not go out at all, and I see no one, except Fr. de Cuers who comes from time to time. There is complete solitude here. I am happy that I didn't stay at the Reparation. I thought that Fr. de Cuers was outside of the community. And then, we never reflect enough. I still haven't made my choice⁶. There is no one who suits me here. They mentioned a few Sulpicians or Jesuits. I am on the Cross: God wills it.

If at least I could really die to myself, to every preference, to my self-will. That is exactly what I am trying to do and say without ceasing: *Ne projicias me a facie tua, et Spiritum Sanctum tuum ne auferas a me. Pater, non quod ego volo, sed quod tu.*⁷

Pray for the one who will always be in Jesus & Mary.

Very dear and Reverend Father
All yours,
Eymard, P.M.

TO ARCHBISHOP MARIE DOMINIQUE SIBOUR (OR THE CHANCERY)
(VI 2/5)

REPORT PRESENTED TO ARCHBISHOP SIBOUR

Your Excellency,

Please allow me to open my soul to you concerning the idea⁸ which I have believed to come from God. But, distrusting my weakness and the illusions of self-esteem, I need your wise counsel so as to act according to the ordinary ways of divine Providence: that is, through obedience.

For five years I have felt myself drawn towards the divine Eucharist, by a very strong interior feeling. For more than two years I have resisted it and kept silent; as this feeling grew ever more urgent, and fearing that I was resisting a grace, I spoke about it to Fr. Alphonse, the Provincial of the Capuchins. That wise and prudent man advised me to give up this thought. However, he added, if it continues to pursue you, tell your Superior General about it: he has grace in the matter. Nearly a year went by in this inward struggle; finally, I presented my thoughts to Rev. Fr. Colin, my Superior. After considering it, he told me: "This idea is good, I believe it comes from God. Pray,

⁶ for a Director

⁷ "Do not cast me away from your face and do not take away from me your Holy Spirit. Father, not what I will, but what you will."

⁸ French: *pensée*.

die to yourself, and perhaps one day God will draw glory from it.” - Later, after Rev. Fr. Colin had resigned, I spoke of my soul’s desire to Rev. Fr. Favre, his successor, and he has strongly opposed it until now. His affection for me, his new position, his fears that it would cause some uneasiness in the Society - as I myself had been Provincial a few years before, as well as the fear of some pious illusion: - these were the chief reasons for his refusal.

A year has passed in this long and painful trial, but my first feeling has been continually growing. So, fearful of being unfaithful to grace, encouraged by the words of my former Superior General and the feelings of one of my former Directors, after much praying and asking for prayers, I laid this thought of mine and the desire of his heart at the feet of His Holiness Pius IX.

His verbal reply on August 27, 1855 was the following:

“The Work comes from God. I am convinced of it. The Church needs this. Let every means be taken to make the divine Eucharist known. But I desire that the Marist priest come to an agreement with his Superior and the local Bishop before starting anything. I could give him permission myself to begin, but the wisdom of Rome demands that the Superior General take part in it, and he will do so graciously.”

After this kind response from the Supreme Pontiff I expected to get a favorable reply, but I received only difficulties. No doubt they were necessary for the good of my soul, and I feel that with God’s grace, I have benefited from them.

Well, twelve days ago I made a final approach to my Superior, who, this time, gave me complete freedom; but, I have to say, with great sadness and pain, the test was over. It had lasted more than two years. Now the Most Rev. Fr. Superior’s tone changed; he wanted to test me, he wished to keep me; it was his duty and a mark of affection, he said. Here were his final words: “To show you, my dear Father, how fond I am of you, I tell you most affectionately that if the attempt you wish to make were not to succeed, or if for any other reason you wished to return to the Society, the doors will be always open to you and you will always be welcomed as a son of the family.” So many proofs of goodwill, Your Excellency, would have overcome my heart were it not that I feared to resist the voice of God.

However, before leaving him and using my freedom, and also in order to make my decision an act of obedience rather than the result of a personal inclination, I asked, before beginning to work, to make a retreat, during which I would once again submit this eucharistic project⁹, and my liberty,¹⁰ to the examination of a wise Director. He accepted this with the greatest pleasure.

I have been on retreat since the Ascension, and God is drawing me more and more towards total sacrifice through love of the cross. Now, Your Excellency, allow me to consult you as the Ananias of my life, and ask you for the charity of your counsel. I shall obey you as I would God Himself.

Do you believe, Your Excellency, that I am doing something pleasing to our Lord by consecrating myself to the service of the divine Eucharist?

Do you think that I may, *tuta conscientia*¹¹, make use of my freedom?

If Your Excellency says, “Yes,” I shall bless you all my life, and begin with joy and confidence. Everything seems to be ready: 5 or 6 priests who are very devout and well respected by their Bishop are only awaiting this decision to prepare themselves. Three of them are free.

If, on the other hand, your wisdom judges that I must give this up entirely, I am ready to obey at once, and I shall adore the will of God manifested through yours, and I will return to my first commitment.

Bishop de la Bouillerie, who knows me, and whom I have informed about my desire and my present situation, as well as my resolution to submit this personal matter to Your Excellency, strongly approved and encouraged me - he even said these most encouraging words: “that if Your Excellency were kind enough to welcome us, we could render service under your lofty Patronage to the Works of Adoration in Paris - that the Religious state, etc., would not be harmful, but useful, at least at the beginning, for the formation of candidates; and furthermore, the most considerate offer from my

⁹ French: pensée eucharistique.

¹⁰ Dispensation from vows.

¹¹ with a clear conscience.

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Superior - to welcome me back - was a safeguard and a reason to have confidence in the venture.”

And now, Your Excellency, I surrender it all to your judgment and I hope, from the merciful bounty of God, for the grace to submit myself to it with all my heart and without reservation.

With expressions of the deepest respect and with complete abandonment, I dare, in our Lord, to call myself,

Your Excellency's humble son,
Eymard, Marist Father

Paris rue d'Enfer 114
May 5, 1856

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CO 568

TO BISHOP SIBOUR
(v1 3/5)¹²

Excellency,

Several priests from the Diocese of Lyons, Marseilles and Toulouse wish to place before Your Excellency the deep desire of their souls.

Moved by the same feeling of devoting themselves in a very special way to the service of the adorable Eucharist, encouraged by the kind words of the Sovereign Pontiff, they come to solicit from your kindness and your love for Jesus Christ for permission to gather under your patronage, to live in common and to prepare themselves without fanfare, in prayer, study and the apostolic virtues to this beautiful eucharistic mission, and so become capable of rendering some services to the various Works of Adoration which already do so much good in the Capital City.

It is with these sentiments of the most profound respect and with filial devotion that they call themselves, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and obedient servants,
Eymard, P., DeCuers, Pr.¹³

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114
May 5, 1856

¹² It is unclear whether this letter is addressed to Archbishop Marie Dominique Sibour of Paris, or his Vicar General, Bishop Leon Sibour.

¹³ P. and Pr. - Abbreviations for Priest.
P.M. - Marist Priest.

TO BISHOP LEON SIBOUR
(VI 4/6)¹⁴

[May 7, 1856]

Your Excellency,

I am taking the liberty of sending to Your Excellency a more suitable copy of the project for the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament, submitted to His Holiness Pius the IX, on August 27, 1855. If in his great wisdom, and in spite of our unworthiness, His Excellency the Archbishop would kindly bless this effort under your kind patronage, Excellency, I would hope for the approbation from your kindness, at least a temporary one so that we could proceed immediately on the divine path of obedience.

Please receive my expression of very deep respect and total self-denial with which I call myself in our Lord,

Your Excellency's humble son,
Julian Peter Eymard, P.M.

On the Society of the Blessed Sacrament¹⁵

Since the divine Mercy kindly inspired a few men of good will with the holy desire to devote themselves entirely to the glory and the Service of our Lord Jesus Christ in his Sacrament of love, full of confidence in the grace of such a beautiful vocation, in the powerful protection of Mary, Queen of the Cenacle, and after having humbly submitted the initial idea to His Holiness Pius IX, and having obtained the benevolent approbation of the Ordinary, they came together as a Congregation under the title of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

CHAPTER I Purpose of the Society

The Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament unites the active and the contemplative life; it establishes as its principal purpose:

1. to dedicate itself entirely to the worship and service of the divine Eucharist, by adoration which is perpetual and reparatory: and so to render to Jesus¹⁶ Christ, our Savior, by the most solemn and magnificent worship, the honor, the love and the glory which are his due.
2. to work with all its strength for the salvation of souls: for the conversion of sinners, heretics, idolaters, by praying perpetually for the success of apostolic missions and for the ministry of pastors.
3. to stimulate and sustain the piety of the faithful toward the Most Blessed Sacrament, leading them and preparing them by a pure and enlightened zeal to the practice of the Sacraments, especially to frequent Communion, so recommended by the Church.

¹⁴ Auxiliary bishop and Vicar-General of Parish, and honorary Bishop of Tripoli.

¹⁵ The original copy of this text is in the Archives in the Chancery of Paris.

¹⁶ Jesus is written Jesus - his abbreviation for Jesus Eucharistic.

CHAPTER II
The Works of the Society

The Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament embraces and favors all the works of zeal which refer to the worship and service of the adorable Eucharist.

Its principal works are:

1. to receive in its Cenacle, laity and especially clerics who would desire to find recollection or to follow the spiritual exercises of a Retreat.
2. to preach 40 hours in the parishes, to prepare for first Communion, children or adults who have not yet made it, to preach Retreats for clergy, women religious, etc.
3. to offer to the veterans of the priesthood, an honorable retirement in the Cenacle; surrounding them with all the care and respect which they deserve because of their age and the services they rendered to the Church; so giving them the means to end their lives in a more holy manner at the feet of Jesus their good Master.
4. The more educated religious will be able to dedicate their free time to study, or to compose works of devotion, especially those which could feed and strengthen the faith and love of the faithful toward the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Those who are skilled in the arts will be able to attend to them for the glory of Jesus Eucharistic, and for what is called the “Work for Tabernacles”, which consists in creating paintings, altars and Tabernacles, etc., for poor churches.

CHAPTER III
The Spirit of the Society

The Society should seek its inspiration only from the spirit of Jesus,¹⁷ its Rule and its Model. Its spirit must be:

1. a spirit of truth. Truth must be the principal, the inflexible and unchangeable rule of all the actions of the Society as of each member: Jesus Christ¹⁸ having said: I am the truth.
2. a spirit of charity. Charity must be the soul of the life of a religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament, form the character of its perfection and of its apostolic ministry. This divine charity must set its zeal on fire to spread the knowledge, love and service of Jesus Christ, especially in his Sacrament of love, as the divine Savior has consecrated His life to spread the knowledge, love and service of his Heavenly Father.
3. A spirit of immolation, becoming with Jesus¹⁹ Hostia one same victim of penance, for the conversion of sinners, and also reparation for so much irreverence, profanations, sacrileges committed toward the adorable Eucharist.

CHAPTER IV
The Members

The Society receives into its Cenacle all those whom Jesus Christ calls to His Holy Service, drawn by the grace of adoration. It distinguishes three kinds of members therein:

1. The priest-religious who alone can be named to the important positions of the Society.
2. The lay-brother religious, who can take on the secondary tasks.
3. The Associates²⁰ in the world: that is, priests and lay people who would desire to share in the graces and merits of the Society, and who associate themselves actively to the Work of perpetual adoration.

¹⁷ Jesus written Jesus, abbreviation used by St. Peter Julian for Jesus-Eucharistic.

¹⁸ *ibid.*

¹⁹ *ibid.*

²⁰ French: *agrèges*.

CHAPTER V

The Vows

1. After a full year of Novitiate, the priest-novices can be called to profess the three simple and perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.
2. The brothers will have three years of Novitiate before being called to the three vows. They will make simple vows for three years, after which time they will be admitted to perpetual vows, or dismissed after a serious examination of their lack of a eucharistic vocation.
3. The Society may possess property and stable revenue, in order to dedicate itself more freely and independently to its great eucharistic Mission.

CHAPTER VI

Relations of Religious toward the Ecclesiastical Superiors

1. The Religious of the Blessed Sacrament will profess the most filial respect for the Sovereign Pontiff, the most entire submission, and will make it a duty to profess and defend all the Privileges and Prerogatives of the Vicar of Jesus Christ.
2. They will consider the local Ordinary as their Father, and relate to him as submissive and devoted children, in order that he may love the Society as his own family.
3. They will show great deference toward the clergy, considering as their Superiors, all the members who are part of the holy hierarchy of the priesthood. They will consider themselves fortunate to share fully in their zeal, and to receive them in their Cenacle when they wish to come to rest and be recollected at the feet of the Divine Master. Finally, the religious will show such great charity and such a pure and selfless zeal that they will obtain the trust and affection of the Pastors, so that they may love the Society, as their own Society, and its members as their brothers.

CHAPTER VII

On Government

1. The Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament is governed by a Superior named with an absolute majority of the votes. Only the professed priests have the right to vote.
2. The Superior governs with the help of a council, composed of three to five members, chosen and named by him.
3. All matters pertaining to vows, acquisitions, sales, loans, foundations, large repairs are handled in Council and deliberated with the majority of votes.
4. The Superior calls his Council together for ordinary matters, when he judges that it is useful: in this case, it is more for enlightenment than deliberation.

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CO 569

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 140/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 7, 1856

I am still on retreat, my dear daughter in our Lord. I'll continue until Tuesday the 13th. I opened my heart to a learned man of God, who is experienced and strict. I didn't know him. His final word was: "I need to pray, reflect and consult. Tuesday, I will give you an answer."

What will that answer be! I have no idea. What gives me a sense of security is that I said honestly everything that was against me, everything they had said to me in Lyons. I said too much to base my confidence on any natural reasons now. The holy will of God will be manifested by its instrument. If he tells me to give up this idea, I will be at peace. I will have done what I felt in

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conscience that I should do. If, on the other hand, he should tell me to go forward, I will go in the name of holy Obedience. So, the nature of the question has changed. I am at the point where I should have begun. God has willed it so, and I thank him for it. It will have done me good, and detached me from many things which were merely natural and human.

I saw Very Rev. Fr. General. He was so kind as to come to see me. His affection, his kindness pierce my heart, and make me suffer more than all the temptations from the devil or from natural feelings. He told me that he also wants only the will of God. I am very happy about that.

Other news. I found an excellent place for the child from Charlieu. He will be in an institution where religion, the arts and trades leave nothing to be desired. Try to send him immediately. Find some good traveler to accompany him to Paris, to Fr. de Cuers, 12 Ursuline St., in Paris.

As for me, I am on retreat alone, very much alone with our Lord, in a community of men at 114 rue d'Enfer, Paris. After a little more prayer, patience and self-surrender, everything will be settled.

Ever all yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. - My sincere regards to your dear sisters.

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

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TO FR. BENOIT LAGNIET, S.M.
(VI 3/4)

[Paris], May 12, 1856

Dear and very Reverend Father,

Thank you for your little note. How kind you are! You truly are too kind to me! I am not going out, and it will only be toward evening when I will finally receive a decision and who knows whether I will even have it then. May God's will be done! I have no idea what it will be. God has kept me in total darkness during these 11 days of immolation of my will. I seem to be ready for anything - to go embrace you with a willing heart if I am still yours, or to put the crown of thorns upon my head if God is calling me to his Work. I presume that I will not be able to give you any news until Wednesday morning. In the meantime consider me ever in our Lord, dear Father,

As your son,
Eymard, P.M.

TO POPE PIUS IX (SSS ARCHIVES, ROME)

Petition to Our Holy Father the Pope²¹
Corpus Christi

Most Holy Father,

It is my genuine hope that Your Beatitude will be happy to learn about the successful realization of the founding of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament, which was presented to Your Holiness two years ago by Very Rev. Father Jandel, Superior General of the Dominicans, and last August 27²², by a priest [connected] with our pious project.²³ The words spoken by your Beatitude which were so kind, have borne their fruit. The Society of the Blessed Sacrament was founded in Paris with the very kind approbation of the Archbishop, and under the high patronage of the Bishop of Tripoli.

God has leveled all the obstacles; I am free and everything seems to promise a blessed harvest. Six priests have given their names; we are already living in Community. But, Most Holy Father, we would work in vain without a Blessing from Your Beatitude, which alone gives a nascent work its life and its fruitfulness.

Prostrate at the feet of Your Holiness, we dare to beg you to bless us and this little mustard seed cast into the ground.²⁴²⁵

TO FR. JULIEN FAVRE, S.M.
(VI 1/1 V 1)

Paris, May 14, 1856

Dear very Reverend Father,

Finally, after twelve days of waiting, prayers, tears and surrender, the trial is over. I was told twice that they believe the will of God was to be that I should dedicate myself to the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I was quite resolved to accept a contrary judgment in total simplicity and as decisive. My will was detached, indifferent about the outcome. Since God is manifesting his will in me, I will dedicate myself to it, trusting only on his grace and hoping for the help of your charity and prayers.

I cannot tell you, good and very Reverend Father, the difficulties, temptations, and trials by which it pleased God that I should pass. Nor will I tell you how much it costs my heart, my soul, and all my feelings to take this step, this great step (which I could call the time²⁶ of agony), for I see only the cross and the chalice, fortunate even if God should accept my sacrifice. But what I can say, in all simplicity, is that in my heart I will always be a Child of the Society of Mary in my gratitude and filial devotion. I am confident that my efforts will turn to the good of the Society, and in the depths of my heart I feel a certain confirmation of it. After so much suffering, it will be a very sweet consolation;

²¹ Petition sent to Pope Pius IX immediately after receiving the approval of the Archbishop of Paris, May 13, 1856.

²² 1855.

²³ Fr. Jean Joseph Touche.

²⁴ This text was copied from a penciled text by Fr. Edmond Tenaillon SSS, postulator, on May 21, 1900.

²⁵ Father Tesniere noted in the copybook of Fr. Eymard's sermons that on Feb. 26, 1867, he told the Community Chapter: "The Society was approved here in Paris, May 13, 1856, by Archbishop Sibour. We began Exposition on Rue d'Enfer only on Jan. 6, 1857. We invited the religious Superiors, most of whom came to be present at our birth. It was a beautiful feast." (Authenticated by Fr. Ed. Tenaillon SSS, Paris, March 11, 1901.)

