

CHAPTER IV

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Substitute Novice Master for the Marists

Novice Master

Parish Missions

Third Order of Mary, canonically established

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

April - Replaced Master of Novices at La Favorite.

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CO 192

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 38/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, Monday, April 25, 1850¹

My daughter, I wasn't able to go down to Puylata these last few days. For three days now I've had a head cold and... I have a toothache. So, don't come. I can't foresee which day I'll come down. Continue as usual. I needed a little retreat of suffering...

I beg you to pray particularly for the healing of a Third Order member, the mother of a family.

If I go to the house during the week, I'll let you know.

In our Lord, I am

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

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TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 39/395 VI 2)

Tuesday, April 24, 1850²

I am better. Tonight I'm going down to Lyons and I'll stay there until Thursday afternoon. So you may come either tomorrow, or Thursday morning. I'm sorry to inform you so late, but I've just now decided to go there.

I am,

Devotedly yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

¹ Fr. Eymard wrote "Monday, April 25", but the 25th was a Thursday. Troussier.

² Fr. Eymard wrote "Tuesday, April 24", but the 24th was a Wednesday. Troussier.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 40/395 VI 2)

Lyons, Thursday, April 26, 1850³

I am going to La Favorite. I'm sorry I can't come see you!
I am feeling better. I'll write to my sister. I'm so negligent!
I finally found the red curtain. I put it in the cupboard. I also found the laces. They will bring them to you. The porter has them.
I bless you.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 74/145 VI 10)

*J.M.J.*⁴

Lyons, April 26, 1850

Dear sisters,

I'm very sorry to have made you wait so long for my letter, I was so burdened with activities that I didn't have a moment. On the other hand I was comforted by the good news I was receiving from you.

As for me, I am well except for some toothaches. I am at our novitiate five days a week. It makes me very happy because I am quieter there with some solitude. I do thank God for it.

I believe you received news from the Mles. Guillot. They are all ill. These good women are severely tried, the Cross is really their lot, especially Miss Marguerite, but she is so generous! These good people would greatly desire to have you come to Lyons. They would even like to have you live together with them. I really admire their openheartedness, for I have never found anyone who is so devoted, so discrete and so virtuous. I even think that this meeting would be good for everyone. These ladies prayed and had others really pray for that. They asked me for it, as a grace. I really don't know how to answer. On the one hand I see that you have your difficulties at La Mure, many worries from your farmers and the petty jealousies of devout people. Here you would be freed from that and would have more religious support. My desire for your happiness and perfection surely makes me wish to see your situation improve. On the other hand, would a stay in Lyons, with a climate so different from La Mure, be good for your health? There are many people here who cannot get accustomed to it, and it was even very difficult for me; then the loud noise of the city, a new way of life. And if some political catastrophe happened as we are expecting, Lyons would surely not be quiet. For ourselves, having several houses, we can leave. But where would you go in such circumstances?

³ The 26th was a Friday. Troussier.

⁴ Abbreviation for Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

For myself, I wouldn't advise you to enter a convent, because of your age and infirmities. Convents are often very hard Calvarys. I see it every day in women's convents.

You will tell me: but in Lyons, we would at least be near you. That is true, and if I could help you, I would do so gladly. But I am absent so often and so busy! However, I would always be a brother to you.

If I thought that a trip would do you good, I would ask our Lord to grant it.

Now I come to the difficulties you are having with Miss Fribourg. It made me very sad; I certainly didn't expect such a scene, to say worse, such ingratitude.

I consulted knowledgeable men, and here is what they all said:

1. You have the right to put a stairway in the kitchen, whether she wants it or not, because it is an essential repair.

2. If you spoke to her about it beforehand and she consented, even verbally, she has no right to any compensation. Even without her consent, you would have the right to do it, except then, it would be up to her to claim compensation before the court, and that compensation could only be very minimal because it makes her rent more convenient.

Now, since everything is ready, I advise you and urge you strongly to have it finished, telling her that I desire and want it, and if necessary, require a visit on location by the Justice of the Peace who will surely declare that you are in the right.

But you don't dare, because of the bad grace Miss Fribourg will cause you and the gossip that will result. Go forward: justice favors the weak and oppressed. One must not abandon one's rights. People here go willingly before the courts. Let people be scandalized, if they will. Take care of your affairs and let people talk.

Now, another question.

1. If the lease for the rent has expired, and there is only a friendly agreement, you can dismiss them with a bailiff. At the end of three months, they are obliged to leave.

2. If the Fribourgs hadn't paid their back rent, you would still have the right to send them away.

I know that these are all drastic means, but just, nevertheless.

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CO 197

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 7/33)

[La Favorite], May 12, 1850

Madame,

I forgot to ask you to tell Mme. Lambert about her admission to the Third Order and to bring her to the next meeting, if she accepts. It is from my solitude that I am writing today to ask you to do this. I am so happy to be able to converse with God alone; but I do not forget my children, especially your soul which I would like to see on fire with divine love.

I am in our Lord,

Madame,

Your very humble S.⁵
Eymard

⁵ Probably: Servant.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 41/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, May 18, 1850

Mademoiselle,

Our vestments really need your attention. You'll see by what I'm sending you. One would not dare use such dirty things in the world!

I hope to see Mr. Gaudioz⁶ tomorrow with news about you. I couldn't go down to Lyons. I hope to go see you at the beginning of the week.

If you should need to come here sometime, you should know that the buses from Point-du-Jour pass at the Chancery Bridge at 8, 10, 12, 2 and 4 p.m.

I am devotedly yours in the Lord.

Eymard

P.S. I'm the same as usual. My regards to your sisters.

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 3/52)

At la Favorite
22 Saint Irenaeus

Lyons, May 23, 1850

Madame,

One of our young priests is going to Tarare, his hometown. I am giving him my letter. I hope he will bring me news about you and Miss Claudia.

No need to tell you how sad I felt to learn, when it was too late, about your arrival in Lyons with your sister.⁷ When I received your letter, it was too late for me to get from here to Lyons in time. I could only say: "It isn't God's will. My God, do for them all the good things I desire for them!" I would have been so happy to see Mr. Tholin! In a word, there are some sacrifices which God obliges us to make, so true is it, Madame, that only God is ever accessible! ever kind! ever magnanimous! He alone is necessary!

I was very sorry to learn that you had been sick again. Oh! You really are a disciple of the Cross. Our Lord has granted you many graces and, in order to repay himself for them and to make them bear fruit, he follows them up with a few particles of his beloved Cross.

Still, I ask him to soften and diminish it, to keep you for your dear family. I don't like to pray for Heaven for my daughters in Mary. Heaven is eternal; but this lifetime is short and consequently very precious to obtain merit, holiness, God's glory, to love and be zealous for our Lord. It would be better to live and suffer a bit longer for God.

⁶ her brother-in-law.

⁷ Antonia Bost.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

And what is your dear sister doing? She really loves our Lord, she is surely a fine child of Mary, she dwells within her inner convent. - Be like two flames joined by divine love.
I recommend myself to your prayers and I am in our Lord,

Madame,
Your ever devoted,
Eymard, P.M.S.M.⁸

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Tarare (Rhone)

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CO 200

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 75/145 VI 10)

Lyons, June 2, 1850

My very dear sisters,

I am taking advantage of a quiet moment to give you news about myself. I am the same as usual. I'm presently out in the country at our novitiate, where I'm very happy because I see fewer people and have less business on the outside. How good God is toward me! He always gives me what is best and most useful. So I ask only for his holy Will and the grace to fulfill it.

I don't know when I shall be able to go see you at La Mure. I cannot leave at this time because the Superior is very sick.

I would really be so pleased to go and encourage you, but God doesn't will it for now.

I hope that all the little problems you had mentioned to me have passed. If Miss Fribourg leaves, so much the better! You will find a better replacement later.

I don't know if you will have a lovely procession today. There was a magnificent one at the Cathedral this morning. Lyons is very peaceful. Don't let yourselves be alarmed by the newspapers, nor by exaggerated news; they lie. Some people see everything in black, as an uprising, and as a massacre. May God protect us, and Mary will save France.

The wicked are already vanquished and their evil plans will fall on their own heads.

Always be happy about everything, like daughters of your loving Father in heaven. Look at his goodness and his graces, rather than your faults and weakness.

I am in our Lord,

Dear sisters, all yours,
Your brother,
Eymard

P.S. The Mles Guillot are still ill, especially Miss Marguerite. They asked me to let you come for a visit to Lyons. I answered that I desire it. But, my sisters, on your part, consult your own strength. You would surely be giving them great pleasure. They are so kind!

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

⁸ Marist Priest of the Society of Mary

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 4/52)

June 2, 1850

Madame,

Your note gave me joy in the Lord: and I ask our good Master that his love may complete what his divine goodness has begun in you. Yes, Madame, unite yourself more and more to his love by means of his holy Life. - Become one with his mind, his heart. Go to Jesus through Mary. That is your most effective and precious right. You are his⁹ beloved daughter!

I was so happy to see Mr. Tholin and receive him as a novice¹⁰ - Brother Marie-Jean-Joseph: beautiful names.

Pray a little for me to our Lord. I constantly do so for you. When you want to write to me, address it to La Favorite.

I am in his love,

Madame,
Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard, P.S.M.¹¹

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 42/395 VI 2)

Monday, June 17, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to tell you that I won't come for confessions this week... I'm deaf in one ear and I'm taking medicine... May God be blessed! It's not my fault, so our good Master wants me to stay here quietly. Remain very peaceful within yourself with our Lord and your Garden of Olives. Only, remain very close to our Lord.

Keep the objects as long as necessary. We don't need them.

1. Concerning the piece of blue silk, I don't think it should be sewn to any trimming. Leave it free.

2. Miss David, at Mr. Richard's, Pastor of Jouzieux, via St. Etienne (Loire).

3. We will be grateful to receive your little crucifix. I haven't been able to examine the other things yet.

4. We have three altars of the same width and length as the cloth which I'm sending you.

I haven't been able to write to my sister yet. I'm so negligent! Not true?

⁹ His or her, unclear whether it is Jesus or Mary. (FR)

¹⁰ As a member of the Third Order of Mary.

¹¹ Marist Priest of the Society of Mary

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

I have so much to do here. But there is still time for little sufferings. How good God is to give us work to do!

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

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TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET
(VI 9/10)

Lyons, June 20, 1850

Excellency,

Last night I received the package you kindly sent me postmarked the 5th of the present month. I don't know how to thank you for so much kindness. Everything that comes from you is very dear to me. The biography of the dear Saintly woman which you sent me both edified and made me happy, as it did to those with whom I shared it.