²⁶ French: le pas - literally, step

for how would I not love a Society which has been such a good and tender Mother to me, a Father whose heart is known to me and who loved me with so much affection and dedication; brothers who are so caring? Can I admit it, very Reverend Father? Until the day of the final decision, I considered my eucharistic project²⁷ as judged and lost. My sacrifice was made, everything was ready to return to Lyons the same day. God is judging otherwise. May his holy will be done!

Now, dear very Reverend Father, kindly accept my most sincere and lively gratitude for everything the Society has done for me. Please thank good Father Teraillon for me, for his good advice. I owe to him that I made this difficult but wholesome retreat; and through this retreat everything has fallen into the ordinary pattern [of things]. I was no longer the one who studied nor judged the matter; I no longer devote myself to the Eucharistic Work through my own inclination. I had sacrificed it entirely. It is through the authority of three experienced men whom I did not know, in a word, of the three Bishops, then of a learned, experienced and strict man. If you add your blessing to it, very Reverend Father, your prayers, your counsels, I will find myself in the order of Providence.

The Archbishop welcomed this Work with great pleasure. He gave it his approval with a kindness which surprised us. The Bishop of Tripoli²⁸ is its ecclesiastical Superior and has given all the faculties. That is how this thought has evolved in a few days. Until the former Chateaubriand House is sold, the Bishop is kindly putting it at the disposal of this newborn Work, that of Fr. Bad... being finished²⁹.

I feel that I have acted with complete simplicity and openness in this whole matter. I showed him your certificate; I said everything which was against me. Then I imagined myself at the moment of death and in the presence of the court [of the Sovereign Judge] so that I might not later have any regrets nor interior reproaches.

Now, dear very Reverend Father, I have two favors to ask you: the first, to continue to give me your friendship, or if that is too much, your charity, your prayers, and those of the Society; the second, in replying to Rome, to consider the Work rather than my unworthiness, the good it can do, rather than the instrument, which unfortunately! is so weak that it is good only to suffer, and barely that!

I told the Bishops what had happened in Rome, the information which is being requested from you, the sensitivity of my personal issue. They answered: Before our decision, yes, the situation was delicate, but now it changes altogether, and now your Superior General who, like you, placed himself in holy detachment will judge your issue [based] on the present situation.

Dear Father Lagniet came to see me yesterday, the 14th, and in his kindness and charity brought me here today, the 15th, among Mary's blessed family, where I am finishing this letter. "We must remain friends," he said, "live in good relations, remain brothers; it is surely in your interest as it is in ours." I accepted with gratitude and great joy [to stay here] until you would wisely determine, dear Reverend Father, what is the most appropriate and practical [way to proceed].

Bless me once more and this blessing will bring me happiness, and God will repay you a hundredfold.

It is with feelings of deepest gratitude and most filial devotion that I am and will always be in our Lord, dear Reverend Father.

Your son,
Father Eymard

²⁷ French: pensée eucharistique.

²⁸ Bishop Leon Sibour, the Auxiliary Bishop of Paris.

²⁹ A congregation previously using that property was being disbanded. (Fr. Badiche)

TO MME. SAUVESTRE DE LA BOURALIERE
(V 2/3)

Paris, May 15, 1856

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

It's right and comforting for me to give you the first news: the trial that lasted twelve days, or five years, is over. The divine Eucharist has triumphed; I am its happy servant. May heaven grant that I may become its zealous and devoted apostle! The Archbishop approved the Work on the 13th, and he settled my issue last night. Three Bishops examined and judged it.

The details will follow later. Before accepting the dispensation from my vows, I indulgenced all your crucifixes this morning, and sent them right away.

I would almost like to come see you for a day in Poitiers, God willing.

My very sincere and humble respects to your dear beloved sister.

All yours in Jesus and Mary.
Eymard

P.S. My present address: rue des Ursulines 12, Paris, at Fr. de Cuers.

Mme. Sauvestre de la Bouraliere
rue des Carmelites
at Poitiers (Vienne)

TO BISHOP SIBOUR
(VI 5/5)³⁰

[Paris], May 16, 1856

Your Excellency,³¹

I take the liberty of sending Your Excellency the Christian names of your sons in the little Society of the most Blessed Sacrament so that you may grant them written faculties:

Fr. Raymond De Cuers (of the Diocese of Marseilles), Julien Pierre Eymard (of the Diocese of Grenoble).

Our hearts, Excellency, overflow with joy and gratitude, indebted as we are for your most generous favor. The little Society of the most Blessed Sacrament is your Work, and we shall be happy to obey you as we would our Lord and to love you as our Father.

³⁰ This letter may have been addressed to Bishop Leon Sibour, the Bishop of Tripoli and Auxiliary Bishop of Paris or to Archbishop Marie Dominique Sibour, his cousin, the Archbishop of Paris.

³¹ The following words were found written on the back of a portrait of His Eminence Archbishop Sibour, the Archbishop of Paris, in Father Eymard's handwriting: "May 13, 1856!!! de quo semper Gratiarum Actio! et Laus Deo." [May 13, 1856, for which we will always give thanks and praise to God.]

579

CO 575

TO MME. SAUVESTRE DE LA BOURALIERE³²
(VI 1/2 V 3)

[Paris], May 17, 1856

To Mme. Sauvestre,

Glory to Jesus Eucharistic!!!!

I am announcing a great event to you, perhaps the greatest in my life and yours.

Three Bishops in Paris have received and approved the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

They blessed Father Eymard and Father de Cuers. I am overflowing with joy and experiencing a jubilation I cannot describe.

At the same time, Father Marie of Jesus wrote to tell me that he has 2 vocations: 2 young priests who are as fervent as Seraphim.

As for the material side, I will take care of it and I like to hope that you will be able to carry out your mission. I was promised 64,000, the interest of which I will need soon. As for the capital, it will take several years.

580

CO 578

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

Paris, rue d'Enfer, 114, May 18, 1856

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

You will have received my last letter telling you that I was going on retreat, and that I resolved on a state of holy detachment. My 12-day retreat is over; the decision has been made in favor of the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I did not add even a single straw to tip the scales, nor ask anyone to intervene [in my favor]. Those who passed the judgment did not know me. I was open in all simplicity. I did not even expect a decision in favor of the Work. - But God has judged otherwise - may he be glorified and praised!

I am no longer consecrating myself to this through attraction, but with a surer motive. It cost me dearly. When one is in the thick of the fight one doesn't feel the sacrifice; but afterwards it is like cutting off a limb. I hope that God will be pleased with my sacrifice. I feel that I have offered it to him entirely.

We have the benevolent approval of His Excellency the Archbishop. We shall be starting in Paris, in solitude, poverty, prayer - before we make a move, we shall wait for God to say: "Go ahead." Pray for me, dear Sister. If the name is changed,³³ the heart remains the same. It is now, especially, that I must be like the grain of wheat - Jesus must make me die so as to give me his life, and the grace of his mission.

You will continue to be the dear sister of the T.O. - and you will still love the Society of Mary, for which I keep my filial affection and the desire to serve it.

Believe me, in our Lord, dear sister in Mary,

All yours,
Eymard

³² This was written in pencil and is a scrap.

³³ No longer a Marist.

Foundation of the Congregation 1856

Mademoiselle de Revel
rue Ste Helene
Lyons, Rhone

581

CO 576

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 141/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 18, 1856

I am writing, my dear daughter, to give you the great news. Yesterday, Very Rev. Father Superior must have received my letter telling him that after twelve days of suffering, trials, and self-surrender, three persons outstanding in holiness and learning told me that they believe God's will to be that I should dedicate myself to the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament. This answer came to me at a time when I believed everything to be lost. My sacrifice was irrevocable.

I was supposed to leave Paris immediately. God determined otherwise. Praise and glory to him!

V. Rev. Father Favre's kindness and solicitude pierced through my heart. That one was the most painful sword, because I love him, and he deserves it from every point of view.

I have nothing to tell you about myself. I'm not too bad. So many jolts could only tire out this poor body. It is all nothing, provided that Jesus Christ be served, loved and glorified by his little family and by all people.

My feelings for you and your good sisters will always be the same. Your spiritual welfare and your state of soul will always be very dear to me. I regret only one thing. It is that my resolve has caused you so much suffering: would that I had been alone in that.

Pray now that I may not become unworthy of such a beautiful and holy vocation. For if the battle is over, another will begin: I mean my personal Calvary and daily sacrifice.

I don't need to tell you that although I am no longer called a Marist, I continue to be a son of the Society of Mary in my heart; I am grateful and dedicated to it. Such a good mother cannot be forgotten. God allowed all those difficulties, misunderstandings, and suspicions. They were necessary to bring about an absolute decision.

Dear daughter, believe me always in our Lord,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. - I want to tell you that the Archbishop of Paris has blessed and favored the Work. It will begin in the same house where I came for discernment. The community was dissolved (The Holy Heart of Mary) and we came after, rue d'Enfer 114.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
rue du Juge de Paix
House of the Carmelites
Lyons (Rhone)

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 20/52)

Paris, rue des Ursulines, 12, May 18, 1856

Very dear daughter and sister in our Lord,

Our good Master has won his case. I am here in Paris entirely at his service and for his eucharistic love. Every sacrifice has been made and the difficulties of the moment are over. Very Reverend Father Superior General dispensed me from my vows and remains a friend. Three Bishops approved my resolve and desire. The Archbishop of Paris received and blessed it with paternal kindness.

The house is rented (rue d'Enfer, 114, Paris). In a few days we will be established there, though poorly, but with joy and happiness.

Physically and mentally,³⁴ I feel like a soldier returning from the battlefield. Before using my freedom and with the permission of Very Reverend Father Superior General, I made a retreat in the Cenacle³⁵ for 12 days. On May 13th we were approved.

See, dear sister, the point which the eucharistic project³⁶ has reached. Praise God for it and thank him for me. My soul constantly repeated the *Magnificat*, and under the weight of ideas and sacrifices, could find only one thing to say: "How good God is!"

Now please pray so that I may respond to such a beautiful vocation; that, like the bread of the sacrifice, I may lose my life, my substance, my personality, to be changed into the spirit and life of Jesus, retaining only a human appearance, humiliation and poverty, so that the virtue of Jesus may dwell in the midst of my infirmities.

But, good sister, if we have nothing for ourselves, we would like to have something for the eucharistic King. We would like to receive him, honor him, surround him with glory. So then, please beg our Lord to send us something to clothe him, lodge him, celebrate the august Mysteries. I am waiting for the beautiful podium and Tabernacle as soon as they are made. However, what I am waiting for most is news about your health, and your new situation.

It must have been very hard for you to leave so many good people and the place where you practiced so much charity.

So now you belong in the Cenacle with us. May Jesus keep you and protect you in his divine love.

All yours,
Eymard, P.

P.S. Fond regards to good Mr. Tholin and to your spiritual son.

Mme. Tholin-Bost
Amplepuis (Rhône)

³⁴ Literally: ability to concentrate.

³⁵ from Ascension to Pentecost.

³⁶ French: pensée eucharistique.

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

(I 18/181 VI 3)

Leudeville, via Marolles in Hurepoix, May 20, 1856

Very dear brother in our Lord,

I'll leave here only Friday morning. I'll stay with our Fathers³⁷ and then see you in the afternoon.

If I can break away easily, I'll say my goodbyes on rue Mont-Parnasse to go either to Marie Therese or, as I would prefer, to our Cenacle.

The good Lord is the one who sent me here. What I mean is: a holy priest could be the fruit of my visit.

I learned yesterday that on Sunday Very Rev. Fr. Lagniet made the announcement to his community, in the name of our Very Rev. Fr. Sup. General, [giving] the news of my leaving the Society and about the Work of the Blessed Sacrament. It seems that Father General said very kind things about me; that we should remain friends, (that we should) visit one another, (that he wanted) me to be welcomed. That news made me feel very good. The God of love and peace has gathered all hearts into the same loving center. He is the Master of hearts and what God wills, happens.

I asked for my belongings. I believe that you will receive them soon.

If you see Fr. Badiche,³⁸ tell him how sorry I am that I did not see him to thank him for his kindness. I went to see him, but the Prior told me that he wasn't at home.

I'll see you soon. I am getting back some strength. I do so need these few days of quiet!

All yours in Christ,
Eymard, P.S.S.³⁹

Fr. de Cuers
Rue des Ursulines, 12
Paris

TO POPE PIUS IX

(U)

*Petition to Our Holy Father the Pope*⁴⁰

Corpus Christi, [May 22, 1856]

Most Holy Father,

Your Beatitude will, I sincerely hope, be happy to learn about the successful realization of the project of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament, placed before your Holiness two years ago by Very Rev. Father Jandel, Superior General of the Dominicans, and last August 27, by a devout priest. - The kind words of your Beatitude have borne fruit. The Society of the Blessed Sacrament was

³⁷ The Marist community in Paris.

³⁸ From the dissolved Congregation of the Holy Heart of Mary.

³⁹ Abbreviation for: Priest of the Blessed Sacrament.

⁴⁰ This text is obviously the same as the text dated May 13. However, the 2 documents have different archive numbers and the handwriting is different. This text may have been a first draft, as it is incomplete and looks like a scrap. It may be the original copied by Fr. Tenaillon. (cf. Doc. 575.)

founded in Paris with the total and gracious approval of His Excellency the Archbishop, and under the high patronage of the Bishop of Tripoli. God has smoothed away all the obstacles. I am free. Everything seems to promise a successful harvest. Six priests have given their names. We are already living in Community, but, Most Holy Father, we would work in vain without the blessing of Your Beatitude, which alone gives life and fruitfulness to a Catholic work. Prostrate before Your Holiness, we dare ask you to bless us, us and the small mustard seed cast into the ground.

585

CO 581

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 19/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

Sunday, May 25, 1856

Very dear brother,

Thank you for your good letter, God had me stay a little longer. Thursday afternoon a feeling of weakness obliged me to lie down. I stayed in my room until today. Wasn't it necessary to offer the small sacrifice of one's life, after having offered all the others? Don't worry about it.

I've just said Holy Mass. Tomorrow I must take some medicine and then I hope to go and embrace you Wednesday morning. If Fr. Badiche⁴¹ should move before then, I would be very happy; but *fiat voluntas Dei*.⁴²

To prepare for our arrival, you would do well to purchase three beds and a few chairs; furnish three rooms. Use the money you have. God will send us some.

My friend wants to offer the initial gift of a monstrance.⁴³ I hope that God will bless my short stay here.

I would be happy to have news about you before Wednesday.

All yours,
Eymard, P.S.S.S.⁴⁴

P.S. Adopt S.S.S. It is very beautiful.⁴⁵

⁴¹ Member of the dissolved community of the Holy Heart of Mary occupying 114 rue d'Enfer.

⁴² God's will be done.

⁴³ Mr. de Leudeville.

⁴⁴ Abbreviation for the French words: *Prtre de la Societ du St. Sacrement* - Priest of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

⁴⁵ Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 142/395 VI 2)

Paris, May, 1856

I am writing a few words, dear daughter, to answer your letter. Thank you for all that you are offering me with such faithful and filial attachment.

Thank you especially for the spiritual remembrance which you promise me in God's presence. I don't need to say it again: your soul, your salvation, your family, all are dear to me and will be so until heaven itself.

The name doesn't matter.⁴⁶ Jesus Christ is always the center, life and purpose. When we love souls, the rest is nothing and doesn't change anything. Besides, I remain a Marist in my heart, and I dare say, I am confident that I am serving the Society. Fr. Superior knows it, God is the one who led everything. He wanted me to sacrifice even the Society, because when I became a religious, I had sacrificed only a father and a sister. Later he wanted the sacrifice of the Third Order, then of my will, of my inclinations, and finally the sacrifice of my life. That is, on Corpus Christi, I almost fell gravely ill, but after only four days I am well again. It was the beginning of a chest infection. If at least I were truly dead to self and to all earthly life!

Tomorrow June 1, after noon, we will take over our new Cenacle with a procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I will place you there at the feet of our Lord.

The children arrived safely and were happy. It's the best situation we could find for them.

You ask whether I am in difficulty. No, no, I've been with the kind Marist Fathers for a few days and I'll go to the Cenacle⁴⁷ from here. Our resources are not large, since the Divine Master took us by surprise and we are like men who are coming out of a shipwreck. I don't worry at all about our daily bread: it is up to the King to lodge and feed his soldiers.

As for us, our only concern is to lodge him properly, to give him a tabernacle, an altar, vestments.

In that regard, I cannot refuse gifts that are offered to the Eucharistic King. However, I don't want anything for myself, on that point I must be sensitive and strict. I don't want it said that I am taking advantage of my former title to obtain money.

Dear Miss de Revel was mistaken about many things. Mr. de Geslins, with whom I had discussed it in Lyons, hasn't received any letters, errands, or news from me since he is in Rome. His indiscretion taught me a lesson. Besides, if I had wanted to act on a merely human level, I had many protectors in Rome of much higher rank. On the contrary, I wanted to let God do everything. Here I placed myself into the hands of strangers, I was not known, nor recommended to them, and everything succeeded beyond any expectation of mine.

I wrote to my sister today, without telling her that I had left the Society. I told her about the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament, which I had come to establish in Paris.

May God enkindle you with his holy Love, you and your dear sisters.

All yours in J. and M.,
Eymard

P.S. - Fr. Huguet seems happy in Paris. He related my story to Mme. Mantel, a friend of the Camus Ladies. Finally you will be able to breathe. God will bless you. Let people talk, but as for you, go forward. You have obedience, the Superior General, and God.

To settle my conscience, I must tell you that I said the novena of Masses . . . [three lines erased].

⁴⁶ The title of Marist.

⁴⁷ House of Adoration.

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 19/76)

Paris, May 31, 1856

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I saw Mr. Lalour the day before yesterday. I was happy to meet this holy man. Surely, if Miss Stephanie's vocation were marriage, I would have advised you to consider this choice. But she has a better Spouse, a more beautiful crown. Mr. Lalour really wants to become established; as God led him here, he will show him the way.⁴⁸ This fine doctor receives Communion every day to prepare for his new vocation.