It seems that two of my letters of this year were lost, or two of yours, for I didn't receive any answer from you to my first two letters. I was beginning to worry, afraid that you might be sick or absent. I won't give you news about our men; one of our Fathers is arriving from Oceania and is leaving for Rome. He will give you some news, I mean Fr. Bernin from Lyons.

All our Fathers are well, except our master of novices, Fr. Maitrepierre, the first Provincial of the Society. He is seriously ill. He is suffering from a chest illness which is almost incurable. Please, Your Excellency, pray for him and for us, for it would be a great loss for the Society.

At the beginning of the month of July, the ecclesiastical Province of Lyons will celebrate its Council. All Catholics are working toward it and praying for it. These provincial Councils are rekindling the faith. Faith is still triumphant in France. There were many conversions everywhere at Easter this year, especially among educated people. Suffering makes people reflect, and the sad consequences of false principles put forward until now frighten those who had proclaimed and encouraged them.

In Lyons I am directing the Third-Order of Mary which already has more than 300 very devout members, among whom there are certain number of Priests and especially men. I would really like to obtain a few indulgences for this Association.

I have come back again from Mr. Favier, the goldsmith, about your chain. He wasn't able to sell it yet. It has been on the market. It's really too bad to sell it only for the value of the gold. We will write to Paris to find something better.

Your Excellency, I am pleased by your trust. Do not hesitate to request favors from me; we will always be in your debt.

It is my honor to be, with deep sentiments of respect, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and obedient servant,
Eymard

P.S. The package for Madame, your sister, is leaving tomorrow.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 43/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, Tuesday, July 2, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I am going to Puylata immediately. I'll stay there today, perhaps tomorrow. Try to come today, whenever you wish.

I'm sending the brother for our things... We need the amices first. Please keep all the linen for them, and for about 40 purificators.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Third Floor
Lyons

TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET
(VI 10/10)

J.M.J.

Lyons, July 15, 1850

Excellency,

I am happy to tell you that your gold chain was sold for 340 francs which, together with the 60 francs for the chalice, total 400 francs which you can draw from Mr. Andre Favier, the goldsmith in Lyons.

If you need me to apply for this money, I am entirely at your disposal.

Your Excellency, I suppose that you have not yet been able to offer the Sovereign Pontiff the works which Mr. Mulsant is offering to His Holiness.

This fine Christian is the naturalist scientist of our city and he would be so happy to have the signature of Pius IXth in return. He is truly at the service of religion through apologetics at every scientific gathering.

I wish to recommend myself to your prayers and I beg you to receive my very respectful sentiments. It is my honor, Your Excellency, to be,

Your very humble and obedient servant,
Eymard, P.S.M.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 44/395 VI 2)

J.M.J.

La Favorite, July 30, 1850

Mademoiselle,

You certainly may act upon it, and recommend M.C.'s shop.¹² What we both hope for doesn't change the fact that it's still one of the best for this type of work. So, go ahead and don't be afraid.

As for Fr. Lagniet's note, I'm happy about it, and if that could... for you, I would even be happier. I had spoken to Fr. Lagniet about... He was very... I told him how this affected you, and he laughed. He isn't thinking of the Marist Sisters at all for our linens, because he is quite satisfied with the present arrangement. As for the surplus in your account, be at peace. I'll arrange everything. If you come to Puylata Saturday, as I hope, I will...

Until then I'll pray that our Lord give you strength, courage, and especially love for the holy cross.

If only you paid less attention to all that interior noise, all those impressions, and lived in peace in the midst of war, it would be a consolation. So then, don't forget that our Lord is the one who wants you in this condition. You are giving him more glory thereby than in some other way. Your weaknesses and infidelities can even become beautiful reasons to trust in his goodness.

Besides, you know that I've given you a general permission to come here when you need me. I would thank our Lord if I could help your soul.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard
S. D. M.¹³

P.S. I will come only Saturday... and leave before dinner. I will be free at 8:30.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 76/145 VI 10)

La Favorite, 22, St. Irene-Lyons, July 31, 1850

My very dear sisters,

I am writing a few words to you since I can't come see you yet, as you and I wish.

I must remain at the Novitiate, since the Superior is still sick. However, he is a little better and we hope that God will send him back to us [healed]. We have just sent him to the Springs at Allevard.

¹² Perhaps Mr. Claude, her brother-in-law?

¹³ Initials: meaning unknown.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

As for me, I'm still happy at the novitiate. I have fewer worries here and I am well. Truly the Good Lord spoils me with his special graces. At least I can pray a bit more here than at Lyons and I am able to work. The result is that the days seem too short.

I received news about you several times indirectly. I thank God for having given you back your health, though [you are] very weak, and I pray that he may keep you well.

As for the house repairs and the choice of leases, I leave all that to your good judgment. The essential thing is to notify Miss Fribourg of her dismissal. I remember that one of her landlords had every possible kind of difficulty to send them away and that it had been necessary to send notification by bailiff.

It seems to me that we should not be so afraid of them. If I go to La Mure, I will spare you this burden.

If you could have the house fixed nicely without too much expense, the revenue would be larger than everything you are drawing from it now, even with the press, and you would especially be more at peace.

Continue to work at becoming saints and use all these difficulties for the love of God.

It is necessary to suffer in this life, it is characteristic of our Lord's beloved disciples. You have already suffered a great deal. That is what will give you a large share in the glory of Jesus crucified.

Find your peace in God and not in human beings. Let people talk and judge as they will, and follow the path that God has traced for you in freedom and holiness.

I am affectionately in our Lord,
Dear sisters,

Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

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TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 45/395 VI 2)

[La Favorite]¹⁴, August, 1850

Mademoiselle,

One of our priests would like to have an alb bleached, and have another one finished. He has only half. I am sending both; they are made of embroidered tulle. Buy what you need, he'll pay for everything. He would like a decorative lining for the sleeves. There are two plain albs; one is too short, the other is torn. The first two albs I mentioned are urgent, because he has to leave in a week.

I will send you a letter for Miss Jenny soon.

Continue to be generous and devoted to holy obedience and God will bless you.

Eymard

P.S. Excuse my shabby letter, I don't have time to do it over.

¹⁴ According to Fr. Troussier.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

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CO 210

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 5/52)

La Favorite, 22 St. Irenaeus Quarter, Lyons, August 5, 1850

Madame,

I am writing to thank you for remembering me in God's presence and tell you that I like to repay you in kind, praying that your love for God may be ever growing, ever longed for. Love has no limits nor boundaries. It is infinite, like God, its center and purpose.

Love is a consuming fire, everything ought to sustain it; especially what surrounds us, crucifies us, fills our life. We only need to give back to God everything he gives us, making it pass through the fire of love. As you know, love is active, enterprising, while being calm and peaceful.

It [love] wants to embrace everything, do everything; while at the same time let go of everything, leave everything behind.

It [love] prefers to suffer rather than to enjoy, Calvary over Tabor. It wants to tell everyone to love God, while escaping from the social world and its glances, smiles and affections. Love is the mystery of God's grace. We must let ourselves be burned and consumed.

The altar of divine Love is the Cross. Our own cross is ourselves: our poor body with its suffering, our heart with its excessive longings, our will with its unfortunate fears! A great cross, which, however, is mitigated by the grace of our Lord. Please, let yourself be led by our dear Master like a child who has no will, with no other love than his love, which makes all things lovable.

I very willingly receive Miss Maria Collongette as a novice.¹⁵ On a set day meet with her and your sister; have her read the formula for the consecration for novices.

I keep Mr. Tholin in mind, especially now that we have this beautiful bond in Mary.¹⁶ I remember your children and your sister.

May our Lord bless you and keep you all in his holy grace and divine love.

All yours in Jesus and Mary.
Eymard, P.S.M.¹⁷

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Tarare (Rhone)

¹⁵ Member of the Third Order of Mary.

¹⁶ As a member of the Third Order of Mary.

¹⁷ Priest of the Society of Mary.

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 4/28)

La Favorite, August 5, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I am very pleased that you have a copy of the “*Regle des Vierges Tiercaires*”¹⁸ and I would be even more so, if it could help your soul a little and help you become even holier in your present position.

Find God in this Providential position of yours. God wants you there: he has put into it all the graces, virtues, and love found in the most sublime vocation.¹⁹ However, love the Good Lord there with all your strength. You are made to love him. May he be praised for having given you the kingdom of his holy love!

Have a real love for your dear sister, without scruples or worry. The Good Lord wants it.

To love her means to love the graces the Good Lord has given her and those he gives you for her. Love her with an affinity of heart, just as the feelings arise. I know that God has made your hearts one.

Love your family in God.

I applaud the idea that God has made your heart very large. Oh! It’s really true and if you were still holier, it would be even larger and even more loving.

Always mention me to our good Master, so that I may not be unfaithful to the graces he has given me.

I bless you in his love.

All yours in Jesus,
Eymard, P.M.

Miss Antonia Bost
at Tarare

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 46/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, August 12, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I’m afraid it is I who didn’t explain myself well about the albs. The one with a black lining, and the one yet to be made, for which you have only the bottom, belong to a novice. He will be leaving for England to found a house of the Society there. The other three belong to the Novitiate. We don’t need a lining for the sleeves on ours. I don’t know what needs to be done. They may be torn. One of them is too short, the one with the big tuck. Just unsew it.

¹⁸ Rule for the Third Order Virgins.

¹⁹ He never encouraged her desire for religious life.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

For the first two, if you think it would be enough to iron them, and would be less likely to spoil them, do it that way. I leave that to your experience which is perfect in this regard. But don't rush too much. I don't think he will leave before a week.

I'm praying to St. Philomena to obtain all that you desire and all that I desire for you.

St. Paul says that we enter into the kingdom of Heaven only through many tribulations, and you aren't lacking those. In heaven on judgement day, at the moment of our death, it will be so good to have had something to suffer for the love of our Lord Jesus! Be strong in your weakness, generously faithful to little things, prompt in practical obedience, eager to sacrifice your will over your freedom, glorifying God as he wills, in the manner he wills, that is, by means of your distress, poverty, temptations, I would almost say by your sins - humbling yourself, casting yourself more trustingly into our Lord's fatherly and merciful arms.

Learn to bear your heart's coldness, the absence or the inability of human beings to bring you relief. May Jesus crucified be enough for you, so that you will stay at the foot of his cross, with Mary his divine Mother.

God alone! It's the highest learning! What divine strength! What a priceless treasure! What profound consolation! May his divine and infinite goodness grant it to you!

Eymard

P.S. I told your sister to come for the patronal feast, August 25th.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
3rd floor
Lyons

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CO 213

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 47/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, August 21, 1850

My dear daughter, I'm sending you a letter for Miss Jenny. Read it first. Yesterday, I was sorry I gave you so little [time], with regrets you can be sure. If you need me, I'm totally at your service. The best time would be from 1:00 to 4:00. There are departures passing at the Chancery Bridge at noon, and at 2:00.