The two children reached their destination. On the same evening they arrived they went to St. N. We have seen them since, and they are happy. I will go see them in a few days, as I will also inform the supreme Procurator about them. Count on me for everything, please.

Now I must tell you about the great Work of the most Blessed Sacrament. I began retreat on May 1st, Ascension Day, until the 13th, to submit to whatever obedience would indicate either for or against the eucharistic thought⁴⁹ which I have had for the last five years.

I was completely detached, resolved to give it up forever. How great was my surprise when, on the twelfth day, I heard these words from eminent men chosen to pass judgment upon my situation as a religious: "God is manifesting his holy Will. You must consecrate yourself entirely to the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament!" The only words or thoughts that came to me were to say: "Oh! how good God is!" Father Favre accepted this decision and showered me with affection and friendship. The Archbishop of Paris received the nascent Society with paternal kindness. Tomorrow, June 1, we will take over our new Cenacle, and become Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament, while remaining Marists in our heart and devotedness.

What hurts us a little is that our Cenacle will begin like Jesus in Bethlehem; we have nothing with which to receive our good Master. However, it seems that he finds his delight in poverty and we are happy about that. We are overcome with joy, because we are going to follow his life, his retreat in Nazareth and I hope, his apostolic life, one day his Passion, and in eternity, his glory.

I am not telling you about this, dear daughter, for your material help. No, we are at the service of a rich King, who is good and all-powerful! But in order to beg you to thank him with us for having chosen us! Then, you have enough responsibilities; we have our daily bread, don't worry about it.

When I think that the evening before my decision about this great matter with very Rev. Father Superior General, you were there with Madame your mother - my last visit, my last direction. I thank God for it.

I leave you and your dear daughter in the divine love of our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

My address for the moment is at the Hospice for priests of Marie Therese, rue d'Enfer, Paris.

⁴⁸ literally: choice.

⁴⁹ French: pense eucharistique.

588

CO 585

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(VII 3/5 IV 75)

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, May 31, 1856

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I cannot maintain silence with you about what just happened during this beautiful month of Mary and the Blessed Sacrament. Forgive my silence. You understand it.

The question of the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament is settled. I am free to dedicate myself entirely to it.

Fr. Favre was very kind to me and his piety strongly inclined him to this beautiful work.

The Archbishop of Paris welcomed it with fatherly kindness. Tomorrow, June 1st, we will take over our new Cenacle. - I ought to say, our poor Cenacle of Bethlehem, for alas! Jesus will begin by being very poor there! Provided at least that our love may repay him for the rest and that we may be pleasing to him! If only you were near by, I would have done like Moses in the desert asking the Israelite women for their jewels to adorn the tabernacle.

I don't want to ask my daughters in Lyons for anything, out of sensitivity, and then there are so many causes to give to in Lyons! However, as I have only one Mme. Jordan, I assure you that as a fellow villager, I would like to see something from you on our Eucharistic Altar! - I wasn't able to write to your dear daughter either. I will do so in a few days. - Pray a lot for me. - You owe it to me. -

I leave you to our Lord and I am forever,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

For the moment give my address to Father.

589

CO 586

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

*L.J.C.E.*⁵⁰

Paris, May 31, 1856

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

The past must now be left to divine mercy. - I am confident that the present is in accordance with the will of God, - for the future, I surrender myself to his fatherly Providence.

Thank you for your kind letter. I already knew how appreciative your heart is - that poor heart has been your cross, your calvary. It will be your death, but death in the life of our Lord. - I am distressed that I have been a cause of suffering, but it cannot be helped: our friends are our crosses.

I shall be the only one to read your letters. I am the only one to open them; and if I can help your dear soul again, it will be a most sweet compensation.

Tomorrow we will move into our new Cenacle: pray that we may become true disciples of the love of J.C., so that one day we may be his worthy Apostles.

⁵⁰ Abbreviation: Praised be Jesus Christ Eucharistic.

Foundation of the Congregation 1856

I don't need to tell you that I am in the best of terms and most cordial relationship with the Society of Mary - I am writing from the (Marist) Fathers' house, where I have remained until today.

Well, dear daughter, life passes so fast, I was nearly bidding you farewell from the next world⁵¹ - what happiness it will be when our race is over, but all for the glory of Jesus.

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

590

CO 587

TO FR. BENOIT LAGNIET, S.M.

(VI 4/4)

Paris, June 1, 1856

Good and very dear Father,

I cannot leave the house of Paris without thanking you for your brotherly welcome, and for all the favors and kindnesses you showed me. I will be eternally grateful and I hope to prove it to you always.

Shortly, we will enter into our new Cenacle and begin a work which, although beautiful and sublime in itself, grips my nature with fear at the sight of the sacrifices which await us and the virtues which must adorn a eucharistic religious.

I feel that I am very weak and very unworthy and I trust in your good prayers, dear and Very Reverend Father, in the protection of the Blessed Virgin and of St. Joseph. If we sow in tears, others perhaps, will reap in joy.

591

CO 588

TO FR. JEAN-FRANCOIS DENIS, S.M.

(VI 1/1)

Paris, June 1, 1856

Very dear colleague and friend,

I have just received and read your fraternal letter carefully. I thank you with all my heart for the feelings of charity and friendship which dictated it. A simple explanation will answer everything. Before using the dispensation of my vows, with the kind, loving and full consent of Very Reverend Father General, I left Lyons on April 30th to come to Paris to make a serious and rigorous retreat and to submit the idea of the Eucharistic Work into the hands of a wise, experienced judge free of all influence. During this retreat of 12 days I became totally detached toward a yes or a no. I said with simplicity everything that was against me. Very Reverend Father Superior General came to see me during my retreat, as well as dear Fr. Lagniet. I affirm that I was not under the power of any outside influence.⁵²

When I felt the silence of those who were testing me and heard them say: "The matter is serious, I need to pray, to study, to consult," Fr. Lagniet will tell you that until the last day I was

⁵¹ He was deathly ill at Leudeville.

⁵² Perhaps a reference to the possible influence of Fr. de Cuers.

expecting to return to Lyons immediately. My sacrifice was made. How great was my surprise to receive as an answer: "We believe that it is the will of God that you should dedicate yourself to the Work of the most Blessed Sacrament." Believe me, Father, I had suffered so much. I could foresee so many crosses, that my heart would have been content to avoid them. Father General wrote me a letter so full of kindness and friendship. I remain a Marist in my heart and devotion. I will serve the Society. One thing that sustained me is difficult to write. On the night of the final decision, Fr. Lagniet came to get me at the place of my retreat and I stayed with the Fathers. Therefore, there is neither scandal nor war; there is a very fraternal friendship. I didn't consult any of the names you mentioned to me. I don't know who you refer to as P.C.... I am wrong as I write it. I understand who...: well, he had nothing to do with my present decision.

That, dear Father, is the state of the matter. It is no longer I who have judged or decided. I am no longer acting through personal inclination, or feelings, and if you knew everything, you would pray for the success of this Work which can benefit everyone. Don't be afraid of division, nor opposition. We don't want to receive members from the Society, but quite to the contrary we hope to give you some. That, dear Father, is all I can tell you. Besides, you must have received the circular letter of Very Reverend Father. Let us remain friends and brothers. Whatever anyone might say contrary to what I have just told you is an invention, as so many were created at La Seyne and Toulon. God permitted it; may he be praised for it!

In a moment, I will go to the House of adoration. Pray for me. Your letter pleased me; it shows me your heart and friendship. Believe me, etc.

Fr. Eymard

June 2 - First Mass celebrated on rue d'Enfer.

592

CO 589

TO MME. GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)
(VII 5/8)

Paris, June 3, 1856

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I must not forget the one who was like a mother to me. So I am writing to give you news about myself.

I am here in Paris - Rev. Father Superior General allowed me to dedicate myself to the foundation of the Work of the Blessed Sacrament, the purpose of which is perpetual adoration and everything that concerns the eucharistic ministry, like first Communions, Retreats, etc.

We took over our new Cenacle on June 1 with a devout procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

Our first occupation has been to prepare a sanctuary for our Lord where he will be adored night and day - and I will not forget you there, good and dear daughter, nor your dear child and family.

God is the one who directed everything. - Every day, I see the signs of his paternal Providence.

We have nothing, and yet we are beginning a magnificent Work. - The Cenacle begins with Bethlehem.

Then, when we have Jesus, says the Imitation, we have everything - the essential thing is to love him with our whole heart.

You will pray for us, won't you? - We really need it, because in order to make a foundation, we must crucify ourselves and be crucified.

Foundation of the Congregation 1856

My respectful regards to Mme. Elisa and her dear mother - and believe me ever in our Lord, good and dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard, P. Blessed Sacrament

My address!
Rue d'Enfer 114
Paris

593

CO 590

TO MISS GIGUET⁵³
(VII 1/6)

Paris, rue d'Enfer, June 3, 1856

Miss Giguët,

Thank you, my dear daughter, for your little letter. It caught up with me in Paris, where I have [come to] settle for a new Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I wanted to go see you before leaving, but didn't have the time. I'm very happy to know that you are peaceful and well cared for in this holy house. Divine Providence placed you there, so never cease giving thanks.

I cannot forget the good and devout Lady whom God gave you as your Mother. Tell her to pray for me, in her charity.

As for you, my dear daughter, surrender yourself to the goodness of God and don't worry about the past. God will take care of it, have confidence. Everything will be taken care of. See the goodness of God more than your spiritual limitations. God loves you with the love of a father and a mother. He wants you in Heaven.

Pray for me, dear daughter, so that I may truly respond to God's plans and work only for his glory.

I pray and will pray for you, because your soul will always be dear to me in our Lord.
Believe me ever in his divine love,

Your Ever Devoted,
Eymard

⁵³ Boarder at the house of our Lady of Compassion, Rue de l'Antiquaille, Lyons.

TO BISHOP CASIMIR WICART
(VI 1/2)⁵⁴

Paris, June 4, 1856

Your Excellency,

Since divine Providence has given you another diocese, I deeply desired to be remembered by Your Excellency as I shall always profess the deepest respect and gratitude for you. I had the consolation, nearly one year ago, to share with Your Excellency a plan to establish the Society of the Blessed Sacrament. You kindly blessed that idea. Today, the little Society of the Blessed Sacrament is founded in Paris after many trials. My Superior General, believing that it was the will of God, has given me full freedom to dedicate myself entirely to it. The Archbishop of Paris welcomed this newborn work. The Bishop of Tripoli is its protector and ecclesiastical Superior. We came into our new Cenacle on Sunday, June 1st. It is the former Chateaubriand house, rue d'Enfer 114, presently the property of the Archdiocese. A few of us have already gathered together. We are expecting 5 priests. This little Society has as its purpose (as I had the honor of telling you): 1^o perpetual adoration and reparation, and for works of zeal, retreats for priests, clerics, laity, the Work of First Communion of Adults; alas, so numerous in Paris, retreats for First Communion in the parishes, clerical retreats - finally, preaching 40 hours.

There are 3 kinds of members, religious priests, brothers and associates; that is, veterans of the priesthood. The religious take the 3 vows.⁵⁵

See what has become of your first blessing. This thought began in your diocese. - It is like the grain of wheat which is still in the ground. - We have an immense need of prayer. - Your Excellency, you have always been so kind to me, you will not refuse me - because this Work is also partly yours, Your Excellency...

TO BISHOP FRANCOIS DE LA BOUILLERIE, BISHOP OF CARCASSONE⁵⁶
(VI 1/1)

[Paris, June 1856]

I have returned here to the Cenacle. - On June 1st, we took over, beginning with the procession of Corpus Christi. - We said Holy Mass here on the 2nd. - The Work which your devotion and tender love desired is beginning in poverty, it's true, but also with the joy and gratitude of our hearts. - We are rich, with our Lord.

On Sunday evening there was a sermon for the nocturnal adoration at St. Roch. - The Bishop of Tripoli⁵⁷ did us the honor of inviting us, and there that good and holy Bishop announced the foundation of our Society with so much affection and promise that we were quite embarrassed. - He even ended his homily by saying that one day it would be a great Order in the Church, and from now on the adorers were to consider us as brothers, or rather Fathers, and that we were the natural center for adoration.

⁵⁴ Former Bishop of Frejus, now Bishop of Laval.

⁵⁵ Poverty, chastity and obedience.

⁵⁶ Vicar General of Paris, later Bishop of Carcassone. Listed by Fr. Guitton as "Louis" de la Bouillierie. cf. footnote to Doc. 568.

⁵⁷ Msgr. Sibour, Auxiliary Bishop of Paris

On the Bishop's advice we made 4 visits: the first to the Nuncio. - We were made most welcome. Fr. Gaume was very kind - Mother Marie-Therese and Fr. de Rastignac, who edified me greatly, and received us with....

Now we are preparing for the 2 great aims of the Society; the contemplative life through adoration, recollection, silence, forming a Guard of Honor for Jesus, sharing a common life with him; and then the active life of eucharistic zeal, spiritual retreats, the First Communion of Adults, preaching 40 Hours; in a word, spreading the eucharistic fire in every heart.

If only you were here, Your Excellency, to lead us personally in the battle. But you love us as your children, and your love will be with us, as will your devotion and ardent zeal for the glory of our Eucharistic Lord.

We are expecting 5 priests - 2 arrived yesterday...

June 15 - The Blessed Sacrament was reserved in the Tabernacle at rue d'Enfer.

596

CO 594

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 143/395 VI 2)

*All for the love and glory of our dear
Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Paris*

*rue d'Enfer 114
June 20, 1856*

My dear daughter, I received your letter, your note of a hundred francs, your prayers and your feelings for me which never change.

Thank you for everything. You can be sure that your soul and all your concerns are ever dearer to me, and if God so wills, I hope to see you as a religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament someday. It may be providential that the Third Order House hasn't been established yet. I want you to know that as far as I am concerned, I was completely for it, more than I said and more than people may have surmised. I would even have liked to begin it and get it underway. The time was not right. Then, I could see that Very Rev. Father General desired it, but I was afraid there would be many difficulties. The fact is that there are some major ones. Let us pray, everything is possible for God, so let us learn how to wait and suffer.

Yes, your vows were and are true vows, not religious in the sense of an established and approved Order; but religious and holy in God's sight. You wouldn't have received so many graces and blessings, if they had been only a pious thought. So thank God for them and continue with them. They have protected you.

Thank you for everything you sent us. I was deeply touched and almost sad about it, dear daughters! . . . [*two lines erased*].

May God repay you a thousand times over!

We are not in hardship. We have all we need. I am happy to have a few sacrifices to make, and to know how to go without many things. When Jesus Christ is our all, we need so little!

I would never have experienced poverty or God's motherly care except for this new situation I am in. We began like someone out in the desert, with a pair of sheets, a chair, one spoon, not two. It's wonderful. We are beginning to make our chapel more suitable. We are spending all that we have on it. The Eucharistic King deserves it. What an altar! only white wood, without any covering! What a tabernacle! four planks,⁵⁸ no more, no less. My heart rejoiced and cried at the sight of this Bethlehem; today, we covered the altar with calico, one meter minus eight and it's so much better.

⁵⁸ a wooden box.

Until now we had only one amice, and two purificators for both of us; yesterday, we received two with a few purificators. Everything we have for worship is borrowed; little by little our Lord will send us something. A friend will give us a few vestments.

As for you good daughter, please send us a few altar linens. If possible, concentrate on making amices for us (a bit larger than those of La Favorite), and purificators; as for corporals, two or three would be sufficient, as they gave us two; or better yet, if there is enough linen to make the top of an alb, that would be useful. Just do for the best. Only, my good daughter

Miss de Revel or ... are the only ones who could have spoken to you about my letter. I'm most grateful to God that you want to help us. However the women⁵⁹ have so many responsibilities and good works to support that I'm not surprised by their silence. On the contrary, I thank God for it.

God will inspire strangers. He has already done so, or a few true daughters like yourself. Oh! If they knew how high the interest rate is when investing in this new Work, and what an honor it is to contribute to it! But as I told you, I have imposed upon myself the rule not to make any requests in Lyons. So then, be sure that I will never mention your name. I understand only too well what a sensitive matter that is.

Please have a bit more courage, dear daughter. Belong to God alone; human beings [seem] to have the mission to make each other suffer.

The two students are well. The eldest is learning to be a cobbler, I held firm to that. The other trades would have cost money. The rest of the money was given in advance. The monthly payments have been made until August 1st.

My love to all your sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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

597

CO 595

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 21/52)

All for Jesus Christ Eucharistic

rue d'Enfer, 114, Paris, June 21, 1856

Dear daughter and sister in our Lord,

Thank you for your brief note: it brought me great comfort. Let us put aside all earthly matters: the soul of Jesus Christ, his love, and his glory suffice. Give me your suffering, humiliations and longings and I don't need anything else at the feet of our divine Master and Lord.

What joy! Since last Sunday we have a Tabernacle, and in the Tabernacle, Jesus Christ with his graces, his love, his Heaven: - everything. So, I don't notice anything else now, not even physical weaknesses. My cell is the door of the sanctuary; I am its guardian, I would almost say, its master.

In a few weeks we will have a larger chapel where Jesus, our good Jesus, will be solemnly exposed, and will send out his light and fruitful love everywhere.

⁵⁹ The Third Order members.

How fortunate we are! When I think of the road of thorns and suffering we have travelled, I have only one regret, that I didn't suffer alone enough. I am asking our good Master to give me enough love to have the strength to suffer and be crucified. Dear daughter, pray for that [intention] for me.

I don't know why, but I feel sad about you. Are you ill? On the Cross? Are you sighing for Heaven in the desert? But now you have a little bit of Heaven, of the Cenacle, of the Tabernacle of Jesus. How surprised I was to see the magnificent podium made by dear Mr. Alphonse! I never would have suspected that it would be so beautiful, so splendid; thank you!