I felt so sorry for you, yesterday. Take better care of yourself! Could it be that our poor chapel has worn you out!

Suffering is worth more than prayer. So! Be pleased to suffer in union with our Lord. Take courage, time is passing, Heaven is approaching and also our eternally loving God.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

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TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 6/52)

The document is deleted because it is the same letter found in Volume I Doc. #377 (CO 375)

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CO 214

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 77/145 VI 10)

Lyons, September 12, 1850

My dear sisters,

Before beginning retreat, I want to send you this short greeting; our retreat begins today and will last 8 days. We really need it, for, the more we mix with people and continually work for others, we ourselves end by becoming depleted. So I am very happy to see the approach of this retreat. Please pray to God that I may make it well.

I would have liked to go see you, but Fr. Superior General needed me and I wasn't able to leave Lyons. I am replacing the Superior of the Novitiate who has been sick for several days. However, he is better now.

I will go to preach the retreat at the Major Seminary of Grenoble at the end of October. From there I will have the pleasure to go see you, at the beginning of the month of November.

I have often had news of you from several of our Fathers and others who were so kind as to go see you. I was truly grateful to them for it.

I will leave you now my sisters in the love of our Lord, and ask him to watch over and sanctify you ever more and more.

Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

Sept. 27 - Communication for Rome regarding the Third Order.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 48/395 VI 2)

Saturday, La Favorite, September 28, 1850

Mademoiselle,

Come here tomorrow night or Monday morning, if you can. I will try to have everthing ready for your retreat. I bless it and I'm very pleased about it! I have all that you wish; so don't worry.

I don't have time to answer Miss Jenny. Please tell her to be at peace, that I am taking full responsibility, and I will answer her later.

Goodbye in Jesus and Mary,

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (MME. CAMILLE, NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 2/75)

St. Irenaeus, 22, chemin de La Favorite, October 7, 1850

Madame,

Thank you for remembering me. I likewise remember you graciously in God's sight, and I ask our good Master to keep you ever faithful to his loving service. Then you will always be happy because God is the center of supreme happiness.

I feel that I can picture you being very happy and joyful in your dear countryside; that a happy heart and a rested mind make the practice of virtue more natural and gentle.

Madame, you can see that you will never be fully happy except in God. Your heart is too big for anything else. It might enjoy these things in passing, but it will not find its fulfillment there. You do know this, and I praise God for it.

I'm going to preach the retreat at the Major Seminary of Grenoble, from the 26th of October to November 1st. I expect to leave here around the 16th. I will only be able to bless you from a distance when I see the beautiful plains of Tullins.

I am settled at La Favorite for this year. The former Superior is feeling better, though. From my little fortress I am always happy to go down to be with my dear sisters of the Third Order.

It would make a nice outing for Mme. Jordan, to come see the hermit.

Please Madame, continue to be kind, faithful, joyful, courageous, etc., and pray a little for the one who likes to pray for you and your whole family, and especially for my little daughter of Mary from whom I ask a remembrance to our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, S.P.M.

219

CO 218

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 49/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, October 16, 1850

I am leaving tomorrow, Thursday, at 7:30 a.m. via the national messengers, Place des Terreaux. So then, please have your box brought there, at least by 6:45, addressed to me. Later today I'll write to tell you what you have to do.

220

CO 219

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 50/395 VI 2)

La F., October 16, 1850

Mademoiselle,

As I am about to leave I am writing you a few words, sorry that I couldn't come to see you. The Good Lord didn't give me time to do so.

1. Miss David may tell the Marcel ladies that I decided to postpone Miss...

2. I had thought of including the directress to study the question of the six months' absence.

Be at peace about anything that Miss... may have said and done concerning me and the Third Order. She is highly esteemed by the Superior General, and everything was taken in good grace. In general, too much importance was given to Father Superior's words. After all, it's the Good Lord who does and determines everything.

So don't let yourself worry about such things. Just remember you are the disciple of God's will at each moment. What the Good Lord wants of you: to be a little child at his feet.

You need to be really united to our dear crucified Master, divinely united with his adorable, will of love. All your strength lies there.

So then, never stray from the Jesus of your heart: be entirely his at all times. It is always fair weather for the one who lives under the rays of divine love.

Your grace is still untested. Don't use it right away. Remain quietly recollected in our Lord; and stay close to your good Father.

About your topic for prayer, I told you, stay humble, poor and small at the feet of our Lord, like Magdalen, and be content that he lets you be there. Blessed be your temptations which purify you and martyr you by inner groanings! It's your best time.

Goodbye. It's 9:00 p.m. May our Lord keep you, preserve you, as well as your good sisters in his holy love. Continue your Communion until I return.

221

CO 220

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 51/395 VI 2)

La Mure d'Isere, October 25, 1850

Dear daughter,

I am writing to give you some news about us. The Good Lord blessed my trip. I had the pleasure of going to Laus and spending two days there. I don't need to tell you how many times I presented you all to our Good Mother, especially our dear patient. I asked her to give each of you the graces you need to be worthy spouses of Jesus crucified and worthy children of his heart.

The plan for a foundation at Laus is postponed. That is how God wills it, and so do I, with all my heart. Your statues arrived in good condition. I can't tell you how happy and pleased my sisters were. They are fine and ask me to tell you of their love and gratitude.

I'll leave for Grenoble tomorrow and stay there until All Saints Day. I'd be happy to receive a letter from you at the Major Seminary. Your letter to my sisters, about Miss Claudine, left me sad. We will renew our prayers for her healing.

I leave you in the holy hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and I bless you in their love.

All yours in Christ,
Eymard, S. M.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

October 26-November 1 - Retreat preached at the Major Seminary of Grenoble.

222

CO 221

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 78/145 VI 10)

Grenoble, October 31, 1850

My very dear sisters,

The Good Lord doesn't want me to go pay you a second visit. The father of my substitute at the novitiate is dying and I must return immediately on Saturday so that he may go to offer his last respects. It is at least a duty of charity on my part to do so.

The matter of Gap is coming to a conclusion, and so I hope to be able to see you in the springtime. But may the holy will of God be ever done. I am well, the Good Lord has sustained me, he has done everything. I spoke in favor of Fr. Faure, but then, I am not telling you anything new.

Take care of yourselves during the winter, carefully avoiding the [extremes of] heat and cold.

I am in our Lord,

Dear sisters,
Your very loving brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

223

CO 222

TO BR. GABRIEL
(VIII 2/4)²⁰

Dear Rev. Superior,

I saw your fine brothers at the minor Seminary of Grenoble. They seemed to be content. It's true that they have many difficulties, and the servants eyed them with jealousy and (illegible). They handled themselves very well and we are pleased with them. The Rev. Superior has told me of his plans, in order to give them more freedom: he asks you, through me, to keep a few more candidates for him - he would like five more. In that way, the brothers would be by themselves and thus more independent. Since you told me that you had some, I informed him of this and he hopes you will be able to oblige him by strengthening this establishment.

In any case I shall have the honor of seeing you when I come to Belley.

Be assured, Rev. Superior, of my most sincere respects.

Eymard

224

CO 223

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 52/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, November 13, 1850

My dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm writing to answer your letter dated the tenth.

1. Write or come when you need to [do so]. If our good Master gives me something to give you, I'll do so with his fatherly love.

2. Make the novena that you mention, if you aren't too tired. 1) For the Holy Hour, 2) the Stations of the cross, 3) Communion at Fourviere (which is close to us), 4) for the five Our Fathers at night: once or twice are enough. Poor Third Order! I'm very happy that the Blessed Virgin gave me such a beautiful Work for her glory. How can we complain about the small difficulties, when we see the saving blessings which it bestows upon souls. I understand that crosses which come from outsiders seem very small when compared to those that come from our own. But if we love our Lord, we should be content, for they immolate our poor natural feelings more completely. Actually, I expect only thorns and nails from human beings, whoever they may be. All I ask from

²⁰ Probably after the Retreat preached at the Major Seminary of Grenoble, Oct 26 – Nov 1, 1850

Jesus, is that I may let myself be crucified as he was, like a silent, gentle lamb. The cross helps me to go directly to our Lord.

3. Let your prayer be a prayer of silence before God, forgetting yourself before such a good God, as much as you can. Therefore, follow the grace of the moment. Follow God's will upon you whether mysterious or clear. Don't cling to any particular means which are only to be used. God will always be there.

The grace of love progressively destroys self-pride, by immolating our own will. We must let him act, our good Savior loves to turn everything upside down in his temple of love. He takes his whip to chase away from it everything that isn't himself.

4. Continue doing the minutes as you have done.²¹ Obedience wills it. The rest should be foreign to you. Don't even be concerned about it.

5. About Miss C., listen to her with charity. Don't take responsibility for any of her errands. Don't give any importance to what she may say. Don't downgrade what she says, but believe in her good intention. In order to accomplish this, do nothing without submitting it to the grace of obedience. She sins more with the head than with the heart. She should be held back rather than encouraged.

6. I will ask Miss C. for the Minutes. As far as the others are concerned I'll leave that to your prudent judgement. You can give them to Miss Gal on condition that she returns them to you. I remember that she had asked for it. I'll speak to her...

7. Keep your freedom toward Miss Camus. It isn't your responsibility to go see her. Then also, I prefer that you shouldn't tie yourself down to those visits. As for those who don't accept you as you are... leave everything to God. Excuse yourself because of poor health, yours and your sisters.

8. Imitate the gentle charity of our Lord toward his rude and coarse apostles. That is the beautiful benefit of dealing with others.

9. My sister's veil should be dyed red.²² Courage! my daughter. Live by our Lord, in our Lord, for our Lord. Surrender ourself entirely to his sword of love. The best and strongest life comes through death for love.

Eymard

225

CO 224

TO FR. MARIE CHIRON²³
(VI 1/2)

Lyons, November 13, 1850

My dear Father,

In your charity please forgive me for my delayed reply. I have been away for several weeks, and have not been able to prove my affection for you.

If the good Master wants to use me to help you, I wish it with all my heart; but do ask him for the graces and insights which I can only mediate as a poor limited instrument.

I have been praying hard before giving you my answer, and here is what I wish to say to you:

- (1) Blessed are the poor in spirit. They are the friends, the brothers, and the favorites of our Lord. So you must love holy and divine poverty as a kind, tender mother. It will be the source of all your wealth.
- (2) The time given for rest, and for prayer, is sufficient. Give what time you can also to sacred study. Remain ignorant about all the worldly sciences.
- (3) As for the crucifix and stole, I think it is according to the spirit of God to obtain permission

²¹ Minutes of the Third Order of Mary.

²² Perhaps a symbolic statement - sign of the Cross and the Precious Blood.

²³ Founder of the Congregation of St. Martha of the Assumption for the care of the mentally ill.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

from the Bishops of those places you visit and where you stay, and to leave if they aren't accepted.
(4) We are praying hard for the poor possessed man. One must beware of the evil spirit, keep him in the humility of silence and not give him the opportunity to become proud.

(5) The Glory to the Father is not necessary for the crosses. All the crosses I have indulgenced carry a personal indulgence for a happy death for the person who has it.

Pray for me, very dear Father, that I may learn to let myself be crucified with our good Master, and draw real profit from his divine cross.

I am, in his divine love,

All yours,
P. Eymard

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CO 225

TO FR. ANTOINE BERTHOLON, S.M.
(VI 1/2)

La Favorite, 22 St. Irenaeus, Lyons, November 16, 1850

Very dear colleague,

I have some good, comforting news for you, as well as for Sister Threse of Jesus [Miss Theodelinde Dubouche]. His Eminence called me to ask for information on the new work of perpetual adoration and reparation of Miss Dubouche. He told me that his great desire is to establish Forty Hours in Lyons as it is in Rome in the Community of the sisters of adoration there. The Cardinal added: I would be very happy to receive the good sisters from Paris, but first, I would like to have some precise information on their purpose, on their way of doing things and establishing themselves. In Lyons we would be happy to grant them exposition like a continual Forty Hours, etc....

With that in mind, very dear Father, discuss it with Mother, and answer me immediately with a letter that I can show the Cardinal because this thought is very much on his mind, and he is impatiently waiting for this answer. If you wish, send me an explanation of the Work. - As for the foundation to be established, my thought is that we must begin with Bethlehem to finish in the Cenacle, but don't mention the house of Miss Perrin. The Cardinal doesn't like it.

I am expecting your answer by return mail at the above address.

Please ask for a novena from your dear daughters for my intentions, for a very important matter. Everything is going well in the Novitiate.

Goodbye, dear Father,
All yours,
Eymard

Father Bertholon
Marist Priest
rue Montparnasse 31,
Paris

TO MR. CLAUDE GAUDIOZ

(B-6 129 III 3 VII 1)

MME. GAUDIOZ

(B-6 129 III 2)

Charter

1. Agree on the work assignments of the workers and sending them on errands in the city. When one leader must use a worker, inform the other leader in order to know whether an order has already been given.
2. Never publicly contradict the orders given by another leader; make your observations only in private.
3. Complaints between the two leaders should only once a month be brought to the Justice of the peace.
4. The two leaders should be attentive, especially in public, to show respect for one another in their language and relationship.
5. When one leader is busy at a sale or business matter, the other will not interfere unless his advice is sought.
6. Never go to bed angry, says the Holy Spirit. The more generous of the two shall take the initiative in the evening.
7. When a fault has been forgiven at night, it shall not be raised again, except before the Justice of the peace.
8. Only the two leaders will receive the money.
9. They will not absent themselves from the house without telling one another.
10. The workers will be treated honestly, correcting them by reasoning with them.
11. In the winter, the two leaders would do well to go to Mass separately - but when business is not too pressing, to the 6:00 a.m. Mass.

Lyons, November 24, 1850

Eymard

Gaudioz

f. Gaudioz²⁴

²⁴ The signature of Mother Marie Clemence du SS, the second Superior General of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, is also appended to this document.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 5/52)

J.M.J.

November 25, 1850

Miss Stephanie
Mademoiselle,

Your letter pleased me, especially when I learned about your fidelity to meditation and your other practices of devotion.

Your method for meditation is a good one. Accomplish this holy practice only to do the holy Will of God, to consecrate yourself to his service, humble yourself at his feet, present your needs to him like a poor little one, tell him your gratitude, your love. Love is the purpose of everything. So consider the reflections, affections, resolutions of your meditation only as means to lead you to the union of divine Love.

Let love therefore be the soul and foundation of everything. When this feeling predominates, put all the rest aside. Means are useless when we achieve the goal.

But as you know, divine Love is as insatiable as fire, always wanting more, and causes suffering by burning whatever is extraneous to it.

Keep your soul at peace, in order to be able to be very attentive and very faithful to the inner movements of the Holy Spirit.

Your soul will be in peace if you constantly renew its generous willingness to suffer anything, to set anything aside for something else, in a word, to sacrifice your will when the Will of God asks for something else.

What irritates and upsets us is our miserable will with desires that are too strong, or a feeling of independence which is too fearful of the holy bondage of the cross.

So, always keep your heart united to the divine Heart of our Lord, in order that his love may become the life, the principle of your actions, and the center of your rest.

Goodbye my dear daughter. Go anywhere joyfully when God wants it, and the Tabernacle, Heaven, God, our love can be found everywhere.

Eymard

TO FR. MARIE CHIRON²⁵

(VI 2/2)

Lyons, November 26, 1850

Dear Reverend Father,

Yes, let us adore the holy Will of God in everything that happens.

By the refusals you are experiencing, you can see how the spirit of God has withdrawn from those who ought to be filled with it, and how far materialism has spread its damage. It is time for God to come to the help of his Church; he will not delay.

²⁵ Founder of the Congregation of St. Martha of the Assumption for the care of the mentally ill.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

I urge you not to think of a trip to Rome. Events will happen sooner than you may think. They would overtake you on the way.

After these events, everything will change little by little and you will obtain easily what was refused to you until now.

Pray always, pray a great deal for me, and for all.

I am affectionately in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary your devoted servant,

Eymard

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CO 229

TO FR. ANTOINE BERTHOLON, S.M.

(VI 2/2)

La Favorite, St. Irenaeus Quarter, Lyons, November 30, 1850

Very dear colleague,

Last night I saw his Eminence. I gave him your letter and the notice. The Bishop is well disposed toward this foundation. You know that devotion to the Blessed Sacrament is the privileged devotion of his Eminence. So all he wants is to see it strengthened in Lyons and in the diocese.

About the possibility of a trip by Sister Therese, his Eminence replied: The Superior is right, we can communicate better in person, so I will be happy to receive her.

Then the Bishop asked me to look for some locations so that when Sr. Therese arrives, we can show her something. I will start looking today. Pray and have others pray that I may succeed according to God's good pleasure; especially novenas for the souls in Purgatory.

For this new foundation I would advise: 1. not to go outside the city, or to places that are difficult to visit, so that the people of the city may go to adore the Blessed Sacrament easily;

2. Choose a place with possibility of expansion and begin little by little. With the Cardinal, we must be direct and trusting, yet make this foundation as if we expected nothing from him, although that will surely come for he is so good! Then, the devout people of Lyons will be generous;

3. Concerning retreats to be made in the house by outsiders, it would be better not to emphasize that. It will come later naturally.

Assure good Sister Therese of all my dedication, and believe me ever, dear Father, your very affectionate colleague,

Eymard P.M.

Father Bertholon
Marist Priest
rue Montparnasse 9 or 35
Paris

TO FR. JEAN CLAUDE COLIN S.M.
(VI 3/6)

Lyons, December 1850

I am writing to place the Brief from the Pope for the Third-Order into your hands. His Eminence, the Cardinal Archbishop of Lyons, sent it to me; he calls it a Canonical Institution. It seems that the Cardinal was flattered by this gesture of confidence from the Pope toward him, and of the power which he was giving him. Hardly had he read the Brief and the letter from Father Theiner explaining it, he added: "Well, we will forward this Brief with pleasure. We need to write a report with the *attentis* and dispatch an official certificate. I will do the rest later." And I answered: "His Eminence will do as he judges necessary."

So that is how I received this Canonical Institution with all its formalities. When I received it, a feeling of joy and of sadness both filled my heart at the same time, especially when I read #4 where my name is written. I really do want to tell you, as my Father, that I am very innocent in this matter. If I could have foreseen that, I would have been quite opposed to it. We could solve this problem as follows: These fundamental articles relating to the Third-Order could be requested only from you.

Truly, Father, I can only be amazed, and adore God, when I consider how the Third-Order has moved forward. Its trials (and I must admit that they closely resemble those of the Society), when I see this approbation from the Sovereign Pontiff come, as if by an exceptional favor, the Cardinal who until then had been quite cold, become so interested at the very time when I thought the Third-Order was at death's door.

I must admit that I was so frustrated and sad that I hoped it would die, especially, Reverend Father, after I heard about your disappointment, which the indiscretions of a few Fathers spread among the public. All that had saddened me to the point that I had put off spiritual directions at intervals of two or three months. I was receiving no more new members, and I didn't dare encourage anyone to [join], I was letting Providence act... and now I see that the blessing of the Church is coming to strengthen what was unsteady, giving it the time and freedom it needs to be perfected.

At the sight of this, I cannot help saying: *Digitus Dei est hie!*²⁶ You shared your ideas about the Third-Order with me. Be sure, Very Reverend Father, I will not stray from them and I will ever be your loving and obedient son.

J. Eymard

²⁶ The finger of God is here.

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 5/76)

La Favorite, 22 St. Ireneus, Lyons, December 4, 1850

Madame,

I would have been so happy to see you before you left for Paris. However, since he didn't let it be so, may he be praised!

I couldn't answer you sooner. A thousand and one things have just come up.

As for the young man, it would have been desirable that he remain at some distance. Prolonged absence corrects the foolishness of that illness. You did well to try to reason with him. But what should you do now? It seems to me that you fulfilled your responsibility in charity, and your only responsibility now is unquestioning silence. You cannot count on the father's weakness for support. In your situation, I would let things go awhile, while giving prudent advice. When I say "let things go", what I mean is to be a bit passive and let them struggle a little between them. As you can see, I am a bit unsure, as I don't know the persons, or the heart's pain, I almost don't know what to say. If you were staying at Thorins, you would be able to save everything by following it up. But since you must leave, I can only see what I said above.

The new details that you gave me, Madame, about Mr. B., only confirm my thoughts expressed in the first letter: that is, that Mr. B. should do good [deeds] according to his present grace. We should never rush to set up a foundation. Somehow God must push and press us; we shouldn't rush his time. So, let's wait a while longer given the difficulties related to [finding] the location. That is nothing at all when establishing a school, especially a free one.

Live of the Good Lord, Madame, of our Eucharistic Lord. Otherwise, you cannot be a constant victim of love. Observe carefully how divine Providence guides you. God does everything, organizes everything, foresees everything to lead you to him. So, therefore, be without a past, without a future, but ever present to the divine will of our good Master. He will lead you by the hand through every difficulty to the grace of his perfect love.

Goodbye Madame, may our Lord be your way, your truth and your life. My respects to Mademoiselle [Stephanie] and a remembrance in her prayers. I'm happy to hear the good news you gave me about her.

For Mademoiselle, love consists in the joyful loving self-denial of her will to God's.