Give me news about yourself when you can, and believe that I am ever in the love of our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, P.S.S.S.⁶⁰

Mme. Tholin-Bost

On June 22, Fr. Eymard wrote his last will and testament in favor of his sisters, naming Fr. de Cuers and Fr. Champion as executors. For text, see Vol. VI, August 6, 1868.

598

CO 596

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 28/33)

June 22, or 23, 1856

Madame,

Your good letter really brought me comfort. You are feeling better and you have recovered some peace and good will. But I can understand and feel the repercussions of your trials and difficulties. You see yourself in the midst of a frightening sea, abandoned, alone and afraid, and your little ship is tossed about. Then the devil and your weakness [both] say: you cannot escape, everything is lost! Oh! No! Nothing is lost. You will not perish. None of your interior struggles and storms have destroyed your need to love God. On the contrary, they reveal it, but they frighten you. You love God, that is sure. The good Lord loves you as his child, you cannot doubt it. However, he is leaving you in the desert a while in order that you may expiate your former loves of Egypt; - and have a more spiritual longing for the true promised land. But I know your great sorrow is that you are not able to love God as he wills and you are tempting him. So many interior reproaches are killing you, the world attracts and disgusts you, - everything you hear, read and meditate is insufficient for your suffering and agonizing heart. - Well! a little retreat will restore peace and order.

Courage Madame, it would be a shame to halt on such a beautiful path. So first of all, get a grip on your heart - humbly bring our Lord to mind - bear patiently with his apparent strictness toward you.

The sun of truth and love will shine again for you and you will appreciate it even more.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

⁶⁰ Priest of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 10/28)

Praise and love to Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament

June 23⁶¹

My dear daughter,

You must think that I have forgotten you, since I've been so silent.⁶² Oh no! Your soul is too dear to me in our Lord that I neglect to pray for, and desire all of God's blessings upon you. I couldn't write. I was over-worked and not well.

Your letter made me so happy. I can see that you are still a daughter of Jesus and Mary, that you really want to love them and, what is better, to serve them.

Oh! yes, have a great love for our Lord and God. That is why you are so loved and richly graced: it is life and eternity. Always serve our good Master well: he is so good and so great! Do give him the poverty of your life and the simplicity of your heart: he is so worthy of all our love!

Then also, this short and dismal life passes like a cloud, like lightning; so we must hurry to love God so that Heaven may be its beautiful and rich harvest.

If you knew how sad a person is at the time of death, when they have only a piece of their heart to bring to our Lord, only a mixed life! But you want to be entirely his, you are his. For his sake, bear with all your heart's weakness, sorrows in devotion, sadness: that is all very good; it's the path of liberation from the world; it's the struggle and cry of the soul, saying: "Oh my Jesus, you alone are good, the good of my soul and the life of my life!"

Stay in the desert, but, like the dove which flew out of the ark, seek God and the perfection of his love.

Although your sister is on a different path, go to her as you did before; love her even more. Let her talk and think as she likes; you are her sister.

You are praying for me: continue to do so, my dear daughter, I need it. As for me, I offer you every day to the divine Spouse of your soul.

Goodbye in his divine love,

Eymard

Miss Antonia Bost
Tarare

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 144/395 VI 2)

United in the Eucharist in the love of J.C.

Paris, June 24, 1856

My daughter, I've just received your letter, with the note for a hundred francs. How good God is! I thank you in him. [*three lines erased*] repay you with blessings!

The measures for our altar are: length of the altar-table, two meters 63 centimeters; height on the side, 94 centimeters; altar-table width, 88 centimeters; Communion cloth, 3 meters 30

⁶¹ Probably 1856.

⁶² First letter since July 2, 1855.

centimeters. Our altar is Roman style, the altar cloth must fall 94 centimeters on each side. The trim should be narrow, from 10 to 15 centimeters. Don't buy anything to cover the altar; we will have it painted, it will cost very little.

It might be better to wait a few more days before sending us what you so charitably have in mind. We will find use for everything.

We received two or three amices and a few purificators. Please buy five or six pairs of horsehair soles at Miss Camus'; they cost six or seven cents a pair. Pay for it with the money you are sending me.

I'll be writing to Miss de R. I hadn't intended to get in touch with her. However, she is asking me for a few details.

I received a letter from.... That dear family surprised me. They are offering 500 francs for our Cenacle. See for yourself, my dear daughter, whether divine Providence forsakes us!

I'm pleased to know that you are peaceful and happy, it was just a little storm. Then too, don't let yourself be so upset by people who are absent-minded or too busy.

Blessings on your trip ... [*two lines erased*].

Best wishes to your dear sisters. I am really touched by their warmhearted wishes. Even without that, you could be sure of my dedication and tender affection for you in our Lord, in whose love I am,

All yours,
Eymard

601

CO 599

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(VIII 1/1 IV 75)

*All for the love and glory
of our Lord J.C. in the Blessed Euch.*

*Rue d'Enfer 114
Paris, June 26, 1856*

Madame and very dear sister in Mary,

I was very grateful that you remembered me. Union in God has no vicissitudes whether in form, time, or circumstances. The soul has no state, no life other than the will of God. You understand me - the name changes nothing.⁶³

Here I am, then, devoted and consecrated to the realization of a beautiful beloved project⁶⁴, that of creating for J.C. in the Blessed Eucharist a Guard of Honor of faithful adorers, so that the King of Heaven may have, like kings of earth, a Court of devoted hearts. Perpetual adoration is to be made by the religious of the Most Bl. Sacrament, in conjunction with the Associates in the world who will come to give a few hours of the day or the night to the exercise of adoration.

Love does not stop there. It needs zeal. Fire ascends, spreads, and would consume everything. Religious of the Most Bl. Sacrament are consecrated to the Eucharistic ministry, 40 hours preached in parishes, First Communion retreats - and the Work of First Communion of Adults, as well as the aggregation for adoration. So you can see that there is only one idea⁶⁵, though the scope is vast, the focus is always eucharistic.

As befits the things of God, the little Society of the Most Bl. Sacrament is beginning in poverty and simplicity. It is [like] the grain of wheat which is first buried in the ground, then germinates, grows and bears fruit... the essential thing for us is to have the blessing of God - and to be faithful to his grace; and so we have great need of prayers - that is the first alms of charity.

⁶³ Change of Congregation.

⁶⁴ French: pensée.

⁶⁵ French: pensée.

Foundation of the Congregation 1856

Thank you, dearest daughter, for your gift to the new Cenacle. May God reward you infinitely - it is a beautiful stone for our new little chapel, and from which Jesus will send forth his rays far and wide. As for the beautiful altar cloth that you are so kind to embroider, our altar, in Roman style, will not take lace wider than 10 to 15 centimetres. The length of the table is 2 meters 63 centimeters, the width is 88. - the height of the altar from which the cloth is to hang is 90. - If only you were in Paris! You could come and see for yourself and pray in this Cenacle! We place you at the feet of our Lord - you, your dear husband and your children. -

The Society of the Bl. Sacr. is founded outside the Society of Mary - the two cannot go together, and the members must not be Marists - that much is clear. You realize how much we need God to really choose the pioneers who will begin the Work. Several priests, and good priests, must come to join us.

What a new disappointment for you, dear daughter! certainly the position of councillor would have been the very best - God hasn't willed it for some greater good. We must adore his adorable designs.

When you write to your dear daughter,⁶⁶ please remember me to her. One of these days I shall write to her.

Believe me, ever in our Lord,
My good daughter,

All yours,
Eymard S.S.S.

Madame Jordan
rue de Castries 10 or 11
Lyons, Rhone

602

CO 600

TO MISS ROSE NEGRE, TOULON
(V 1/4)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, June 29, 1856

...You are suffering; that is the best of all prayers. Your eye problems will not prevent you from being a religious of the Blessed Sacrament. Here, it's sufficient to have a heart and will which belong totally to God. So, don't be too upset, and especially consider it all as a grace of God. It will be so easy for our good Master to heal you when he judges that it would be for his glory!

Don't give in to sadness: when we are with our divine Spouse, and we possess him, we must rejoice.

Our little Cenacle is being prepared, and we are waiting joyfully for the happy day when Jesus will be on his throne of glory and love. On that day, we will place the names and hearts of all his eucharistic children at the foot of this divine throne. You can imagine that yours will not be forgotten!

Goodbye, dear daughter. Be patient, have trust and love.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Priest, SSS

⁶⁶ Mathilde Giraud-Jordan.

TO A MARIST PRIEST

(VI 1/1)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, Rue d'Enfer 114, June 20, 1856⁶⁷

Very dear and Reverend Father,

The work is being planted at the foot of the Cross in order that the divine blood of the Savior will make it sprout and grow. - It is beginning well as God's works begin.

But the sweet and boundless consolation that God has sent me is to have preserved the friendship of Very Rev. Father General, fraternal bonds with the good Fathers of Paris with the fine and sensitive Fr. Lagniet who, in this circumstance, has shown me more than ever the kindness of his heart and the sincerity of his friendship! - I often go to see the Fathers, and it seems to me that the only change is in the name...which remains profoundly written in my heart.

Good and dear Father, pray for us, in order that our unworthiness and weaknesses not paralyze the grace of God.

Do not forget me near our Good Mother.

Eymard

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 16/52)

To Miss Stephanie

July 1, 1856

My dear daughter,

I am writing a few words to answer your letter and to begin by saying that your soul is even dearer to me now that Mary, our good Mother, has given me to Jesus to serve him in his Sacrament of love.

I cannot tell you the peace and joy my soul experiences to see that I am called to the divine Cenacle!

Nothing strikes me as vile or humiliating to prepare the Cenacle. We have taken care of moving things, waxing floors, acting as porters. I think I would even become a cook. Everything is divine when we serve a God.

I don't know whether I will see this little mustard seed flower. It doesn't matter, provided that Jesus be glorified one day. What am I saying? Provided that my desires may please him.

Mary, my good Mother, is my Mother for a double reason, because I owe her this second vocation. Oh! When will the day come when we will solemnly expose this Sun of grace and love, and see it radiate over all of Paris and the world! Do pray, dear daughter, so that we may become saints, men who are truly eucharistic.

As for you, continue to go to God in simplicity, forgetting the past just like a child, always resolving to do better and to please God. Don't torment yourself so much about your coldness and limitations. Blessed are the poor in spirit!

⁶⁷ or 30th?

Sleep torments you, it's a terrible temptation. However, begin by taking the time you need to sleep. Organize things to be free at night from all your ordinary practices of devotion. At your age, you cannot deprive yourself of sleep without consequences.⁶⁸

Don't commit yourself to care for your little niece. That would harm both soul and body. You must give a little of yourself to everything. Be a disciple of divine Providence, that is your dear mother's title, share it and be its disciple.

Goodbye, dear daughter; reject whatever upsets you. Leave aside whatever confuses you; enjoy as a great grace whatever leads you to God in peace and holy freedom.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

605

CO 592

TO MME.SAUVESTRE DE LA BOURALIERE⁶⁹
(VII 2/2)

July 4, 1856⁷⁰

The Third Order of the Most Blessed Sacrament cannot be established until we have founded and stabilized the Congregation of priests who are beginning in Paris.

Continue to lift up your prayers for its success. It is the principal Work of our times.

606

CO 603

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 18/26 VII 17)

All for the love and the Glory of Jesus Eucharistic

rue d'Enfer 114, Paris, July 4, 1856,

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in Mary,

I offered great thanks to God for sparing you, as I feared greatly for your Brottaux house. You had sacrificed it; you still have everything, plus one merit more. And so this world's fortune rests upon very shadowy foundations, and a drop of water, a spark, the tiniest thing, sets us back to our original poverty, but the riches of grace and glory are eternal in God.

I have heard Fr. Michon highly spoken of. He is devout, calm and gentle. I was told that he would be only second in charge. They may be looking for an older man - but the channel is unimportant if pure water flows through it.

A good resolve! Purity of intention is the philosopher's stone, recollection⁷¹ is the mold, and humility is the workman. - You have chosen admirably, - there is still work to be done, watering, cultivating, right up to the winter of death.

You are wise to go to Fr. Michon once a month, at least in fine weather. - It is a good example, an act of virtue, and a precious bond for your sacred responsibility.

⁶⁸ Literally: without danger.

⁶⁹ An authentic scrap done in pencil.

⁷⁰ Or June 8. Troussier.

⁷¹ Mindfulness, attentiveness syn.

Thank you, Oh thank you for your kind and constant prayer for me before God. It is the greatest proof of your spiritual affection as I see it - the rest is nothing; what is all-important is that we be saints, that we accomplish his Holy Will, that we procure His glory. Oh, how many graces we need when we wish to found a new Work! The thought terrifies me, I have but one consolation - it is that the glory of God be wholly active and powerful through our weaknesses and limitations.

We are surrounded by workmen of all sorts! masons, locksmiths, carpenters, roofers, etc.

Our chapel is being enlarged; it will all be finished in 2 weeks.

We are living in the house of Chateaubriand - I have his bedroom looking out on his fine cedar of Lebanon and the magnificent park which makes this place the most delightful and the most quiet in Paris. God loves us!

Our temporary chapel was the great man's former laboratory. - J.C. has replaced him, and the inspirations of love have pride of place over the Genius (so beautiful) of Christianity.⁷²

So far there are only three of us; there are a few vocations in the making. We are waiting for some good and saintly Priests, but first we had to prepare the Upper Room, - and when all is ready, Jesus will come with his Apostles. How do we manage? Like the birds in the fields, - or, better still, we are saying to the King ... the soldiers serve, but the King feeds and lodges them, and so far our good King has cared very well for us. - We shall adorn his sanctuary according to our means; first, like solitaries, like shepherds; art and magnificence will follow later.

A rich harvest is in sight, Paris! alas! in Paris, what spiritual destitution! what ignorance! what indifference! Apart from perpetual adoration, we have 3 works of zeal: the 40 hours' preached in parishes, retreats, and First Communion for Adults. - Oh! there are so many in Paris who are more pagan than the pagans, without First Communion, without church wedding, without Baptism!

What interesting things you tell me, dear daughter, about your sister-in-law, your niece, etc. But what can I say to you? That you acted rightly? Yes. As for the rest - see her and visit her - I perceive that the initial difficulties are over; there is still the painful impression of that sad past which has left you carrying the cross alone,⁷³ but also with all the merit and immense consolation - I would be in favor of visiting and renewing contact - for the sake of the children, and also on the principle of sacrifice.

I have space enough left just to bless you and to tell you with what affectionate fidelity I am united with you.

EYD

Mademoiselle de Revel
rue Ste Helene
Lyons, Rhone

607

CO 604

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 104/145 VI 10)

All for Jesus

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, July 5, 1856

Very dear sisters,

I am coming to give you news about myself; I am well and better than at Lyons.

The Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament is being blessed by God. We have been in the midst of workmen until now. We are building a chapel for Perpetual Adoration. It will be finished, I hope, in two weeks. I didn't have time to give you the details about this beautiful work [before now].

⁷² Ref. Chateaubriand's "Genie du Christianisme" [1802] - a Romantic - Philosophical book, not a theological one.

⁷³ alternate translation: with the whole cross.

Foundation of the Congregation 1856

It is a religious Society whose purpose is perpetual adoration, with the Blessed Sacrament exposed day and night and adored by religious and lay people who live in the world and form an Association.

The Priests of the Most Blessed Sacrament devote themselves to eucharistic ministry, that is: to preaching forty Hour Devotions established in Paris, to giving retreats, to the Work of First Communion of adults, etc. God has deigned to use me to direct this holy Work, in spite of my insufficiency and unworthiness. Before being founded in Paris, this Society had its difficulties and trials.

The former Superior General, Fr. Colin, had encouraged me to do it. Then, having given his resignation, the new Superior who replaced him didn't want to take any responsibility on himself, so the question of the Work was submitted to the Pope who strongly encouraged it and advised that it begin. But in Rome, they did not advise that it be done in the Society of Mary, lest one work should impede or harm the other. The Council at Lyons was of the same opinion. So, with the consent of the Superior General, I came to Paris to make a retreat under spiritual men to examine whether it was God's will that I should labor at this project. Three Bishops examined the question, two from Paris and one from Carcassonne. After twelve days of retreat, prayer, and study, they told me that they believed that God willed that I should devote myself to the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament and that it should be done in Paris. The Archbishop who received us in a house belonging to the diocese is favoring this Eucharistic Work as much as he can. So now, I am here devoting myself to establishing this little Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Many of us are gathered here. But in order to work more freely, I had to request the dispensation of my vows from the Society of Mary to make those of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament and become a religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the beautiful title given to us.

I am very happy for such a beautiful lot and such a holy vocation.

Now, dear sisters, you must really pray for us, that we may do God's work fervently. God had been drawing me to this project⁷⁴ for five years - such a great grace cannot be paid too dearly. I cannot tell you yet when I will be able to come to La Mure. We need to organize everything first.

Please present my affectionate and devoted respects to good Fr. Cat. Tell him that my emissary to Rome did not succeed, but that I will make a third request for him by means of the Nuncio.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard, p, SSS

Miss Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

⁷⁴ French: pensée.

TO MR. CREUSET

(V 7/8)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer, 114, July 5, 1856

Very dear friend,

Your kind letter made me very happy. It was the first that I received from a son and brother. I am happy to see that this eucharistic Work entrusted to me by God's grace has all your faithful support, and that I haven't lost any of your affection.

It cost me a lot to tell God: "Cut, burn, sever, provided that I am pleasing to you, and that I may do something for your glory." Although I sacrificed the beautiful name of Marist, I have maintained toward it all the esteem and love of an ever devoted son. Mary giving Jesus one of her religious, and this religious being myself, alas! who is so poor and so weak! It is my sweet trust that our dear Mother will always love me and guide me on this new path. Besides, there is nothing new: it is the perpetual worship of the divine Eucharist; it is the eucharistic ministry, consecrated entirely to have Jesus known, loved, received and glorified in his Sacrament of love. - I may be weak, poor, ill, a sinner, but Jesus remains rich in his graces, my Savior, the eucharistic God, saying to everyone: "Come to me!"

Yes, dear friend and brother, I am happy to associate you to the eucharistic Work, its little sufferings, its weak merits; and I give you the title of eucharistic brother. In return, you will give us your prayers, your sufferings.

How often I say to myself: "Please God that all Mr. Creuset's children were grown up! He would come to be one more guard of honor."

Let your wealth always consist in trust in God, your strength in the cross, your shelter the divine Eucharist, and God will be your all.

May God bless your family and fill you always more and more with his holy love.

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

Mr. Creuset
rue St. Jean, 12
Lyons

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON

(V 6/9)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

rue d'Enfer 114, July 6, 1856

Mademoiselle,

This is the second letter that I write to you. The first one fell out of the package. I hope this one will fare better.

I don't need to tell you that I am in Paris, for the Eucharistic Work, that the little Society of the Blessed Sacrament has been planted in the ground and is developing at the foot of the cross, and

that future adorers are preparing for it in silence and solitude. - The purpose of this Work is perpetual adoration and reparation. Its means of zeal all the works which relate to the divine Eucharist: retreats, preaching 40 hours, the work of First Communion of adults, etc.

The great lever is the grace of God, and our correspondence with this grace. Oh, how much we need to become saints, angels of adoration!

That, in a few words, is what is happening. When I was telling you about this Work, I didn't expect such a development of events. God directed everything! Others say that it's an illusion, self-pride, the devil. For my part, when I see what God has done, the difficulties and trials I have gone through, I say: It's God's work.

My limitations, my sins, my ignorance are my own. The grace and the goodness of God are God's and come from him.

So therefore, Mademoiselle, I hope to see you in Paris, since Lyons was too big for us to meet. Here I run less and I am more alone, and I praise God for it.

If you are kind enough to write to me, give me news about dear Mr. Foloppe and his saintly mother.

Then, after scolding me a little, [give me] news about your people and your works...

Believe me ever in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard, P. S.S.S.

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CO 607

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 145/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 8, 1856

How can I thank you, my good daughter, for all the treasures you are sending us! When we opened them, we were like children who look and look again, then make a thousand plans and projects! Now we are really rich. How good God is, and good because of you. May his kindness repay you for it!

I felt very keenly and still do, the difference between a friendship that responds at the first moment and to the first need, and a friendship that waits, that needs to weigh things first, or whose help must be solicited.

So, our Lord will know the difference, and so do I.

We didn't lack any necessities of life, but many needed objects. What can you do, when you come into a house with four walls, without stove or cook!

Now we laugh about it, now that we have the principal necessities. Every day, cooks come to offer to work. One day we had two people for breakfast, but only three spoons for four people. Fortunately, I noticed it in time and said that I wouldn't take any coffee: wasn't that nice?

See how good God is! We had to take our meals in restaurants here and there. I begged God to send someone, and he sent us a young man.

That's always the way: after a small cross, we receive a favor.

Yesterday, I was going to go out to borrow two amices. A lady came at that moment and brought us three, with an altar cloth and a Benediction veil.

So many graces from Providence bring us consolation and joy! Don't pay attention, dear daughter, to all the little storms that are taking place on my account. First, let it be said that I will never mention you or speak of what you are doing for our Lord.

I can excuse those good people who might say some hurtful things about me, it's only reasonable when seen with the eyes of friendship. Then, for the sake of the Body,⁷⁵ it's only right to sacrifice an individual issue. They are speaking only about my personal decision; not about the one made after my retreat. It's just a little cloud. Nevertheless, thank you for everything you told me about it, I will try to be more prudent with those people, through charity. Be indifferent in my regard, like a stranger. God forbid that I should receive any Marists with us; that would confuse everything. My thoughts are quite set about that, unless Very Rev. Fr. Favre would consent to it.

Here are a few details about our beginnings. You know about the difficulties in Toulon and those in Lyons before I left for Paris. Until then I had limited myself to requesting a temporary permission for a year or two, to set the Work afloat, since no one wanted to give themselves to it at the beginning. Lyons refused and said to me: either give it up, or leave. Very Rev. Fr. Favre suffered a great deal over it, he wanted to conciliate all parties. His council was against me and against the Work. To cover Fr. Favre, I had recourse to Rome and I requested that the answer should be addressed to him and not to me, so that the credit would be his. Consequently, I was bound to silence and went to Chaintr to finish the Manual.⁷⁶ Before leaving for Rome, Fr. General even told me twice: "I will speak about your matter to the Pope, and I hope that you will submit to everything the Pope will say!" – "Wholeheartedly and absolutely", I said. "With me it's a matter of conscience: let it be settled and everything will be over."

In Rome Very Rev. Father saw my friends who agreed with him, but I wasn't there. He stayed two or three hours in the Pope's waiting room, intending to speak to him about it. He spoke about it for an hour with Bishop Lucquet, whose thought was the same as that of the Reparation sister, therefore against ours.

Fr. Favre forgot my request when he was with the Pope. God allowed it, since I had definitely decided to obey his least sign, his least desire. When he came back, the question had gone no further. I prayed at Chaintr, and I dare say that I never prayed nor suffered so much, while begging God to show me his holy will and how I should respond. When the time came, I felt something so strong and so clear within me that, after begging and asking for the simple permissions, I asked to be freed from my vows. Seeing my firm decision, it was granted to me. That was the first period of my decision and here is the second. Before leaving Lyons, I prayed and it seemed prudent to me to submit to one final test: to come to Paris for a retreat at the hands of wise and pious men, submit to them all the reasons for and against, and abandon myself blindly to their decision, without appeal. I submitted this idea to Very Reverend Father General who gladly approved it. He put off the execution of my dispensation until after the retreat. I came to Paris; I wanted to be near the Reparation Chapel. After my first Mass, they indicated that I should leave. The Vicar General, the Superior of the Work, did not want them to receive me, or else perhaps Mother⁷⁷ didn't want it, I don't know.

Not knowing where to go, yet wanting to make an independent retreat, I was told about a community of men who receive retreatants. I was received on the day of the Ascension after much searching. I was given a drafty, unheated room; and then another which was very damp. At night my sheets were as damp as if they had just been brought in from the dew; the food was poor. God sustained me.

First of all I opened my heart to a devout and prudent Bishop. He didn't want to take the matter upon himself and referred me to the auxiliary Bishop of Paris; I did not know him. I made it my rule to let God alone act and forbade that anyone take any steps on my behalf.

After four days of retreat and conscientious openness giving the reasons for and against, I was told: "Return in eight days. We need to pray, to reflect and to consult."

During that interval, Father General came to see me, and I told him what I had said. He laughed about it, and believed as I did that the matter was decided against me. Nonetheless, he added: "Well! I desire only the will of God as you do. If they judge that you should dedicate yourself to this Work, we will submit. If it is in our favor, we will only be the happier for it."

⁷⁵ Religious Congregation of the Marists.

⁷⁶ Manual for the Third Order of Mary.

⁷⁷ Mother Marie Therese Dubouche, of the Reparation Sisters.

Fr. Lagniet came to see me afterwards, and proposed that I should leave this poor dwelling; I thanked him for it. He told me that a temporary permission could be arranged, as I had requested ... It was too late. The matter was too far advanced; "Then, it's useless," I said, "if they are against the Work, I will return immediately to Lyons." I must admit that before this new Calvary that was taking shape before me, my heart and feelings would have preferred to return to Lyons. What struggles and temptations I went through! I received very difficult letters. I could see all their thoughts and especially all they were saying. God knows. God wants it for the best. I said to myself, "May he be blessed!" I believe that I answered with serenity and charity. It came from La Seyne and Toulon.

Since the moment of decision my soul has continuously enjoyed great peace. When a cross would come to me, I was able to suffer. God gave me the grace to kiss it with submission and gratitude.

Admire God's plans: during my retreat, the community that had received me (The Holy Heart of Mary) died out and was disbanded. We took their place, my trunk never left here.

The people destined to help our Work all crossed our path. Those who weren't to be part of it didn't receive us.

We had many troubles with the remnants of the former Community. We didn't want anything to do with them, nor their furniture. Yet for nearly a month, we had to bear with them; we wanted to be free. It's also a grace that the Superior of the Reparation favored the common interest in dealing with us. That leaves us free to help her gratuitously, she was no help to us.

God wanted it so, and since Fr. Colin is on her side for a Work for the men, we would have felt bound and uneasy.

Then, she is a holy woman, but one must take on her ideas, and I didn't want to depend on a woman.

We've had workmen until now for our new Cenacle. The Archbishop kindly paid for all the repairs which were quite high.

The Chancery is in our favor. It's true that the lease hasn't been taken care of because the secretary didn't have time. However, all agreements have been reached and we were given permission to build a chapel, at our own cost, it's true; nonetheless, it's a proof of their good will. They want to sell this property and it has been for sale for seven years.

We may have been imprudent about the chapel which will cost us three thousand francs. We said to ourselves: we will give them to our Lord, he will keep us here as long as he wants. As the Archbishop said: "It is possible that you may stay a long time, besides we would give you the preference." Fine preference, considering we don't have anything! or rather, we have everything in our Lord Jesus.

They say my colleague is rich. He gets a pension of two thousand francs a year and that's all, yet the birds of the air are very rich, as are true disciples.

We are beginning to be rewarded; we have had the Reserved Sacrament for the last seventeen days. We'll have Exposition only when the large chapel is finished. It will hold over a hundred people.

We are doing exactly what Peter and John did when they prepared the Cenacle. When everything is finished, Jesus will send us his disciples. We already have seven beds furnished, at one hundred francs a piece. See how rich we are! We had three towels, then six. Now you made us richer.

Well, that's enough for today. I wrote to my sister two days ago about the whole matter; now she is well informed.

How will she take it? As God wills, you understand that when we have broken so many ties, that would only be one more on the battlefield.

My health is [changeable] like the weather, or rather as the good Lord wills it to be. I would have needed to go to the Springs; God will make up for it.

I cling to life only insofar as the good Lord wants it for me. Provided that I am doing his holy will, I am happy.

Goodbye good daughter. We have to be so grateful towards his infinite goodness!

All yours,
Eymard

TO MR. CLAPPIER

(V 2/2)

L.J.C.

rue d'Enfer, 114, Paris, July 8, 1856

Very dear Mr. President,

No doubt you know about my decision to consecrate myself to the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Paris. God had been drawing me for a long time toward this beautiful and true center of the Eucharist. At first I sought only a temporary permission; when the matter seemed impossible, I asked for my freedom; and before using it I made a twelve day retreat with the consent of Very Rev. Fr. Superior General, under the direction of men of God, who are wise and strict. I was fully open, I gave the pros and cons, and my total impartiality for a yes or a no. God had given me this grace, and if I had been told to return to Lyons, I would also have returned willingly, and naturally speaking, more joyfully, because before the new Calvary rising up before me, my nature was afraid.

How surprised I was when the Bishop of Tripoli and the Bishop of Carcassone told me: "We believe that God wants you for this Work, and there is no reason to hesitate!"

His Excellency the Archbishop of Paris approved the project with surprising kindness. He even received us the same day in a house belonging to the diocese, *Villa Chateaubriand*.

God did everything, because I wasn't known here and I had neither recommendations, nor patronage, and none of my friends took a single step to favor it. Then I wrote the decision to Rev. Fr. Favre, because he had told me in Paris, when he came to see me during my retreat: "Well! We shall consider the decision of the judges as the will of God." Dear Fr. Favre really showed excessive kindness toward me after the decision.

I went to spend a few days with the Marist Fathers in Paris. I go quite often. We are on the best of terms, and I remain a Marist in my heart and commitment.

Those who do not know these details must have been scandalized about me. They said that I had been influenced by Fr. Touche and Fr. de Cuers. At my age, we don't let ourselves be influenced that easily. If I had been so before my retreat, I was not so during my retreat.

Forgive me these details, good and dear Mr. President. It is not in order that you should justify me, nor that you should excuse me, that I am writing them, but as a need of my heart toward your long and kind friendship, and I even beg you to say nothing about it to our Fathers. I know that Fr. Denis still has only the earliest understanding of events, which he still thinks is a personal matter judged by me.

Here is our goal: Perpetual Adoration, in cooperation with Nocturnal Adoration in Paris which has 220 [members).

Our zeal will consist in: 1. The direction of the Association: - 2. The work of First Communion of adults (Alas! the sight of so many men who have not made their first Communion is frightening; - retreats for men and priests, etc.)

We have only one thought, one goal, one center: the Eucharist! How happy if we could become special men, and bring back the indifferent and selfish men of our poor society! to faith and love of the Eucharist.

Pray for us, dear Mr. Clappier, and we do so continually for you and your beloved family, especially for your wife, whom I greatly regret I cannot accompany to Ars.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Very dear Mr. President,

Your very humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, SSS

P.S. Recently I learned about the final day for the proceedings of our friends Dando,⁷⁸ the 17th. May God come to their help! On that day, I will go to say Mass at Notre Dame des Victoires for them. If Aix were not so far, I believe that your presence, dear Sir, would be the greatest consolation and half of the victory for the proceedings. But is it possible?

Mr. Clappier
President of the Tribunal
at Toulon

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CO 608

TO MR. CLAUDE GAUDIOZ
(III 3/3)

Rue d'Enfer, 114, Paris, July 8, 1856⁷⁹

Dear papa Gaudioz,

How kind you are to think of me again, to send me such lovely things, and to continue your friendship toward me! It all made me very happy. In this way I can see that your friendship is not like the wind, nor a matter of self-interest, but in God. So then, thank you very much.

I can only repay you by praying for you, for your dear family and the success of your business. Especially that God may give you many graces in order to be able to profit by all the meritorious opportunities found in your difficult situation.

In heaven, good father, there will be no more separations. This world of exile is only a way of the cross and goodbyes. But for God's children, it is a passage to the same divine eternal center.

And you, good Lady and dear sister, don't forget me in your prayers and thoughts in God's sight. I often go to visit you at Leviste place⁸⁰ and bless you.

Always be the kind mother, the gracious lady, the devout daughter of Mary, and God will be pleased.

Goodbye good friends, believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, P.S.S.S.

⁷⁸ Perhaps a family name?

⁷⁹ Published in French as July 1st - but July 8th according to Fr. Troussier.

⁸⁰ in spirit.

TO MISS GIGUET

(VII 2/6)

All for the glory and love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 20, 1856

I am responding to your letter immediately, my dear daughter. It afflicts me to know that you are still ill, but since God wants it, adore this little cross or this great cross, which his love offers you, in order to make you greater in his love and in heaven.

See divine Providence in everything, loving and feeding you with the hands of divine love. I can understand that it is naturally difficult to receive charity, but your devotion and love for God will make this apparent humiliation seem glorious and pleasant. And so, my dear daughter, no more tears or sadness. God wants you this way, and you are pleasing in his eyes. Leave the past to his goodness and sanctify the present. Life passes quickly and when it is spent for God, the present is very sweet and the future very beautiful. Therefore, have courage and confidence.

Continue to pray for me. I am very grateful to you for it, because I really need it.

May God bless, comfort and strengthen you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 146/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 29, 1856

Thank you my dear daughter, for your two letters. I always find them too short. So, let your pen and your simplicity flow freely. I will review some of everything.

1. About your resignation. - I would prefer if it came more naturally. That is, that another be elected in your place. You may certainly use reasons of health to decline that heavy burden, but wait for the election. It's better to wait for God's freedom than to anticipate it. At least, you will have won a beautiful crown of thorns, and further proof of human limitations and vanity. Take it as a principle, that should your presence as Directress cause difficulty or embarrassment to the superiors of the Society, you should ask God either to remove you from that office, or to bring the difficulties to an end.

As for difficulties which come from people under you, don't pay attention to them, and don't take any steps forward or backward. It is the cross of your situation.

2. Thank you for what you tell me about the little clique and their planned shipment. They wrote to me a month ago, Miss Camus via Mme. Bernard. I didn't answer. I will do so nicely telling them not to worry and simply to pray for us. A woman I didn't see came here. She is due to return tomorrow to ask us on their behalf what we need. My answer will be brief.

3. My health is adequate. Our chapel is progressing. Fr. de Cuers is a devout and faithful companion, totally dedicated to the Work, and a good brother for me. We have a fine boy as cook; however, he cannot concentrate and is disorganized, which leads me to question how long we will keep him. Another is ready, unless the good Lord wants to try us again.

Our little Cenacle has been very busy during these last twenty days. We were five priests. We are still three. Fr. Audibert, Vicar from Toulon, came to study his vocation. He seems well disposed. He intends to return towards the end of September or in the month of October, if God wills.

Don't be sad, good daughter, about all those contrary winds, all those superficial judgments. Provided we have God for us, and that he blesses the Work with his love, the rest is like a storm that purifies the air, and a trial which tests true friendship. God really loves us by giving us only distant crosses. Everything is peaceful here.

Our good Master has placed in my heart a desire for a hidden life, waiting patiently and confidently for the times and ways to make ourselves known, or what the world calls success by growth and expansion.

I only ask one thing from the Society of Mary, it is heartfelt charity. For the rest, I mustn't count on it.

As for the pro's and con's expressed by the Fathers who are subordinates, I surrender those to the good Lord, although it hurts, humanly speaking. I see it as the blood of the sacrifice.

4. I fully share your feelings about Mr. Lallour. He is a man who was out for himself, and was using his talents and skills to build trust and win his case. He is hotheaded and not dependable.

As for his prescription, you can do without it. In the medical sphere it's always easy to say new and extraordinary things to the uninitiated. God alone has the secret of your condition.

You know that he knows both how to cure you and how to crucify you.

My dear daughter! Why are you giving up everything for us? it makes me sad

Miss de R. hasn't written to me for a long time, that tells you the rest. Her soul alone is dear to me; at her age, there is fear and rationalization. It's the illness of the moment.

Needless to tell you to remember me to your dear sisters.

All yours in J. and M.,⁸¹
Eymard

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CO 613

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 17/52)

All for the glory and love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, August 5, 1856⁸²

May God be ever praised and glorified, dear daughter, for the victory he has granted you in his divine mercy. This day was beautiful in Heaven, pleasing to Jesus, your divine Spouse. You are preparing your dowry for his heart, and as I was telling you, the soul is pleasing when it can say to Jesus: I have loved you and I do love you more than any human being, more than myself!