All yours,
Eymard

Madame,
Madame Gourd

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SISTER JOSEPH DU SS)
(VI 1/1 V 76)²⁷

----- SPIRITUAL COUNSELS -----

Receive Communion, pray, act like God's poor one, and God in his mercy will make up what is lacking.

May God bless you and lead you by the hand!

Distinguish carefully what comes from God, from reason, from the imagination - from what remains from scruples or from the devil. - And judge each thing by its own cause and principle.

Go to God through everything that happens, without being attached to anything except his holy Will and his good pleasure. If the opportunity to practice some virtue presents itself, use it to please God; but do not make an occupation of it - it's a visit from a heavenly messenger, that's all.

Focus your spiritual life in your heart, in the desire to be wholly God's and for God. As for your mind, intelligence, memory, even reflection, - leave them at the door of the sanctuary of divine love. Don't struggle directly against your distractions, or the wanderings of your imagination. See it all as something foreign to your desire to love and serve God, and then, if you are not troubled or anxious about it, your heart will gently draw all your faculties towards God.

Dec. 5 - The Archbishop of Lyons decreed the canonical establishment of the Third Order of Mary.

TO FR. AGOSTINO THEINER
(VI 1/2)

J.M.J.

Lyons, December 16, 1850

Very Reverend Father,

The two scholastics you sent to me brought me the precious Brief which you obtained from His Holiness for the approbation of the Third Order of Mary. It is impossible to tell you the joy and happiness it gave me. But how can I express our gratitude to you. I can only do so by calling you the Father of the Third Order and its first Founder in the Church. May the Blessed Virgin repay you for all the good that you have done and still desire to do for us...

The whole Third Order is praying and will pray for you for a long time to come.

His Eminence Cardinal de Bonald was very touched by your remembrance and the work you sent as a gift. He asked me to convey his affection and special thanks.

His Eminence, in virtue of the faculties obtained, instituted the Third Order canonically as a delegate of the Holy See, and gave it the indulgences indicated in the Petition. So now we are really in order, and I hope that the blessing of the Church will be a source of life and graces for all the members of the Third Order.

It is with regret that I tell you that today your two proteges, Mr. Mangold Desmas and Father Xavier Valdogl, had to leave for Bavaria. Last night they received a pressing and threatening letter from their families so they had to return to their country immediately. They had received similar

²⁷ There is no indication of place or date for this Document. However, around this time Eymard's direction to Mme. Gourd seems more substantial. Therefore, this document is placed here. (Ed.)

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

letters several times before because of the debts that had been contracted for them. I did all I could to keep them, but it was impossible. They left and we are grieving for them, for they both edified us all. They are learned and holy young men; they promised to return later.

Since I could not show my gratitude to you, very Reverend Father, I tried to do so toward them because of you, for they were under my immediate direction. I gave them some of the means for their trip. If one day I have the joy of seeing you, I would like to ask you some details about the grace you obtained for us from the Holy Father for the Third Order.

Together with my expression of deep gratitude, please receive my profound respect by which I am, in our Lord, Very Reverend Father,

Your humble and obedient Servant,
Eymard, Marist Priest

(My address is: La Favorite #22
St. Irenaeus Quarter, Lyons)

P.S. Please excuse my delay in sending you my letter of thanks. I was waiting for an opportunity - If you could help Bishop Lucquet in favor of a learned man who has just offered all his works, four volumes in 4^o as a tribute to His Holiness Pius IX.

Believe me ever, Very Reverend Father, your ever grateful servant,

Eymard

Lyons, March 16, 1851
To Very Rev. Father Theiner, Agostino
Oratorian Priest, at the Chiesa Nova
Rome, via Marseilles

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CO 233

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 1/14)

La Favorite, 22 St. Irenaeus Quarter, Lyons, December 19, 1850

Dear Sir,²⁸

I was immensely pleased to receive your fine letter. I have often thanked divine Providence already for giving me the blessed opportunity to meet you. When the same spirit is discovered between the hearts of two strangers, a bond is quickly formed. When God is this bond, it becomes very beautiful and strong. Therefore, I am happy to receive you as a novice in the Third Order of Mary. In keeping with the faculties I have received, I delegate your fine director to receive your first consecration, which I am sending you herewith, and even to receive your profession communicating all the indulgences which we have just received from the Sovereign Pontiff. That is: a Plenary indulgence for the Third Order Members on their profession day, twice a month on the day of their choice on the feasts of Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Pentecost, the Holy Name of Jesus, the Heart of Jesus; the feasts of the Immaculate Conception, the Nativity, the Holy Name of Mary, the Presentation, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Assumption, the Transfixion (Passion Friday), Our Lady of Seven Sorrows (third Sunday of September), the Most Pure Heart of Mary,

²⁸ First of 14 letters addressed to M. E de Leudeville, at Leudeville, near Marolles-en-Hurepoix (Seine-et-Oise)

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Our Lady of Mercy; All Saints, on the Feasts of St. Joseph, the Patronage of St. Joseph, St. Michael the Archangel, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael, the holy Guardian Angels.

These indulgences can all be applied to the souls in Purgatory; but they can be gained only after profession has been made.

I would advise you to make your consecration as a novice at Christmas and your profession at Easter, and dispense you from the rest of the time [required]. If the times should become stormy, you could be received when you wish.

Dear Sir, I would like this favor to remain secret, because we don't want to make the Third Order public yet. And if O... wanted to join it, I very willingly give your director a second delegation, with pleasure.

Thank you for the precious news you give me about him, and I pray for him daily at the holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

I carried out your errand to Miss Chauda, and fine Mme. d'Apohier, whom I respect very much.

Later, I will send you what I can about the Third Order. I associated the child whom you recommended. The conditions are: (1) That the child will bear the name of Mary at its baptism; (2) that they will recite a Hail Mary or a *Memorare* every day until it is baptised with this invocation: "Oh Mary, Mother of holy Hope, pray for us."

You are in good hands, dear Sir, your soul is well-guided. I hope that this new bond which you are contracting with the Blessed Virgin will be a treasure of grace and merits for you especially, a powerful shield in the midst of dangers.

I can only encourage you to mental prayer, in all simplicity and surrender to divine goodness. It's true that meditation is hard work, but it's always fruitful. The difficulties which accompany it become the source of greater virtues and the source of precious graces. When we have a spirit of prayer we have everything. It's the remedy for every evil.

Go to prayer like a poor child, and you will always be well there. Prayer is not and cannot be other than the humble and trusting exercise of our spiritual poverty. The poorer we are, the more right we have to divine charity. This thought has enriched many suffering souls.

Please receive as a brother the fond and ever devoted feelings of the one who is happy to be,

All yours *in Christo*,
Eymard

(My address is: at La Favorite, #22 St. Irenaeus Quarter, Lyons.) I will send you the formula for profession later. Excuse my haste. I want to send my letter today.

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CO 234

TO MISS DAVID²⁹
(VII 1/2)

La Favorite, December 19, 1850

While praying particularly for our dear Third Order during my thanksgiving, I felt strongly urged to write my thoughts to you about reparation through Adoration.

For a long time I have wanted a regular center for the Third Order, because I could see the future impossibility of our being the center at the Mother-House of the Society. Sooner or later, it will be necessary to leave there, as the number of Third Order members grows. But the Third Order needed to spend its stormy childhood near its mother, under the same roof, in order to be able to

²⁹ Directress of the Third Order of Mary.

live by its spirit and grow in its shadow; it needed this proximity, so that it could be cared for and blessed at the sight of God's blessing. But now, the Third Order has become a child of the Church. It must be allowed to root itself more deeply. It needs a permanent center of action and support. I dreamed about such a center. I was asking God for it. Nothing of what was proposed satisfied me. I had even suggested this idea to the Marist Sisters, but they did not enter into it. They preferred a beautiful name, perhaps, but which never left the cradle. Their beginnings do not have and do not provide enough help, enough exercises. So God used me [to bring] these Ladies from Paris to Lyons. His Eminence is calling them to Lyons as belonging to the Third Order of Mary. Father Superior is recommending their establishment; he accepts them as Third Order Members. He wants to make them the regular center of the Third Order. Seeing such great signs and strong proofs of divine Providence, I couldn't help weeping with joy. For the last three years I had had this thought and I was asking God to bring it to fulfillment, if it were for his greater glory. The character of the Work of the Sisters of the Reparation will serve very well as an exterior mantle to cover and hide the Third Order, if it must. I would like these Ladies to have this name while being regular Third Order members. Reparation by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament would be the means, nourishment, exercise of the spiritual life of the members in the world, but not their name. The vocation and the religious bond between the members of the secular Third Order, reparation by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament could only be established where regular Third Order members would have houses. The main thought which strikes me in this, is that the regular Third Order would be like the eucharistic Cenacle of the secular Third Order existing as a Congregation.

And so after Pentecost the Blessed Virgin spent her life (ever simple and hidden) at the foot of the divine tabernacle and it is the place of honor of a daughter of Mary next to her good and tender Mother, and the Third Order would keep its title, which has and continues to make it so precious. It would remain the Third Order of the Interior Life, because it is all of that and it is only that. What would the relationship be between the Secular and the Religious Third Order members? The closest and most sisterly ones, since all would have only one spirit, one family, one purpose.

Some may say: but the Fathers are forsaking us! No, no, never. They would be even more devoted to the spiritual welfare of the Third Order. This is my profound conviction and Rev. Father Superior General's word.

In this way, do not fear, Mademoiselle, to come into close contact with these Ladies, have a common and sisterly purpose. Consider them as your sisters, your mothers even. The Blessed Virgin will use them to help you and will use you to support and strengthen them.

Even if they had not been members of the Third Order of Mary, I would have told you: "Come to their help, support their work"; but as your sisters, I tell you: Love them as sisters. I would almost say as tender daughters as they are the ones who will receive your last years, your final breath.

This thought suddenly comes to me, I will share it with you simply and leave it to your wisdom and prudence. I would prefer if the sisters were not as generous as they were for our Society last year. Our great reward is to help you in a fatherly way and to see you all progress in the virtues of Mary and in the love of our Lord. What I would prefer, what would surely be welcomed if you ever wanted to show gratitude (and you do so too much, for us who do so little for you), do so by coming to the aid of this new foundation, rather than to us. Raise a tabernacle of love for Jesus, that would be worth infinitely more. - Oh! I beg you, do nothing for us. I don't think it would please Father Superior. It would even hurt him. It isn't that I am hiding something, no. But knowing the kind heart of the sisters,³⁰ I'm always afraid that these kind hearts try to be too generous.

So this is a long letter, I am sending it to you and I beg our Lord to be your life, your center and your happiness always.