The grace which our Lord has given you filled me with joy and consolation. May his divine goodness perfect what it has begun so well in you.

Reject any afterthought, flee any self-scrutiny, even in your prayers abstain from reflecting about this person. Include him with everyone, and forget him, if possible. God will remember him if you surrender him to him in order to think only about God.

What is done is done. Leave it to God. But, dear daughter, let me tell you in all simplicity:

Have a high regard for the graces and virtues of Jesus Christ in others, but without letting your natural heart contemplate them and even less from attaching itself to them.

Be on guard toward devout men who may have a specific purpose or a personal interest. Politeness, obliging services, even piety can be means of gaining esteem, trust, or more, as you saw it happen.

⁸¹ Jesus and Mary.

⁸² Listed as August 3, 1856 by Fr. Garreau.

Place this great maxim in your soul: that a Christian virgin ought not to try to make an outsider happy; she must without pity let earthly hearts suffer when they try to enslave her or take away her crown. Alas! Dear daughter, I have seen so many people with sensitive hearts, high intelligence, a generous will, who became slaves without realizing it and, for fear of hurting anyone, became guilty, first in a passive manner, and then, freely and willingly!

As for you, dear daughter, be jealous and proud of your heart. God wants it and he wants it for himself alone entirely.

As to your health, take the sleep you need. Be vigilant during the day to fulfill all your exercises and duties, so that when the time comes for your night's rest, you will be free.

You can do less on a given day; ordinarily it is better to supplement what you missed, but when rest or meditation has to be weighed, which should you choose? If your body is tired and your soul exhausted, give preference to sleep. If it is only a little fatigue which action can easily dissipate, then try for the action.

Put up with yourself as weak, poor and dry; that is your condition. However, belong and give yourself constantly and totally to God, that is your wealth.

Accomplish your practices of devotion to please God, that's all.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Continue to pray for the little mustard seed which [has been] planted in the ground so that it may develop with a heavenly blessing, and believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

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CO 612

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 11\17)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, August 4, 1856

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in our Lord,

The promptness of my reply will prove to you the pleasure that your letter gave me. A family feeling is never lost and your family has always been so dear to me!

Believe me, it cost me dearly and it continues to cost me to have made such a great sacrifice.⁸³ If, at the end of my retreat, three men, who were venerable by their character, wisdom and the severity of their study, had not assured me of God's will, I never would have taken this step.

Oh! my dear daughter, sacrifice is beautiful from a distance, but when the time comes for it, our imaginings disappear, our attractions undergo combat, our illusions drop.

I know that if I had made this decision based only on my inclination or pious feelings, I would not be free of blame, but thanks be to God, during 12 days of strict retreat, it seems to me that I came into complete detachment.⁸⁴

One of my consolations is to have maintained the friendship of dear Fr. Favre and to continue my friendly contacts with the good Marist Fathers.

For you, my dear daughter, I understand your loss. Fr. Colin was a saint skilled in the science of holiness and the spiritual direction of souls. Draw on your spiritual memories, and go to the one who is freest. Fr. Michon has the grace of state. I know they were very satisfied with him, and it creates one more bond.

⁸³ To leave the Marists.

⁸⁴ Freedom of will.

Foundation of the Congregation 1856

Don't forget to remember me to your beloved brother Tonny and his dear Wife, to the holy patriarchal family of Pommiers and to dear Marie, whom God will bless.

May God be your all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

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CO 615

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(VII 4/5 IV 75)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, August 6, 1856

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

What are you doing? Where are you? two questions which often come to me, but without an answer. - Miss Monavon didn't have the heart to reply. I was hoping to see her a bit more, but she was so busy in Paris that I didn't see her again.-

You may be asking me the same questions, so I will answer them.

I am not budging from Paris, because I need to be here with the workmen - and the initial work of a foundation. - It is no sacrifice for me - I say: God wants it. - Then the Springs, visits from friends, vacations in the country, can all be found in our house with our Lord. The date is approaching when the little Cenacle will be ready to welcome the good Master. However, we must wait until the month of September before everything will be ready. The chapel is almost finished, it still needs to be decorated. - We will tell our heavenly King to fill it with the beautiful cloud of his Ascension - more beautiful than the one that filled the temple of Solomon.

If only you could be in Paris on the day of the blessing, dear daughter. Surely our Lord will be lavish with his gifts and blessings that day; so, I will place your name under his throne.

Do pray for the Work and my shortcomings, in order that we not jeopardize the work of God.

A very real cross has just come our way. The commission of Paris, the agents, the secretary, the prefect of police and now the magistrate, these are our visitors. Our cook was stealing from us every day. - And he was very bold, when the justice of God turned him in to the justice of men. He was using a skeleton key to steal. The wretch is in jail; he may be sentenced to prison and I must be present for the hearings. Imagine how difficult that is. We laugh over the theft, saying that God thought we were too rich. Finally, it's all over and we are rid of a thief and a traitor.

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

Your ever devoted,
and I am at the feet of Jesus,
Eymard

P.S. My respectful and fond regards to Mr. President,⁸⁵ whom I esteem and love with all my heart.

⁸⁵ Her husband.

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 3/19)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia!

Paris, rue d'enfer 114, August 6, 1856

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I am really late, first of all to thank you for your gift to our Lord, which Miss Monavon gave me from you; then, for your last letter which is already quite old, since it was dated February.

I was hoping to go to La Mure during the holidays and I was happy to think of having a long visit with you, of having the pleasure of meeting your fine husband. But God does not will it. I must do as you did when you were first getting started. It's no small thing to start a household.

However, our little Cenacle is beginning to take shape. The Chapel of Exposition is almost finished. I hope that we will soon be free of workmen and will be able to consecrate ourselves in peace and calm to adoration and to the service of Jesus Eucharistic.

In your last letter, I was happy to see that you had bought a good supply of books that are both serious and religious. A lovely and spiritual library is the lifeline of devotion and spiritual well-being. While you are still young, read, reflect and prepare yourself to train the children whom God will give you in his goodness.

Also, to prevent spiritual weariness, boredom, and sadness, get back to your little practices of devotion. It's often said that when we serve God well, we are faithful to all our other duties and then find time for everything else when God has had his.

Get back to your brief meditation: it's the compass of life and feeds virtue. When you can't do it in the morning, replace it during the day with some brief spiritual reading, and your soul won't suffer from its lack nor will you lose sight of God, your soul, or your duties.

Always be happy about everything and in everything, and you will make everyone around you happy.

Please express to Mr. Giraud all my sentiments of respectful affection and believe me in our Lord, Madame and dear sister,

Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard, P.S.S.S.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 18/52)

To Miss Stephanie

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, August 8, 1856

My dear daughter, you have already received my answer to your first letter. I read your second one very attentively, and I was satisfied with it. I can see that you carefully presented the pros and cons.

The present, the past and the future have been considered. This is my conclusion: Stay as you are, that is the better part, the holiest, the most pleasing to Jesus, the most glorious for his Heart.

I never would have wished such a temptation upon you; since it happened, you must praise God for the victory of Jesus over a person. Without trying to diminish or analyze the virtues or qualities

of the person, I will tell you: have no regrets. A good soldier can only be recognized on the battlefield, a genius by his work, and true devotion when it is tested.

In general, we blame devout young people for letting themselves be too impressed by appearances or external qualities. I don't say that there aren't any real ones in that person; yes, there are some and I praise God for it. But, dear daughter, you have not seen the other side of the scale with its possibilities, its uncertainties..., etc.

Better yet, consider Jesus, his desire to have your heart, his pure and disinterested love for your soul's happiness. Who loves greater poverty, deeper surrender? Who is following him now among the majority of the wealthy young nobles? Alas! They are too wealthy and too noble to have only Jesus for their Spouse and joy!

You, dear daughter, you are more fortunate. He has given you the entire grace and, I dare say, he has given and prepared a white crown for you on earth without your really understanding its value.

Poor daughter! You could perhaps think that by getting married to please your dear father, you would hasten the day of his conversion to God. What! The Savior, your Spouse would be less powerful! Well, if this grace is to be the reward of sacrifice, certainly Jesus is the one who has obligations.

Don't worry about all your questions and reflections; they were necessary. Rediscover your peace and calm and forget it, put these thoughts aside.

My dear daughter, that is not how God acts when he wants to show us his holy Will.

If our Lord is leaving you cold, dry, sterile, without consolations, you must think: I don't deserve them, and that's quite true. Consolations wouldn't help me. I would believe that I am more spiritual, more virtuous than I am.

Our good Master wants to try my faith and generosity, to know if I will love him and work purely for love, without self-interest. But, if I love him faithfully, how happy his divine Heart will be to find a soul willing to watch with him in the Garden of Olives, in the Garden of pure love.

Dear daughter, may God fill you with his blessing and his graces and give you a love which is stronger than life and death.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

620

CO 619

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 147/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, August 12, 1856

My good daughter, thank you for your letter, your lovely package, and for everything it contained, even pins and thread. We laughed so much when we saw it all. Let me say that we even think we are very rich now, thanks to you.

I'm aware that in a house starting just with walls, everything is useful. Thanks again.

2. I've just written Very Reverend Father General to protest about the parcels from the Third Order Members of Lyons. I told him that I heard about it from a lady in Paris.

I wrote to Miss ... clearly refusing any shipment.

I certainly would regret it if it didn't stop. Self-interest or some other motive could cause some problems in the Society⁸⁶ and disturb mutual understanding.

3. I asked the Doctor his feelings about you[r case]. He said that it's a chronic illness and that the only remedy would be to stop walking. That's easy to say. So then, your condition is in God's hands and the doctors don't understand anything about it.

⁸⁶ Society of Mary.

Use all these health reasons, your need for peace and calm and the length of time that you have been Directress as motives to refuse your re-election so that they may know that you are not hoping for it. If you were re-elected by some exceptional circumstance, yes, but first have a frank and clear explanation ready. However, write to me between now and then.

Let me tell you about one of God's graces, but on one condition only, that you will do neither more nor less; otherwise, I will hide them from you. Just now I must go before the judge of instruction. I already appeared before the commissioner against our cook, who was stealing from us since he came here. He had a skeleton key, and was finally caught red-handed. Now he is in jail, and probably will be sent to prison. Unfortunately, we need all kinds of experiences. But what a trial! However, don't worry, we will have enough food. He took the money that was set aside to decorate the chapel. God will take care of it. It is his work.

My health isn't very strong at the moment. I suffered from the heat; it will all pass. Praise God in our name for all the graces that he is sending us.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I couldn't send you my letter yesterday, so I'm adding a few words.

You must understand that authorities have an official way of speaking and a personal one. It's enough for me that Very Rev. Father General has common courtesy and friendliness toward me. The rest is a matter of human limitations and shows us how weak and unstable we are. It may be a great grace; it leaves us our freedom while uniting us in charity. What more do we need?

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

621

CO 620

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE MARIE DU SS)
(III 5/21)

All for the love of God

Paris, August 13, 1856

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

You pleased me so much by writing to me, especially by writing to me very simply about all that is going on in your soul!!! Do so whenever you need to, my good daughter, and be sure that it will make me very happy.

Here are my answers to your various questions:

1. You are working wisely for your salvation and God loves you, but you are doing so like Martha, surrounded by troubles, business, worries and sacrifices of every kind. That is your path and it will be your crown. Some day you will thank God eternally for it. As for me, I assure you that, while I sympathize with your natural feelings, I can only praise you when I see that in spite of all your sacrifices, your nature finds no consolation in them, no sympathy, no gratitude: that is fine. God wants to be your all, your only witness, your only reward. Thank him for this grace.

2. Concerning your meditations, continue them as follows: put charity ahead of piety, or let it all move forward together. You are too old to try a new form of meditation. Continue what you are doing, a little mixture of everything. It is the meditation of the poor, the sick and the ignorant, but it is very pleasing to God. When you can, add a thought for the day, either the mystery, or the saint, or some unusual state of soul.

God doesn't ask any more than that from you, my good daughter.

3. For your confessions, do them the same as usual, with a real desire to be in the state of grace, to do better, and leave the rest to divine Mercy. When you have finished your accusations, it's enough to say as follows: I accuse myself in particular of all the faults of my past life which I committed against charity, patience, or humility, in thought, words and deeds. That is more than sufficient, without adding any further details. To vary, it is sufficient to say on one occasion our faults against charity, on another, those against patience, etc.; but leave aside those against chastity, it only causes confusion and trouble. So, good daughter, have courage and trust; eternal life is worth it all, and even more. Just offer yourself very often to God, give yourself entirely to his goodness and love, and his grace will do the rest.

Goodbye, poor daughter,
All yours in Jesus,
Eymard, S.S.S.

TO Miss Mariette

Aug. 26-29 - At Tours: Healing of his palpitations of the heart.

622

CO 621

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 20/181 VI 3)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Tours, August 26, 1856

Very dear Colleague,

I am writing to give you news about myself. I am here at Tours. I saw the fine Mme. Marceau, and the holy Mr. Dupont, who edified me so much and especially spoke so well. He is entirely absorbed with his beautiful work for the Holy Face; it is all he thinks about, speaks about, lives for; we have to slip in a word edgewise. It's only natural and right, we must be single-minded people. He is praying for us, that's the main thing.

I'll go see Mme. Sauvestre in Poitiers next Friday. I'll write to you from there.

I saw the Leudeville family and spoke about our Work. They will donate the monstrance and the canopy, and that's all. That's already a great deal and we should thank God for it.

I think it would be well if you would have the essential things done for the chapel. I would be pleased to find it done when I get there, at least in part. Do whatever God inspires you and all will be well.

I am already finding the time long until I return to you. Pray that my trip will be blessed.

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

P.S. Very Dear Colleague,

Here is my address, in case you should need to write to me in Poitiers: at Madame Sauvestre de la Bouraliere, 13, rue des Carmelites (Vienne), and at Tours, at Madame Marceau, rue de l'Archevch (Indre-and-Loire).

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 22/52)

All for the glory and love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, September 5, 1856

Dear sister in our Lord,

I have just come from a trip to Brittany taken for the glory of our dear and gentle Savior. When I arrived I found your letter, which was already long-standing. I may perhaps be answering too late; if that should be the case, God allowed it so.

1. I am truly sorry that your dear Pastor doesn't know that in Paris there are many works where the Pastor is the Superior and a lay person is President, even a Woman; and it doesn't cause a shadow of a problem.

Nocturnal adoration for men was even founded here by Miss de Mauroy: it's too bad.

2. What shall we do? Offer your resignation to the Pastor asking him to inform the Cardinal himself about your reasons; say that you would prefer that he give this information rather than you. Give as a reason your fear to create an obstacle to a good work. Until you receive a positive response, very simply remain as President.

Glory to God! Yes, may his kingdom come! That is also my thought, my desire, my happiness, my life, my death. It's my continual prayer: may the rule of his love come and spread over the whole earth, consume it with a heavenly and eternal fire. Often, when I look at this beautiful eucharistic throne we are raising, I tell our good Savior: May I be your footstool, may I suffer, may I be humiliated, may I die, everything is beautiful and good for me provided that you may rule!

At the feet of Jesus, put yourself into his heart, in order that in his kindness he may bless us and set us on fire.

Write to me when our dear Lord will inspire you to do so.

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

P.S. Tell Mr. Adolphe to have confidence and follow God's path like a child: your prayer will be his triumphant sword.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 148/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, September 9, 1856

I'm writing, dear daughter, to answer your letter immediately. Thank you for your thoughtful concern and for your devoted charity.

I have had some toothaches; my health isn't bad, I feel better now.

I saw Mr. Lallour.⁸⁷ He'll write to you and send you his prescription. He is happy and excited. He has just accepted to work as a doctor in a little town near Orleans, at Puizeau. It seems that he will receive excellent benefits.

⁸⁷ Doctor.

My wholehearted congratulations ... for his decision. There are many thorns with this beautiful rose. The largest one is, I believe, more a matter of the head than of the heart. What a story! All that display and dedication were only to It was much too selfish. I think that it's a very sensitive matter after all the tactless things he was told, especially toward a man who has only head knowledge. Well, enough of that.

As for you, dear daughter, I advise you to hand in your resignation officially,⁸⁸ basing it on the rule, on your health, on your need for quiet. Propose Miss de Revel for it. She may accept if she is named, she will be able to say and do many things that will be respected. Then too, she will devote herself to it fully, for she is a single-minded woman.

If they should insist, after you have done all that, then heaven wants it. Bow your head and accept the heavy cross. In the end, it may be like beneficial clouds pouring out a gentle and blessed shower of graces and consolations upon your soul.

The workmen are still here. I hope everything will be finished by Saturday of next week.

Our thief hasn't been judged yet. We don't want to make a civil request for restitution, it would be too expensive and we are anxious to stop appearing before the tribunals. God is our Father, we haven't lacked anything, we have what we need. Only, instead of spending for furniture and decorations, we will wait.

I'm happy that you can see Fr. Ch.⁸⁹ He will help you. He is such a good Father and wise director; that is the most consoling news for me.

The mail is leaving. Goodbye.

Eymard

625

CO 624

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 149/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, September 20, 1856

I was waiting for your letter, very dear daughter, and I read it eagerly. I was anxious to have some news from Lyons.

I was sorry not to see dear Fr. Ch. It would have been such a comfort to speak a little with this beloved friend. It wasn't God's will. I'm happy to know that he is near you. Take advantage of it; open your soul to him, he has a grace and interest in your spiritual growth.

How kind this good Father is to have thought of our chapel! This memento⁹⁰ (which should be kept secret) pleased me very much. He did well to foresee the right moment and better yet to become again a simple soldier of obedience; that is to his great credit. I can see that there cannot be any correspondence between us; that was the first sacrifice I saw I had to make. However, we can still correspond spiritually through prayer and love. Father Ch. is truly the one I love the most, but unless there were an extraordinary vocation, I could never desire to have him with us. Sometimes I consider myself to be like an adventurer who risks all for all, and doesn't want a single one of his friends to suffer with him or for him.

We are still four: two priests, and two servants; one is a porter and the other a cook. There are three or four priests who have said yes to the eucharistic call, but I am afraid that the devil, their human nature, and self-seeking friends will lead them to become like those in the gospel who were invited first to the wedding of the King's Son.

⁸⁸ from the Third Order of Mary.

⁸⁹ Fr. Champion.

⁹⁰ Probably a monetary gift.

So be it! It is not ours to create vocations, but to receive them from God's goodness. The King is the one who invites, not the servant. Our happiness is to have Jesus always with us, what greater joy could there be! If our good Master wants us to remain alone for a few months, a year, two years, may he be praised! It will be the best thing for us. No price is too high for the happiness of being his eucharistic family.

People and friends who judge things only by success, numbers and wealth will laugh at us, or consider us to be sterile and creditless, etc. What good manure for the roots of the tree!

As for the women, it is settled. That is, we don't want to associate ourselves with any community already in existence, with its spirit and works. We want to form real adorers of Jesus Eucharistic modeled on Our Lady in the Cenacle, adoring and living near the divine Tabernacle. We will begin by gathering around our Cenacle the few souls whom Jesus will choose in order to form them quietly, without glory, for the Eucharistic life. Then, when they are ready, we will consult God to know where he wants this new Cenacle to be.

However, we aren't thinking about that yet. We want to wait for the first sacrifices of our foundation to be over, for the mustard seed to begin to take root.

Right now, we would be putting ourselves too much at the mercy of the new sisters' generosity.⁹¹

At war, the women are left in the camp.

You ask me for news about Fr. Jacquet. I am at a loss. I don't know his way of directing. He ordinarily gives the impression you mention; when we first hear him he doesn't seem to be very spiritual. However, I assure you that I don't really know, I have never had close dealings with him. He was always said to be very prudent and peaceful. Fr. Martin would have been more spiritual. God has willed it so. Still, he is much better than Fr. Mechon. There is more experience there. God forbid that Fr. B. come here. I worry about that poor Father; he was so hurt although he is doing so much good. He is still not too well. He is a truly deserving person. He is certainly the one who has the most difficulties and worries, with his difficult work for the masons. He needs encouragement.

About the corporals, since we have enough for the moment, please keep the linen whole. It will be very useful for something else for us. Would you kindly have a Mass said at Fourviere on October 2nd for a sick person who was recommended to me? I'll send you the stipend later.

I have a slight cold. It's because it is Fall, and winter is coming. It doesn't prevent me from doing the usual things and working. Next Sunday, we will offer the first Mass in our large chapel. Exposition is put off until mid-October because of the holidays. Unite yourself to us on Sunday.

About your new responsibility, let the good Lord act. After saying all that you had decided to say, keep your soul in peace.

I was told that the Manual of the Third Order is being printed. I don't hold to what I have done. On the contrary, it's wise that I be forgotten. But this Manual, such as it is, will always be a good thing. Later it can be improved.

It seems, dear daughter, that God is preparing some great grace for you, since you are being tested so much. At such moments of trial and suffering, of temptation to rebellion and irritability, entrust your soul to the Most Blessed Virgin your mother, to Jesus your good Saviour. Do only that, while saying with the Prophet: "Lord, I suffer violence, answer for me." Strive to be discreet⁹² about yourself, [not seeking] human comfort, to external gentleness, in order to bind your enemies. Always continue your Communion, without close examination or second thoughts; fire is not to be scrutinized, it is to be set.

A thousand and one best wishes in God's love to your dear sisters. What happiness it would be if one day I saw all four of you reunited in a Cenacle!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. The Lacour Ladies are not reasonable enough. I share your opinion, wait; what! They have 30,000 francs of pension and they keep count like business men!

⁹¹ Probably the Ladies from Toulon.

⁹² Literally: to be silent about yourself.

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 17/75)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer, 114, September 23, 1856

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I don't know where my letter will find you; I am sending it in care of divine Providence.

I should have written to you sooner. First, I traveled, and then we've had so many problems because of our thief; and it's not over yet. We will have to go for court proceedings shortly. God be praised!

Dear daughter, I understand your sadness and pain. You are strong and courageous when it comes to yourself. Other people's crosses are a hundred times heavier for you; it's only right, but very painful. I would have liked to be near you; I would have carried half of them. How sad! Yes, the world is unjust; it has always been so, even toward its Creator and Savior.

The world doesn't give its favors for services rendered, moral qualities, Christian dedication. At such times of injustice and ingratitude it is good to lift one's eyes toward heaven and say: "Father, may your holy Will be done! It's for our greater good that it has happened, so it's to show us that you alone are good."

No doubt I am too late to recommend what you are already doing, and even better. We don't always see the divine reason for things; therefore, let us adore the mystery of divine Providence, and everything will be repaid to us at a high rate of interest. The news really hurt me! Mr. Jordan has been a slave to his duties for so long, a little rest would have done him so much good! Once more, *Pater, fiat voluntas tua sicut in coelo et in terra!*⁹³

Next Sunday we will celebrate Mass for the first time in our new chapel. If only you were here to receive the first blessing! We will send it to you and your family.

The little Work is progressing in silence and developing under ground. We are waiting with peace and trust for God's moment; in the meantime, we are like Jesus in the desert.

My fondest and most devoted respects to your whole family.

Your dear daughter must be very happy with you. Improve your health and especially correct yourself for your lack of sleep. You know with what feelings,

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

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

P.S. I didn't get any further news about Miss Monavon. What a Dominican!⁹⁴ She needs a rest. She is taking advantage of it; so much the better!

⁹³ Father, may your Will be done on earth as in Heaven!

⁹⁴ meaning unclear.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 27/33)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer, 114, September 24, 1856

Madame and dear Sister in our Lord,

If I didn't answer your good letter, it's because I had forgotten your address. Father Mulsant gave it to me when he gave me news about you. I was very happy to learn about your dear son's brilliant examination. He had really earned it, and you must be happy. Now he is left with the choice. God will guide your fine son, and your prayers will help him to choose well. I hope that he will make a heaven-guided choice which makes a person happy and generous in doing good.

If he should come to Paris, I hope he will pay me a friendly visit.

Dear sister, it's too late to review with you [what is causing] this state of anxiety, depression and despair.

Madame Rothenigrie (Larochenegly) told me that you had made a Retreat at Fourviere and I believe that you must have found peace and trust there.

Yes, your soul is and will always be dear to me; poor daughter, can you doubt it! Since our Lord was so kind as to use even my limitations to help you: we love what God loves.

I didn't write to you about my decision when I left Lyons. I was not sure, since I was coming to make a retreat for that purpose.

If I didn't do so after, it's because I wanted to be forgotten by my acquaintances in Lyons.

Now about your condition, here are my feelings.

1. Your state of salvation is good and very good. God loves it, and this state renders him great glory. Needless to tell you the reasons. When Jesus was on the Cross, forsaken even by his heavenly Father, this was his most perfect and greatest moment of love. When Jesus was tempted by the devil, he provided us with the greatest consolation for our times of temptation.

2. Your extraordinary trials and horrible temptations are not sins: they prove the futility and fury of the devil against you.

3. These trials are very helpful. They prepare you for greater graces. Always turn your heart toward God at such moments and spurn the devil.

4. When God comes to comfort you, to lift you up with his grace of love, become strong in full union with his divine will for the times of sacrifice, imitating Jesus on Tabor speaking about Calvary.

5. Always go forward in the midst of all these storms, and the violent winds will only [serve to] fill up the sails of your boat.

Thank you, dear sister, for your kind prayers for our eucharistic Work and for my weakness. We never leave Mary when we go toward Jesus. This divine Queen of the Cenacle leads us and directs us there. It's under this beautiful title of Our Lady of the Cenacle that we honor her. We are little children kneeling near their good mother before the Blessed Sacrament. The Society of Mary will always be dear to me and I am ever its child in my heart. You tell the truth: no one knows what this sacrifice cost me. But when we believe that God is calling, we must give even our life, and even that is nothing.

Goodbye, dear daughter and sister in our Lord. Always give us the alms of your prayers. A soldier in the trenches needs help.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

628

CO 627

TO MR. M. NEGRE
(VII 1/1 V 1)⁹⁵

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, September 24, 1856

Dear papa Negre and esteemed friend,

“... he is now in Theology and the years pass quickly. How happy I am that I was able to help him regarding his clerical vocation! What he still needs to do is to give full attention to his Theology and Sacred Orders. He can see later what God will inspire him [to do]. - My fondest... All yours in Jesus.

Eymard, P. SSS

Mr. M. Negre - at his country home.⁹⁶

629

CO 626

TO ST. JEAN-MARIE VIANNEY, THE CURE D'ARS
(VI 2/2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, September 24, 1856

Venerable brother in our Lord,

I think you will be happy, because of your devotion to our Lord in the holy Eucharist, to hear the news that the project which Fr. Hermann discussed with you this year, and which you had blessed and for which you have prayed, has come about.

The Society of the Blessed Sacrament was founded in Paris 4 months ago. Its purpose is to make Jesus and the Blessed Sacrament known, loved and served by all hearts. It aims to form a court of faithful adorers and a guard of honor ever watching at his feet. God is blessing this little Society.

We receive priests and laymen to become religious of the Blessed Sacrament. Mary gave one of her poor sons to Jesus.

Dear Father, I am the one who had the honor and happiness of receiving you into the Third Order of Mary, two years ago. Therefore, I beg you, in honor of our good Master, to continue your prayers for the blessing of this little mustard seed and to have others pray for us also.

The Sovereign Pontiff encouraged us very kindly and he calls our Work the Work for the present age.

Dear Father, with respect in the love of God, I am,

All yours,

Eymard,

Priest and religious
of the Blessed Sacrament

Fr. Vianney
Cure d'Ars, Ain.

⁹⁵ Excerpt of a letter.

⁹⁶ His son Ernest had considered a vocation to the Order of the Blessed Sacrament, but was now engaged in studies elsewhere.

TO FR. ERNEST NEGRE

(V 2/2)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, September 25, 1856

Very dear friend,

Thank you for your kind letter and the local news you gave us. We read it with great interest.

I am happy that your heart appreciates the special grace God is giving you by sending you to St. Sulpice,⁹⁷ where the spirit and virtues of Mr. Olier are still alive. Its fragrance lasts a whole lifetime.

Take care of your health, and renew your strength for the beautiful study of Theology. The time for classes will soon be here; and so life goes on. Work follows rest, victory follows struggle. Your fine beloved parents must be very happy to have you near them, especially your dear mother and devout sister.

I would really like to see your dear brother continue his classical studies. Because if he stops now, what he has already learned will be useless. At least if he had completed a higher class! Then, if he is discouraged or sad, or if he feels less devotion, this is not the time to decide against.

I know very well that he has many aptitudes for the arts, etc., but his education is incomplete.

Yesterday, I wrote the letter for the Cure d'Ars. I couldn't send it to you right away, because I was ill, I had the chills. I am feeling better.

When you return please go to Fr. Brunello's in Marseilles, rue St. Saviourin, 25 and get a package there for Fr. de Cuers and one for me from the Bourges Ladies, teachers, who live near there. The Bourges Ladies from Toulon who live across from the Cathedral will give you their address. Please ask them for it and remember me to them; - because if the Bourges Ladies from Marseilles have forgotten the little package, kindly go to get it. I think that one of you three will be able to bring it to us.

My fondest best wishes to your dear loving mother; assure her that I always remember her in God's sight. Don't forget to mention me to Miss Rose. Tell her how touched and grateful I was for her prayers to our Lord for me, and that our plans⁹⁸ are developing silently in God's presence.

My special wishes to your dear colleagues, our friends, to whom I wish happy holidays and a happy return.

Goodbye, or rather, see you soon, dear friend.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard, SSS

Sept. 28 - Inauguration of the enlarged chapel at rue d'Enfer. Notification of possible eviction received the same day.

⁹⁷ Seminary.

⁹⁸ The establishment of the women's branch, the Servants.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 150/395 VI 2)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 3, 1856

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,⁹⁹

I was deeply touched by your kind remembrance, by the prayers you are offering for the Eucharistic Work and for me. Prayer is the only kindness I ask for from my former daughters and sisters in Mary. In our Lord, there is no longer any color, name, distinction, but only the bond of divine love. The Church is a garden where each flower has its place, its perfume, its dew, its blessing. We all exist only for the glory of our Lord. So it is no dishonor to have passed by the hands of Mary to serve Jesus more directly, to come from Nazareth to the Cenacle, or better, to honor Mary as Mother and queen of the Eucharistic Cenacle.

No one knows what it cost me to take that step and to tell God: "Here I am. I have left my earthly family, my village, well! I also had to leave my spiritual family, to come to serve you in your sacramental state of host and victim."

The Third Order is always a subject of joy and happiness for me. Since I can no longer do anything for it except in prayer and desires, it is necessary that I should be forgotten there to see only the present grace of God in the one who is directing it. I thank God for the choice of Fr. Jacquet. The Third Order was truly honored by having been given one of the first members of the Society.

Our little Work is progressing slowly, humbly, poorly. It is progressing, God alone is protecting it visibly; that is what gives us courage and strength.

If we were saints, we would tell God to crucify us even more, to annihilate us totally, in order that his glory alone be praised and his divine grace thanked.

Please pray so that God himself may choose the first adorers, the first religious, so that they may be truly filled with his Spirit and his love.

I will really pray for the Third Order elections. I understand that given your poor health, you should take some rest.

It's better to let divine Providence act; everything happens for the greater good.

Please remember me to Miss de Revel, to your dear sisters, and to Mr. Gaudioz who is so kind.

Dear sister in the Lord, I am

Humbly and devotedly at your service,
Eymard

P.S. Your crucifixes have been indulgenced.

⁹⁹ The tone of this letter leads one to think it was written to be shared with other Third Order members.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 151/395 VI 2)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 3, 1856

I was so sorry, dear daughter, that I couldn't answer you right away. I was scheduled to preach at Notre Dame des Victoires for All Saints' Day. Then yesterday, my whole day was taken up with visitors. So, today, I am hurrying to begin with you.

Our poor Third Order is causing you so much suffering! Oh! That really disturbs me. Human beings become so ungrateful, weak, and vacillating when weighed down by difficulties! I really don't understand Father Superior General. I had been told that he really had the good of the Third Order at heart.

Just by the nature of things, motives of greater personal interest, or of a more influential person, ordinarily lead to sacrifice or crucify what is lesser.

I do approve your decision to leave office, doing so with honor, peace and charity.

We should choose to do what is right, rather than try to please people. Can it be true that you were close to death? Please! Wait for the Eucharistic seed to develop. Heavens above! I feel like saying: why does your sense of proprieties make you so imprudent? Let them come to you when they need you, especially when you are not too well.

Fr. Champ. was a prophet. It's a good thing to be looked down upon! That was the ambition of St. John of the Cross. It's your raiment and your crown.

You may know that Fr. Hug. stayed in Paris. It seems that he complained or was ill-disposed toward Moulins, so he stayed here. God will bless dear Fr. Champion; he will perhaps be esteemed when seen closely at work.

I will say the five Masses for your family and the other three.

I haven't received any sign of the famous shipment, nor do I desire to receive it; I haven't heard anything about it, what a bother!

I don't believe... as sick as they say. It has lasted so long, that I think it's become a natural way of being and acting. That doctor is an imprudent person; his only experience was with sailors. With one fact, in some obscure way, he quickly comes to a conclusion and frightens the person. It all seems confused to me. Nevertheless, thank you for telling me your thoughts about it.

We are still only two here; some [candidates] are reflecting on their vocations. There are a few priests who want it, but it is so difficult to leave the world! Please pray that we won't have any more difficulties with false vocations. Thursday we are going to the hearings about our thief. Oh! Praise God!

My health is fine; thank you. What do we need? I hardly know. We have enough table linen for now. A few rough cotton shirts wouldn't be refused. You can imagine that when I left I wasn't going to ask for a supply of shirts and handkerchiefs. I notice that half of those I brought were good only for rags.

As for blankets, we have what we need. When we are cold, we put on our coats.

As for sheets, we have two sets, and a few more, I believe. You can see that we are already well supplied.

We've put off our Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament again. The needed items aren't ready yet. I'll write to you about it.

May God bless you all! Goodbye, dear daughter. The mail is leaving.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Here is a little note for

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 105/145 VI 10)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 7, 1856

Very dear sisters,

You are right to reproach me for my long delay in writing to you. This life in Paris is so absorbing, we have been so busy, and received so many visitors, that I had very little time left. By putting off my letter from one day to the other, I did like sinners who continually say: Tomorrow. I count on your love to grant me forgiveness. I knew that Mme. de Poitiers had seen you and written to you, I also asked someone else to see you in passing, so I was not as worried. My health is very good, I haven't been this well for a long time.

Our beautiful Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament is moving forward. Our Chapel is very lovely and is becoming well decorated.

People are beginning to come...

We do not have solemn exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament yet; the necessary decorations aren't finished. We will probably need the rest of this month. We are having a canopy made over the magnificent altar, adorned with stones, glitter, etc.

You may perhaps ask me where the resources are coming from? - divine Providence. Until now, everything came as needed. Jesus Christ is the Father and Superior of the house; we have all we need for ourselves. So do not worry.

I continue to be on close and friendly terms with the kind Marist Fathers. I go to see them and they come here. However, the Work had to be separate in order to go forward and be founded under the most favorable conditions.

You understand, dear sisters, that I cannot leave Paris at this moment; it is a sacrifice that God wants from everyone. Tell Mr. Guetat to write to me toward November 25th. Mr. Leydeker should be coming around that time and I will urge that he be changed.

Mr. Bernard should send me a letter of request... include a word of encouragement with favorable remarks from the Pastor, especially saying clearly whether the child has good health, if he is intelligent, if he already has some instruction in French, and a certificate from his teacher.

The child should also write me a lovely little letter. --- Have this done quickly - and I will work hard for it.

Continue to pray for our beautiful Work and have great trust in God. Let people talk - God, his glory, his holy will: a Christian's whole life is contained in that.

Also please send me the address of Mme. Regnier, from Lyons. I forgot the street name and number.