³⁰ The members of the Third Order.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 53/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, December 26, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I've just seen Miss Jenny. She was up. She feels a little more pain. The Ladies told me that they found her a little better. I told her what she should do, I ordered her especially to follow the doctor's instructions. She promised me she would. I reassured her a little about your household. She was worried and especially sorry for having left you and Miss Claudine so tired. She admitted to me that it would have been very imprudent for her to go to Chasselay alone. I tried to have her see her illness as an act of Providence.

How are you? Are you better, especially a little stronger? What is there between us then? I don't understand anything about it, anymore. I make you suffer without wanting to, without knowing it. What does that come from? It's a mystery to me. I prefer to think that God allows it, since it seems to me that I desire only what is good for you, and to help you as best I can on the thorny and crucifying path of your daily life.

What should be done in the midst of these difficulties? Oh! Be patient, remain yet more closely united to God and his holy cross. Wait with love for God's moment. I know very well that when we are on the cross, in the midst of the pain of being crucified, we are capable of only one thought, a feeling of sacrifice. Then everything causes us to suffer. Everything becomes a suffering and increases our trials.

Courage, poor daughter. We must love Jesus on the cross through death, burial, resurrection and triumphant ascension. I pray very much for you, that the Good Lord will give you good things in return for the cross I gave you.

Eymard

Your letter arrived on December 27th, when I was sending you mine. I read and reread it. Thank you for it. All I saw in that was your love for the Third Order and your charity for me. What you tell me is right, and I really appreciated your remarks. I had already taken steps and had received serious explanations from the Superior on what had struck you about that Work of Adoration. It would be too long to explain it to you here. Yet they are leaving the Third Order its full nature, its spirit of an inner and humble life. - In a year, when these women are well established, when we have seen them at work, then we could seriously consider a merger. We are approved and those women are not. They still have nothing. However, God has blessed the little mustard seed of the Third Order. - So, in a year, we can see many things, and there is time to study the matter. As for me, as I have said, for the moment, I consider the Work of Reparation as a Work separate from the Third Order. However, I would be very pleased to see the Third Order members join it freely. Still, a person could belong to the Third Order without belonging to this Work.

So, I praise you for your honesty and openness of heart with me. It's what I esteem the most about you. Ask the good Master that I be not too zealous and eager. It's true, our poor human nature would like to be freed from its difficulties and trials at the first possible opportunity.

Pray especially to the Blessed Virgin that I may be a little more generous, or rather, that I not pull back from sacrifices, because our human nature sometimes does so.

As for the positive response you are requesting from me, I have none other to give than to bless you and ask our Lord that you may let yourself be immolated by the two-edged sword of his love. May natural feelings not spoil what grace has done in you! Why are you surprised that I crucify you? It's necessary since the Good Lord wants it and does it in spite of me. Complain to our good

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Father, and not to me, since I am already suffering enough to see you suffering and troubled. Take heart! Paradise for you, perfect solitude and oblivion for me, and we will both be happy.

P.S. You are ill-at-ease concerning what you should write about? Whatever you want to, are able to, are thinking and suffering. What a child you are, sometimes!

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CO 236

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 79/145 VI 10)

La Favorite, 22, St. Ireneus Quarter, Lyons, December 31, 1850

Dear sisters,

I'm writing to thank you for all your good wishes, to ask you to forgive my delay in writing to you. I don't know how the days, the weeks and the months pass. My life is so busy that I keep waiting in vain for a nice free moment to write you a long letter.

What consoles me a little, is that our kind Miss Guillot writes to you more often. I don't think that I, nor our Fathers, will be able to go preach the Jubilee at La Mure. I cannot leave the novitiate, because the former Superior is still not well.

I offered myself twice to our Superiors for La Mure when I saw their difficulty, but it's impossible for the moment. I regret it for the pastor's sake. It's just that the Jubilee at Grenoble was announced later than that of Lyons, so the Pastors at Lyons had precedence. The Pastor of La Mure wrote me his difficulty. I understand it. He is right. But when faced with the impossible, what can one do?

I am always very happy at the novitiate and am even better here than at Lyons. Miss Guillot told me that the number of Third Order members at La Mure is increasing. Oh! please, be prudent, because it could cause me difficulties. I even wish that there would be delay in receiving new members, because new faculties are needed now that the Third Order has been approved. Then, do not have Third Order meetings at home, nor elsewhere. The stones speak, and you know how touchy it is. If someone speaks to you about it, say that it is only a personal affiliation, and in fact it is only that.

What can I wish for you, my good sisters, during this new year? Nothing other than the growth of God's love in you, great faithfulness to God's graces and with that you will be perfect.

Every day, let us become detached from some aspect of this miserable world. Let us distance ourselves from it every day, withdraw in God, live in our Lord's peace, and we will be happy.

The world is passing away! it is like smoke, life is like a single day, and our life is almost over. Oh! dear sisters, let us live for heaven, in heaven. That is worth more than anything.

As usual I said Christmas Mass for you. I like to present you to the Child Jesus.

May he bless you as I love you! I am in his divine love,

Dear sisters,

Your very loving brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 54/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, January 1, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I've just seen your sister,³¹ and she is still the same as she was the other day. She was very upset by the unsealed letter. It would be wise to guard against anything upsetting. The poor girl is so weak! What encourages me is that she is well cared for. You may burn the letter that she gave you for me. She told me its contents. I saw Mr. Belioz who told me that her illness comes from the liver. That is the source of her melancholy and distress. However, there could be a remedy.... Oh, I understand it and so do you, but the Good Lord seems to really want this Calvary, since any other means is impossible. In this case we need all the love we have to conform to God's will, to accept one's daily dying with love.

I am expecting you Sunday around 9:30.

I wished you all a happy New Year this morning at Fourviere, at 5:00. I am the one who said the first Mass. I wanted to do so. What did I ask for you in particular? that you would be very faithful to the grace of self-sacrifice that our Lord renews in you daily; that you become a lamb with the Lamb of God; that you let yourself be sacrificed like the divine Spouse of your heart: the divine Lamb is both meek and humble.

I also asked him to give you relief from all your difficulties, or at least, the grace to sanctify them. Everyone is giving you trouble; the mysterious grace of love is gradually stripping you of your old self. Let's always remember the beautiful answer given by St. John of the Cross when, as a reward for his love for him, our Lord asked: "What grace do you want from me?" - "Lord", replied this great soul, "the grace to suffer and be despised for love of you." Sunday, we will clear up some of your difficulties, if the Good Lord gives us the grace [to do so]. Sincerely believe that I am not acting secretly, nor distrustfully toward you: oh no, no! It's just that I don't think of certain things to say or to teach you. I'm naturally very distracted, and my mind is absorbed in thought.

I understand your troubles like a doctor understands an illness he hasn't had. He treats it according to the principles of his art. But what I do know, and that I am sure of, is that I take responsibility for your direction and the rules that I give you. By following them, you will have more merit before God than if they seemed more satisfying. But what I ask of you please, is that you should always try to see the good side of things and presume that they always come from a tender charity, which seeks only the greater good of its children.

I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

³¹ Jenny Guillot.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 55/395 VI 2)

Tuesday, Fourviere, Lyons, January, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to you from Fourviere from Miss Jenny's. She is well. I told her everything, that is, about the house rented from Miss Jaricot. She is very happy about it. She'll stay here until you let her know. Yesterday she saw Miss Berlioz.³² She will not take her treatment³³ until next week.

I've just come back from Miss Jaricot's. She will receive you with open arms. She wholeheartedly offers you her two chapels, especially the inside one. She is allowing you to choose the two rooms or those which are in the library, on the first floor, or the house of St. Joseph which is a hundred and fifty francs. The library is better and I would advise you to take that one. But Miss Jaricot has set a condition; that is, that if she should rent her large house, she would like to have the library rooms. In that case, you would go to the house of St. Joseph. She will provide a few bed frames and a few chairs. I settled it for you. The business is taken care of.

Yesterday, I went to see two houses at St. Ireneus. But everything is more expensive than at Miss Jaricot's.

I was hoping to come see you today. I stayed too long at Miss Jaricot's; all my time was spent there. May God be praised, and also all of you, in his divine love!

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON
(V 1/9)

Lyons, La Favorite, Jan. 3, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to tell you the sorrow and sadness [I felt] in my heart when I learned the sad news about your dear father's death, and I shared in your [sorrow], if that were possible.

Christian faith and hope were your strength on that calvary. Alas, you will continue to need them now doubly an orphan! But our Lord is there, and you are his daughter and spouse; it is in his love that your pious father rests and that you will always find him.

We prayed for him and we will continue to do so, especially in the Third Order of which he was the first member.

³² Perhaps a misprint for Mr. Berlioz, the doctor. Ed.

³³ literally: purge.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

When we pray for your father we will pray for his daughters, so that they may always be the heiresses of his strong faith and tender piety.

Believe me ever in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard, P.M.

Miss Agarithe Monavon
rue des Castries, 10
Lyons

Jan. 21 - Profound experience at Fourviere in relation to establishing a Work to honor the Holy Eucharist.

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CO 239

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 6/76)

January 26, 1851

Madame,

Your letter led me to thank our Lord, I was worried about you and your [loved ones]. Now you tell me that you have been ill, and I would like to scold you for neglecting to take care of yourself.

Sometimes our good Master is the one who isolates us through illness, to be able to speak to our poor soul which continually flees him. Then, a little suffering wonderfully disposes the soul to receive the touch of grace. Madame, I hope that you may often have two hours of rest at the feet of the divine Master, in order to find yourself fully at his feet, be filled with his spirit and love, [to compensate] for the rest of the time when you must be available to others. Let's learn how to do as the Saints did: to be with God first, and then for others in God's presence. You tell me: "But I don't know how! I don't think about it!" It is so easy to cast a simple glance towards God, who is present in us or around us, an interior act of offering, of petition, of acceptance of everything. Happy is the soul who lives thus with God. What a beautiful friendship! Then heaven is everywhere. Let us bear well with the ups and downs of life, of our interior state, of our heart, by our love for the holy Will of God. When everything seems to irritate and frustrate us, let us take a firm hold on our poor heart, without letting it examine the cause of its frustration, and encourage it with the thought of doing something for the love of God.

As for confession, I would prefer to see you both choose the Pastor. You can see the reasons for it, the stability, the trust. So when you return, see whether he is a man of prayer.

May our Lord always keep you in his holy care and bring you back safely.

I present you and all your loved ones to him daily.

Believe me, in his divine love.

All yours,
Eymard

Madame
Madame Gourd,
Paris
Please hold

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 6/52)

January 26, 1851

Mademoiselle,

Continue to let the holy and ever-gracious Will of God be your rule, your center and the purpose of all your actions and desires. Our dear Father who is in Heaven keeps his loving glance fixed upon us, and his divine Providence foresees and ordains everything for our greater good.