May the love of Jesus be your life,

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard, S.S.S.

TO MISS GIGUET

(VII 3/6)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 7, 1856

Mademoiselle,

I learned that you had been very ill, poor daughter! See how our Lord places you near to himself on the cross! This news distressed me, because you have been on a Calvary of pain for such a long time. Oh! Jesus is preparing such a beautiful crown for you, and on heaven's great day you will be grateful for these sufferings. Gather up the crumbs of this beautiful sacrifice, they are precious stones.

Don't look at your trials outside of Jesus and his love. They would frighten you, but seen in Jesus, their appearance and nature seem different. Leave the past to his divine goodness and the future to his grace. Always be a child of his mercy and love.

I hope that my letter will find you better and your cross lightened. I will always pray for you, do so for me.

Mademoiselle, I am in our Lord, your ever devoted,

Eymard P.S.S.S.

TO MISS ROSE NEGRE

(V 2/4)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 10, 1856

I delayed my answer to your last letter, dear daughter, because of important business. I read it with gratitude; I thank our Lord for having chosen you as his servant, better still, as his eucharistic spouse. What an honor! What an outstanding grace! You grasp it, since you decided to pay for such a sublime vocation by any sacrifice.

Dear daughter, see how our Lord has loved you: he has not let your heart be divided, or your life bound to any person, so that you might be free and ready at the first signal of his Will.

Double your prayers and desires. The time is getting near when the heavenly King will set up his eucharistic court. Happy are those who will be there at the beginning!

Don't worry about your poor eyesight. To serve the God of love well, it's sufficient to have a heart. And then, he will heal you at his feet if it will make his glory shine forth and make you better.¹⁰⁰

Goodbye dear daughter, a little more patience and suffering.

All yours in Jesus Hostia,
Eymard, SSS

¹⁰⁰ A better person.

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 23/52)

*All for the love and glory of our dear
Lord in the Holy Eucharist*

Paris, November 18, 1856

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am so sad that I forgot to answer you. The devil played this evil trick on me, or rather, I may have helped him.

Here is my thought about the leader, I mean: what you should do at the ordinary meetings of adoration when the Pastor is present. - Nothing; it's better to practice charity, humility, and give a eucharistic message of silence. If, however, some situation occurred when the Pastor should leave you alone, then God is providing your turn to speak, and his Eminence becomes your Superior.

The thought of having a branch for young people from the time of first Communion until 15, and even 18 years of age, pleases me extraordinarily. That is your eucharistic field [of action]: little plants to be cultivated. You would do more good there than elsewhere. Oh! Do it, and the sooner the better; but organize it in such a way that you will not compromise your freedom.

Your soul will pass into these poor children who are still open. God will give you more than necessary strength. Organize it with other zealous persons whom you should choose carefully. Mr. Adot¹⁰¹ is very pleasing to our good Master. This is his purgatory, or rather the furnace which is purifying and freeing him. He needs to shake off and reject these dreadful things and always go forward. He is fine, very fine.

Your poor little children didn't understand sufficiently the happiness that was theirs to be with you. It's natural to play at that age. How well you did, dear sister, to entrust them to those two great saints! They were the protectors of my youth as well.

Our sufferings are too small to deserve to be at the feet of Jesus Hostia. We needed to see everyone move away and desert us, to become the object of their contempt and laughter. It's a beautiful mantle which protects the growth of the mustard seed, the bit of dust which Jesus will kindly bring to life and bless.

Goodbye, dear daughter, pray and beg our good Master to form us according to his heart and glory.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

¹⁰¹ Perhaps a misprint for Mr. Adolphe, her husband.

637

CO 637

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 7/19)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 18, 1856

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Your letter explains your silence. I had received your letter at Marie Therese, and I had answered you at Groulx. It seems that the letter was left in the desk.

Thank you, dear daughter, for your kind remembrance. How often my soul searched for you, knowing you were totally crucified! Your Calvary is long, may your love discover how to find Jesus there, remain lovingly at his feet and kiss his hand which attaches you to his cross. As you know, in sacrifice we need only to offer ourselves and suffer with Jesus hostia. Suffering is the flower of divine love.

So then, surrender yourself to this good Master. Heaven will come one day and it may perhaps not be very far.

Put aside mental meditation for affective meditation toward Jesus and surrender yourself to his adorable and ever gracious will.

As for the formation of Adorers, the time hasn't come yet. Nothing is ready. And even if it were, it would be prudent for you to wait, because beginnings are hard for human nature. There is a time of agony. Therefore, dear daughter, I advise you to accept the position which presents itself in the meantime.

Write to me from time to time, I haven't received anything yet from Gap. I will write to Fr. Deplace to have news about the storage.

May God sustain and carry you, dear daughter, in his maternal Providence. Have the same trust as the Holy man Job, or better, that of Mary, Mother of Jesus.

Our little Work continues to be tried, as willed by God's Goodness. It's a great grace.

All yours in Jesus Hostia,
Eymard, SSS

638

CO 638

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 152/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 26, 1856

Dear sister in our Lord,

I thought I was a dead man where Lyons is concerned. However, I was deeply moved by your letter which I received, the news it contains, and the wishes you express for the glory of our Lord in the Eucharist.

My preference never changes: to be forgotten and rejected (if they so wish) in Lyons and at Toulon. On the battlefield friendship is awkward, troublesome and uncomfortable. The only thing we need there is courage and prudence. There has been a radical change in my soul on this matter. To consecrate myself to the eucharistic Work, I had to give up and sacrifice everything, put my trust in God alone, have him as my only treasure, my only protector and my only possession. I dare say that God is tenderly and maternally all those things for me. Now I regret only one thing, it is that I didn't sacrifice enough nor suffer enough for such a beautiful cause.

My spirit rejoices to have such a beautiful and rich inheritance. Should you ever be told that I have regrets, that I'm sad and discouraged, it isn't true. So much about me.

I was pleased about the new Council and find it very compatible. That is, it has members who are qualified and will work for unity. They are good choices. In Very Rev. Father General's place, I would have done the same. Nevertheless, I feel pity for you, dear sister, because it's a difficult responsibility, especially if your health isn't as strong as it should be.

You will accomplish it for God and for love of the Blessed Virgin, our good Mother. You can be sure that nothing pleases God more than this service. Nothing is more likely to help you desire and seek God alone.

I was surprised to learn about Fr. Jacquet's nomination.

I didn't expect it, believing that he would be longer at Agen. You will appreciate him at work. He is a peaceful, conciliating man who speaks easily. I hope he will have a father's love for the Third Order, which means sincere affection for its members and its works. The poor Third Order is still very dear to me, and I'm still praying for it. I'm happy that I was able to work at the Manual before coming to Paris. It's my little flower. However, let me assure you that I don't in the least cling to seeing my little work accepted. I would prefer to see it redone or replaced, and that there be no further mention of me. All is over for me except for the eucharistic Work.

Our little Work is making progress though inconspicuously. Everyday, there is something more, either a request about the Work, or some new embellishment, or some little trials. I say little, because we are weak and God is sparing us.

I'm eager for the first vocations to come. We have already refused four priests. Pray very much for us; that trial would be too heavy.

I was pleased to learn about the sale of your house, although I was sorry about such a small offer. Nevertheless you do well to get rid of that building which will only continue to deteriorate. When you see Miss de Revel, congratulate her on her election for me. I'm happy about it, it will add another cross to her life, with a more beautiful crown than any other.

My respects and best wishes to your sisters, to good Miss Mollet, whom I'm very pleased to see on the council.

I am in our Lord,

dear Sister in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I was forgetting to tell you that my health is fine. It's true that since I don't have so much work, I am more rested.

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CO 639

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 153/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 26, 1856

I was very interested to read your last letter, dear daughter. So many things! What a life! What a comedy this world is! In the meantime, God is doing his work. Let's praise him for the rejections and humiliations which come our way. It's the manure that makes the tree grow.

Keep the small shipment until everything is ready, so as to have only one; we can certainly wait.

I really laughed when I read the conversation with Miss de Revel.

That poor woman thinks that we are very well off and receiving money from friends in Toulon. The truth is, that they don't even dare mention my name there; she says that in a year or two our needs will be greater.

What would she say if she knew that all our friends in Toulon have forsaken us! ... However, there is a saying of our Lord's which gives me comfort. He says: "No one can come to me, unless the Father who sent me draws him by his grace." So then it is a very good thing that some people turn away from us; in that way we don't have any obligations.

A bed, a table, two chairs, an old sofa are very ordinary pieces of furniture.

Please, let Miss de R. think that I am rich!

What good news that was about your visit to the Cardinal!

I praise God for it. It was right for you to be there. That was clear. Poor people who imagine that a bonnet shouldn't show up next to a hat! I would advise you to go to Fr. Dussurgey. He would be better for you than all the others. He is a holy man. Poor Fr. Hug.! He would be better to keep still about the Third Order of Lyons. It seems that he thinks that you are very powerful over Father General's heart; we can excuse him a little, he is a braggart and a writer: that's an author's idiosyncrasy.

M.D.C.¹⁰² is back home. (She came, three weeks ago, to make a retreat here incognito.) I really don't know how Miss Dan. might have known about it. Her provencal keenness may have led her to suppose it as true; ignore it. Miss Dan. Isn't at all discreet. She is easily influenced, and in moments of difficulty, she says everything that goes through her head. You can count on M.D.C.'s full discretion; you can be fully open with her. I haven't received anything from Mme. Galle. I know that she has many worries and difficulties. I highly esteem that good woman, but she hasn't come to the end of her crosses yet. Fr. Champion is to be Superior of Fr. Vit. He is within his rights; take advantage of it. I'll write to tell you when we have the first Exposition; last Tuesday we had a meeting with the Nocturnal Adoration Council. It seems that everything is falling into place.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

640

CO 640

TO MISS ROSE NEGRE

(V 3/4)

Paris, November 27, 1856

My dear daughter,

I am writing to tell you that I was pleased with your retreat, its trials, its sacrifices, and especially its blessed fruit.

You welcome this grace as the greatest one you could receive. You are right, it is truly the better part which has become your lot. To live with Jesus is better than to work for Jesus. You understand that Jesus has chosen you in preference to so many others in spite of your disabilities, your spiritual poverty. He is showing you his great kindness. Therefore, your gratitude needs to be great and your sacrifices very rewarding. So then, offer yourself constantly to our divine King to serve him, to your heavenly Spouse to love him, to Jesus-Hostia to be one single host with him.

When will your desires come true?

Jesus knows. You must pray to him, urge him, tell him constantly: May your kingdom come!

Poor daughter, don't worry about your eyes. The One who gives sight can give it back to you. If he wants you to be as you are, it's because it makes you more pleasing to him.

¹⁰² Probably Mme. Duhaut-Cilly from Toulon.

May the God of goodness take you by the hand and lead you into his beloved Tabernacles.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

P.S. Consider Mme. Duhaut-Cilly as your mother.¹⁰³

641

CO 641

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 18/75)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 28, 1856

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

True friendship isn't bound by the form or circumstances of life; it is one and always the same in God and for God. That is why it never occurred to me to classify yours among the indifferent.

Trials and deceptions are a blessing for God's works. The glory of God is then at stake. Human beings are seen only in their poverty, failings and nothingness. How good it is to make a foundation based only in God and on God! We weren't worthy of such a favor¹⁰⁴ because we found understanding and holy souls whom divine Providence used to help us. Those who were a trial to us blessed us with light, holy freedom, greater trust in God.

Saint Paul told the first Christians under persecution, "You haven't yet struggled to the point of blood." How far we are from the Apostles, those great souls of Jesus Christ!

However, our Lord is granting us a great grace: to love our solitude, our life hidden underground, like Jesus in the tomb, like the grain of wheat. St. Francis de Sales would say to St. Jeanne de Chantal, when she decided to establish the Congregation of the Visitation, "I don't see the light on that, but I am sure that God will do it." I can say the same thing: I do not know when this little seed will germinate and be fruitful, when good vocations will come, but what I believe is that one day God will bless it.

Continue to pray a lot for us, dear sister; we do so for you and with joy, in order that you may belong fully to the glory of God and charity toward your neighbor. I'm very happy to learn that your husband is better and that you have taken very strong resolutions to take more time for yourself. Yes, serve the world through charity and politeness, but give the rest to your family life, your interior life. Try to love this interior life and find your happiness there.

So, we will pray for your dear daughter so that God may grant her just desires and give her saints; children, who are the fruit of prayer, ordinarily become the glory and joy of their parents.

We have already had a few encouraging ceremonies: 2 baptisms of adults, first Communions. Every day, we take one more step toward the goal; so, praise God for it.

My health is satisfactory. I have been working on the Rule for a while and I am happy about it.

Goodbye, dear sister. God didn't let me see Miss Monavon longer. However, the few moments I saw her pleased me.

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

Mme. Jordan
rue de Castries, 10
Lyons (Rhone)

¹⁰³ Spiritual mother.

¹⁰⁴ The favor of depending exclusively on God.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 154/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, December 13, 1856

I am writing to tell you, dear daughter, that on Sunday during the Octave of Christmas, we will have the General meeting of Nocturnal Adoration of Paris with more than 200 (members) in our chapel.

Then on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany and first manifestation of our Lord, solemn Exposition will take place for the first time. Oh how I have been longing for and thanking God in advance for this day. It seems to me that on that day our Lord will take over his family and his house forever. You will unite yourself to us, won't you? And we will unite ourselves to you.

Nothing new here for the moment. It's always the same thing, the same solitude, blessed retreat! I needed it so. God is good to have given it to us in spite of ourselves! So many good meditations! So many new insights, and necessary experiences! Surely, what society considered to be a state of rejection and sterility became an outstanding grace for us.

Two fine priests wrote that they would be coming at the end of the month. Will they come? I hardly dare to hope so.

Two others are due to come for a retreat toward the end of January. If God wills it so, it will happen, because the devil is doing the impossible to stop and block everything.

Now we are thinking about the candles for Exposition, they are very costly. Wax candles cost 58 cents a pound here.

I would like to know how much Mr. Coste, who makes stearine and candles, charges per pound for candles of pure wax to the Reparation of Lyons. He is at quai de l'Archeveche, at Mme. Galle's company. There are candles of different sizes: 4 per pound, 5, and 6, and perhaps 8. Please, find out about it. Is there a way of knowing how much the Reparation Sisters spend for their candles each day?

I was asked to have a Mass said at Fourviere. Kindly take care of it with those you have. Please don't tire yourself preparing the package [you have] for us . . . [*two lines erased*]. . . please.

What are you doing? How is your health? New Year's day is coming soon. Don't tire yourself again with so many visits.

I leave you all in our Lord's keeping, in his heart.

Eymard

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 24/52)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Christmas, 1856

Dear sister,

So you are sick and bedridden. Well! If you are thinking about the journey of eternal love, it's too soon. First, you must enkindle the divine fire around you, become a fool for the service of the God of the Eucharist. May our good Master heal you! Give me news about yourself...

Here is something which will touch your heart. On January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, we will have our first Exposition! What joy! What happiness! The divine King will finally be on his throne and we will begin to be his court, - our duty as his Bodyguard. - Thank him for us, dear daughter, because my soul is sad that I cannot do it better. Then also Calvary doesn't find me to be a very generous victim. Yet, what is more beautiful than to immolate oneself for Jesus? - Yes, go to Saint Chamond, try. There is not much devotion there and it doesn't get much support in a certain sense. Begin with Fr. Germain and the Third Order members.

As for me, I don't know anyone by name. So it's impossible to indicate any adorers other than the Superior of the Congregation for the Young Women,¹⁰⁵ who lives across from the rectory at St. Peter's.

I am so sorry that you don't have a small core of little adorers at Amplepuis! Try to have some. Many blessings on all your children. Ask Jesus for our Eucharistic gifts.¹⁰⁶ I give you mine daily at the holy altar.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, S.S.S.¹⁰⁷

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 19/26 VII 17)

All for the love of Jesus-Eucharistic

Christmas '56

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

I received your last letter, as I did all the others, but with an added regret, to see you suffering from something so bothersome. It seem to me, however, that it is easy to get around that bad temper, even without extreme measures - and then, if the good Lord also wants this little sacrifice, may he be blessed and glorified for it! Alas, dear Sister! we are on our way to eternity - and, in order to go there peacefully, let us leave the world behind, and serve God alone. The world, alas! how childish we are to be so concerned with it; since, says St. Paul, it is only a shadow, or rather, an obstacle, and often an enemy. - How good the good Lord is, dear Sister, to have set you free, to have kept you wholly for himself alone.

¹⁰⁵ Third Order of Mary.

¹⁰⁶ New Year's gifts.

¹⁰⁷ Societas Santissimi Sacramenti.

Foundation of the Congregation 1856

I am very glad that you are working at the organization of perpetual adoration in your parish. I bless you for that above all things. It is the direct service of our divine Master.

If you have another opportunity for such a conversation about charity, listen to her as you would to a person who is ill with fever, and don't be so affected by it, - and above all, - don't be upset. When we become upset, the best way is to rise above our feelings - it is the shortest and safest way.

Yes, charity for all, peace as far as possible, but repose in God alone.

Miss Guillot must be pleased to have you to help her. The dear Lady needs helpers if she is still so ill, - God loves her upon the cross.

On Tuesday I began the novena for your dear brother; I love to pray for that dear son. - I am confident that God has welcomed him into his mercy - he will owe his crown to you.

I used the rest for the decoration¹⁰⁸ of our exposition - it will be a pleasure to me to see you represented before the divine Master.

On Jan 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, we shall have our first Exposition. - What a beautiful day! what happiness! unite yourself to us despite everything. Does divine love have specific banners or foreign names! It has only fire.¹⁰⁹

I shall be praying hard for you.

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

P.S. Please accept my first wishes for the New Year. I wish for you a great love of the God of the Eucharist, - it is the beginning of heaven.

Dec. 28 - Meeting of the members of Nocturnal Adoration Society of Paris at the chapel of the Fathers.

¹⁰⁸ Literally: radiance.

¹⁰⁹ Possible reference to her feelings of loyalty for the Marists.