Don't be surprised by the changeability of your soul. It comes from God who wants us to practice some particular virtue, like gentleness, patience, humble acceptance of ourselves. So, when you feel so sad, or ill humored, don't allow these feelings to enter into your heart; pretend that you do not see it. It is a passing cloud which veils the sun of charity as it passes. Treat it like a rheumatic pain and act the same as usual exteriorly. However, if it should last too long, causing anxiety and a certain frustration, you would do well to mention it to your dear mother, more as a difficulty than as a feeling from the heart.

It would be wise not to mention the apparent reason, for fear of awakening natural hostilities. However, if it torments you, say everything.

Continue to go to Communion because you are weak, and then because we must live in our Lord and receive him in order to do so, because our kind Savior has said: "Whoever eats me will live for me; the one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him."

It is better to go to holy Communion with your weaknesses than to distance yourself from it through fear or humility. Love expresses itself more through surrender than through respect, more through trust than through fear. Receive Communion with the desire to love him ever more; that is the best disposition.

For meditation, I advise you not to do it during the day in order to do it with greater attention.³⁴

The morning is sufficient and the morning meditation should center on the Tabernacle, or on your Jesus in your heart, using this profound and eternal phrase: "Jesus is my God and my all." In this effort of love, don't always speak, but be silent at the feet of Jesus, be happy to see him, look at him, hear him, know that you are at his feet. The true word of love is more interior than exterior.

Please! Have courage on this road to Heaven! Let us continue to walk on the rocks and thorns of life in the desert.

Thank you for praying for me. You know that you are present in my thoughts before God.

Eymard

Jan. 29 - First exposition of the Blessed Sacrament by the Reparatrix sisters in Lyons.

³⁴ literally: more formally.

TO CANON PIERRE ROUSSELOT
(VI 2/7)³⁵

Lyons, January 29, 1851

Reverend Vicar General and dear Father,

I am writing to thank you wholeheartedly for your 2 letters. They only confirmed my first conviction about the truth of the apparition of La Salette. I professed it toward and against all its enemies. The incredible thing is that by trying to be prudent, learned clerics are becoming unbelievers. They have done so much harm to weak and indifferent souls.

I really like the saying of the Bishop of Belley to one of his friends: "What happened at Ars is only a trial, a storm created by the devil. The fact of La Salette will emerge only the more brilliantly." Those who speak against La Salette were pleased to be able to justify their unbelief and did not notice that to avoid the credulity of women, as they call it, they fall into a strange contradiction. They base their judgment on a fact which is ridiculous to the eyes of reason and common sense such as the one of Ars, without proof, without study, without dignity -- Now they are beginning to be silent and say, "The truth will come to light."

Now about your young man. It is with much regret that our Society cannot take care of him. A man can enter here only during philosophy. Until now, we have refused all requests made by those below this class.

I have a suggestion for you. I could recommend him to the Seminary of Belley or Meximieux, and I could hope to obtain his entry for 300 francs a year if you would like that. I would be very happy to show you a new proof of my gratitude and entire filial dedication.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Fondly,
Eymard, PM.

Feb. 1 - Death of Captain Marceau, Fr. Eymard's Directee.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 56/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, February 2, 1851

My respects to your whole family. May our Lord bless it on this holy day! Be sure to offer yourself with the child Jesus through the hands of Mary,³⁶ to God his Father.

Offer yourself for whatever he may desire, for whatever may please him most. A soul's only true happiness is to rest in God's holy will; should this divine will be crucifying, it is love's most beautiful triumph.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eyd.

³⁵ Vicar General of Grenoble

³⁶ Feast of the Presentation.

TO FR. JEAN CLAUDE COLIN, S.M.
(VI 4/6)

*La Favorite, February 3, 1851*³⁷

After mature reflection, after much prayer of my own and asking others to pray, and after consultation, I have finally decided to open my heart to you about an idea I have been struggling with for a long time, which is constantly pursuing me, reproaching me for resisting God's voice. The idea is the following:

One day I was at Fourviere in passing (Jan. 21), and I felt strongly moved:

1. By the spiritual neglect of secular priests in the midst of their ministry and of devout lay people; the complaint that some priests had made to me, feeling so alone and isolated from all special help; not having for themselves the help which even lay people have in the world, in devout associations which fill our cities.

2. By the lack of spiritual direction for most devout people especially on the interior life, which is obvious to every priest in the Sacred Ministry; also that there are so few people with solid virtues, with well-defined piety!

3. By the small amount of devotion shown toward the Most Blessed Sacrament, which I believe is the primary source of so much indifference and lack of devotion.

4. By so many sacrileges committed against the adorable Sacrament.

Moved by all these thoughts, another came to me: it would be necessary to establish for men what is going to be established for women, a body of men for reparatory adoration - this body would form a community, and this community would have associates in the city, who would come to renew themselves in the community, share their adorations, and come for private retreats.

The church and the community would be open to men only.

The priests in charge would exercise their ministry in the house and labor only for the progress and strengthening of the Work.

This special group would be bound to the Society of Mary by a spiritual bond; it would be its Third-Order but with an independent existence.

Would this work succeed in Lyons? - I believe so. All devout people feel this vacuum. But how? - If God wants it, he will surely provide the temporal means. If the principle is accepted, the rest is only a matter of Providence.

So, dear Father, this is the simple presentation of my feelings. I submit them to you as my father, praying and urging you to study them before God. The matter is serious, and that is why I don't want to take it on myself, and so I place it on your conscience, for you only want the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls.

It seems to me that I can say that it is by no merely human motive that I am writing you all this, and that no purely natural motive led me to it. If I consulted only my tastes, my desires, I would prefer a life of complete retreat and solitude. God has allowed me to taste its peace and happiness. But if he wants this sacrifice, this immolation from me, I will ask him for the grace and you will ask it for me.

- Third-Order of Reparatory Adoration -

Its purpose. The Eucharist [is] the whole religion of love. The Eucharist is Jesus Christ himself, substantially present in our midst with his graces, his virtues, his love.

It is the perpetual and consuming fire of divine love, the divine victim which is still the victim of reparation for the salvation of the world.

To rekindle faith, devotion, love for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

³⁷ This outline was in fact not sent to Fr. Colin.

To sustain, feed, perfect the Christian perfection of the laity by the adorable worship of the Eucharist.

To become a victim of reparation for so much indifference, so many sacrileges against Jesus Eucharistic.

That is the work par excellence. All others flow from it as from their source and flow back to it as to their goal.

It is the Work for our times. Great evils require great remedies. We need Jesus Christ as Host and Victim. At the time of public disasters, the Church orders forty hours. Today these disasters and crimes are covering the world. We need for Jesus Christ to be always exposed, always a Victim, before the face of his Heavenly Father, and ever exposed to rekindle our faith, our piety and our love.

Great sacrifices require great courage, a strong and generous virtue. Today especially, every Catholic is not only a child of faith, a disciple of Jesus Christ, but to keep his faith pure and his heart faithful, he needs great help. Otherwise, he will give in to difficulties in the midst of the struggle. Well, it is in the Eucharist that the confessors³⁸ went to seek and draw this strength which astonished their powerful enemies, triumphed over their seductive promises and terrible wrath.

We are in the same conditions, worse perhaps, for hidden, astute and hypocritical enemies are more to be feared than tyrants and persecutors.

And the devil has won more victims of apostasy and unbelief by contact with those who are indifferent and wicked than by means of torture and death.

A Catholic Work! It would not be limited and must not be limited to one place, to one Congregation, to a few classes of people. It would be the Work of all people, - because Jesus Christ is the property of all, the Host and Victim of the salvation of all, the divine possession of every heart that wants to love and follow him.

To be received, only one request would be made: "Are you a Christian; do you want to be so in fact?" - "Yes." - Come in. A Christian must be another Jesus Christ, - a Saint, a Victim for the glory of God and the salvation of the world. This is his Calvary of reparation and love, for it is love that crucifies us here with Jesus Christ."

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CO 244

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 57/395 VI 2)

Friday, La Favorite, February 8, 1851

Mademoiselle,

Yesterday I saw Miss Jenny. She is fine and willing to accept the apartment we choose. I told her that the Ladies of St. Regis couldn't rent out rooms. It's against their rule. The Superior would have been happy to do it. She is sorry that she can't, but she will keep Miss Jenny as long as necessary.

I saw Mr. Benoit. It was high time. Many unsuitable requests had been refused. But for you, he will lease both rooms for a hundred and sixty francs. That is his final price. He will receive you gladly. I am sending you his letter.

I'm rushed, excuse me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

³⁸ The first Christians. Ed.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

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CO 245

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 58/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, February 10, 1851

Dear daughter,

I was hoping I would be able to go see you. I wasn't able to do so. Fr. Lagniet came for the visitation of the Novitiate during these last few days.

The news that you had fallen made me very sad. Take care of it so that it won't become serious. It's better to nurse it right away.

Tonight I am planning to look at one or two houses near St. Ireneus for you. If you hadn't rented, it would be an option.

Tomorrow, I hope to go see you in the afternoon.

Don't worry. For me, your letters are always letters from a dear daughter, in our Lord. All these little fears should be considered as weaknesses to be overlooked.

Until tomorrow, God willing.

I took care of the errand for Mr. Benoit. I approve you in this matter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Monday
Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

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CO 246

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 59/395 VI 2)

J.M.J.

Sunday, La Favorite, February 18, 1851

Mademoiselle,

Yesterday I had hoped to go to Miss Jaricot's, and I wasn't able to [do so]. I didn't have enough time. I'll go today or in a few days, at my first free moment. I'll see the small secluded house. That may be where the Good Lord wants you. But would Dr. Berlioz go there to see you?

As for me, you know my feelings toward all of you. However as a religious, I can say nothing about the future. I leave it all to God's good pleasure. Nor should that be the determining factor. I cannot be counted on, nor should anyone depend on a poor man like me. I don't know anything about the future; I see my future only in God, and my present exists only in the desire to fulfill his holy will. For whatever the Good Lord wills is what is best and most perfect.

Your eagerly awaited letter dispelled my anxiety about your accident; may the Good Master heal you, or rather, let you suffer otherwise. Don't say: It's a punishment. No, my daughter, it isn't a punishment; it's a share³⁹ in our Lord's cross. When the cross comes, its divine origin should never be denied. Rather, receive it as a worthy disciple of Calvary, as a drop of blood from our dear Savior. Rather, I am the one who should be saying that. For, ever since I have been directing you, I have been a calvary for you. What a poor calvary that is, that doesn't even have a tomb to offer those it crucifies! So, don't set your dwelling on that thorny calvary. It's enough to pass it by and proceed to the Mount of Olives of the Ascension.

Your thoughts about Miss D's words to you strike me as pessimistic. However, I'm asking the Good Lord that they should be like a mist which is scattered in the sunlight of his grace. I would be satisfied with anything if I could see the will of God clearly in it all. I don't see it. I let things be within the limits I had told you, that is: that I considered it all to be only a personal matter, separate from the Third Order. Provided that the grace of the Third Order be kept within, even if only a few Third Order members were left, a sowing, that would suffice to raise it up on the day of Resurrection. Poor Third Order! See how low it appears to have come. It must pass through a purifying fire. Just ask our Lord and his good Mother that I may always be very closely united to the divine will, that I may do nothing that would conflict with his grace and his work.

Courage please! I bless you with all my heart as a reward for your charity.

Eyd.

P.S. I don't and haven't had anything,⁴⁰ since I am continuing at my usual pace. So, cry over yourself rather and don't be imprudent. Thursday I saw Miss Jenny; she is fine, I'm pleased with her. She expects to leave next Sunday or Monday. I promised to go see her and advised her to make arrangements with you....

My devoted and respectful regards to your whole family.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

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CO 249

TO CANON PIERRE ROUSSELOT
(VI 3/7)

La Favorite #22, St. Irenaeus, Lyons, March 6, 1851

Reverend Vicar General and dear Father,

I was absent for a short time. Therefore, kindly accept my regrets for delaying my answer to you.

Thank you very much for your brochure on La Salette. It pleased us all greatly. It will probably help good people and those who are in doubt, but as for its enemies, I doubt it. These people do not want to study the facts; they only have objections or arbitrary suppositions.

I saw many people in Lyons who are upset by all the superficial matters from Ars, as they know the position of the Cure and his state of indecision; they quickly return to the truth of La Salette. And now they believe as they did before - I would even say, more strongly. The

³⁹ literally: piece.

⁴⁰ illness.

champions of Ars are either silent or criticize. Now I can say that the fire is over, that there is only a little smoke. Your response will finish clearing things altogether. I believe it will be read favorably in Lyons; and it can do more good than the one by Fr. Beze because it goes to the heart of the matter.

The most effective route I believe would be to place it with a notice in one or a few places in Lyons. You would need to have a few at Fourviere. I could take it to two or three merchants, and recommend it to everyone I know. Father! I am your faithful son: tell me what more I can do, and my heart and voice will respond immediately.

I informed myself about the Ars pilgrimage. It is exactly the same information as I was given. The conclusion of public opinion is as follows: The good Cur said his Yes and his No. Incidentally, too much weight is given, at a distance, to the opinion of the Cur d'Ars. Here it is seen as quite ordinary with regard to discernment, and often as less. I cannot send you the written testimony of a witness from Ars, as there is none here. Mr. Thibaut was not on the journey, only the two Parisians.

I shall write at once to Belley, and tell you immediately if I have any success. I think it is the right moment, and since that good young man happens to be with the Marists, it will be easy for him to see them and introduce himself.

Be confident, dear Father, as dear Father Cholleton has just told me again, "I have always believed in the event of La Salette, and today I still believe in it as before." So do I, more firmly than ever.

Please think of me ever in your fatherly way, and believe me eternally,

Your son in J.C.
Eymard, PM.

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CO 250

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 8/33)

JMJ

La Favorite, March 21, 1851

Madame,

I took a short trip this week and returned only last night. I am hurrying to ask you to forgive my delay. It was impossible for me to find a moment. I am burdened with business. May God be praised! I must consider myself fortunate to work for his glory and the salvation of souls. But you are going to say: it takes no time to write a word! That's true. I have had a bad migraine headache for the last three days, and it was impossible even to pick up my pen. I tried, but I had to put it aside. Now about you. Your letter pleased me. You know why, I love to see you magnanimous, strong, in control of all the waves and the frenzy of the storms, generously holding on to the anchor of God's will: strength comes from sacrifice.

Be assured, Madame, that storms do not last. Winter purifies the weather, kills all the little insects which devour the plants. Your soul seems to be dying in the midst of suffering. That's true, but it is in order to be reborn from its ashes. A soul which loves God lives through death. So have courage!

[When we are] on the edge of a precipice, we must not look at the bottom, but look determinedly above; otherwise we become dizzy. Fix your heart on our Lord. Rest assured that he is there within you, contemplating your struggles and preparing to reward them.

For the trip on the 25th, I am weighing the joy of your dear Charles against my desire to help you. A mother's joy in her child must pass first. I would advise you to go.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

It will be a beautiful feast. However, I leave you free. Please believe that your soul is always very dear to me in the sight of God.

Eymard

P.S. Tomorrow, I will be at Puylata. In the morning I will be free from 9:30 till 11:00.

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CO 251

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 80/145 VI 10)

La Favorite, March 26, 1851

Dear Sisters,

I'm very lazy about writing to you, am I not? It has been my daily desire to do it, and I never find a free moment. I was so busy until now that I put off all my correspondence for later, but you know that my heart writes to you every day and is always with you. What consoles me, is that Miss Guillot writes to you from time to time. She does it for both of us.

This good woman has been sorely tried. She seems to be better, her arm hurts less. Her other sisters are not well either. Poor family, how tried they are! but they bear their trials well.

I will leave tomorrow for St. Chamond, a city which is about ten leagues from Lyons. I am going there to preach the Jubilee until Easter. I am being sent because of the need, there are so many requests. It has not yet been possible to go to La Mure for the Jubilee. I am insisting very much so that we may be able to go at the end of the year.

I am well, pray for me. Take care of yourselves. Continue to love the Good Lord well, and we will find our rest in paradise. Then we will be able to converse together eternally in the love of our God.

Goodbye, I will write you a longer letter at another time.

Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

I received your fine letter; it made me very happy. I am pleased that you leased out to Mme. Seymat; the repairs you did were necessary. It will come back to you later on, you did well. Only be sure to have the latrines done neatly; that is the most urgent thing. Then, have the tree in the yard cut down. Remove or repair the old dilapidated cottage in the yard. Do only what is needed, however, because one repair calls for another.

Yesterday I saw the little Reymond boy. He is well; he has really improved this year. He is not the same. He is fine. They are pleased with him.

Fr. Dumolard is fine, and he preaches well; that was an unfounded rumor. How distressed I was to learn about the death of my old friend, Mr. Fayolle. I had written to him this morning, and my letter is still here. Alas! what a loss! but what a saint!

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

**TO MME. THEODELINDE DUBOUCHE (MOTHER MARIE THERESE)
(REPARATRICE) (VI 1/2)**

La Favorite, March 27, 1851

Dear Madame,

I have a free moment - I am giving it to you. I am going to St. Chamond (Loire) in a few days' time to preach the Jubilee (which I commend to your prayers).

Your letter reassured me. I had been grieved to hear that you were suffering greatly! Alas! these are the labor pains of Calvary; there is no good work which is not sprinkled with the blood of our Lord and the sweat of his disciples.

The Work of Reparatory Adoration is my favorite Work. Every day, at the Holy Sacrifice, I bless it by name.

Now, here are my thoughts about the work in Lyons; I shall express them to you very simply, from my impressions alone.

It can do much good in Lyons, and already it is doing much, but in Lyons more than elsewhere, great prudence and great charity are needed. I know of no city where new works are so difficult to establish as Lyons. Piety there is materialistic, demanding, and egotistical, as in all cities with countless resources. The secular clergy want to concentrate everything on the parish Church.

Some parish priests are already protesting that they are being invaded by the work of reparatory adoration.. At the moment all these complaints are beginning to subside a little. I find the reason for this to be in the external direction of the work and I admire the work of Providence. If the work had had Jesuit, Marist or Capuchin directors, it would have become the focus of everyone! But it is his Eminence's chaplain who is there, Fr. Cholleton, who hears their confessions. These two men have the general confidence of all and cover the work. Later it can be perfected. It was necessary to begin this way. Fr. Mayat is a very fine priest and very helpful. Your Sisters needed all that.

It is true that the Cardinal has restricted the Sisters at home a little, has forbidden the Superior to be in the parlor all day, to give herself totally to a few gossiping devotees, who are only looking for secrets to mysticism - He wants their life to be more recollected. On that point, I understand clearly that the second purpose of zeal for souls is not complete. It will come later. But I believe that it would be better not to aggravate his Eminence. He has given permission to continue the little retreats, but even there prudence is necessary.

We must really avoid anything that would create unfavorable impressions to his Eminence, because impressions last.

For Sister Anne⁴¹ I recognized her particular attraction to the contemplative life, and I told her not to give into it too much. She has two purposes [to attain], our Lord Reparator and souls in need of reparation. However, I warned her against certain devotees who would enslave her.

I was afraid that she was not seeing the retreatants often enough. - She told me that she saw them twice a day - and that is quite enough.

In general, I believe that Sister Anne has good judgment. She appears to be discreet and especially totally dedicated to her good Mother Marie-Therese. I think she will be appreciated when she is known better.

These, Madame, are my unorganized thoughts. I know we must found on a solid basis. But the Work has a great grace; it was blessed and I hope it will always be so.

Believe me, Madame, in our Lord,

Your ever devoted
Eymard

⁴¹ Miss Virginie Danion, later foundress of the Congregation of Thanksgiving, at Mauron (Morbihan).

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Mar. (date?) - Released from responsibility of the Novitiate. Sent to preach the Jubilee and mission at St. Chamond.

Mar. 29-April 30 - The Jubilee at St. Chamond

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CO 253

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 9/33)

St. Chamond, March 29, 1851

Madame,

Your dear little Charles is fine, very fine. He is expecting you Tuesday, like one expects a dear mother. I am writing to ask you to render a service: please bring me the notebook with the minutes of the Third Order. I will be very grateful to you. I would really need them for a few days, because I must speak more often than I had expected.

See you Tuesday! May the Good Lord watch over you.

Eymard

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CO 254

TO FR. CYR ARMAND CHAMPION, SSS
(VI 1/2 I 5)⁴²

*St Chamond*⁴³

God be praised! I am in the thick of the battle. I have no time to count the hours, and scarcely time to take my meals.

It is harvest-time. I shall get some rest at La Favorite, if God wills. I feel disposed to die here on the battlefield. When one has grasped the great geometric principle, there is only one line to draw, from earth to heaven; from one's own heart to the heart of God, we are free and happy. It is the happiness that comes from sacrifice.

Goodbye. I am off as into battle, on fire with courage, and above all sustained by the grace of God. I am astonished at my strong weakness.

⁴² This is the first of 7 letters to Father Armand Champion, Assistant Master of Novices at La Favorite at this time. He later joined St. Peter Julian in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

⁴³ March or April 1851

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 61/395 VI 2)

J.M.J.

Saint Chamond, Wednesday, April 23, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I'm writing to give you a sign of life and tell you that, if I didn't answer you, it's because it was impossible to do so. I wasn't able to answer anyone, you are the first. I didn't have a moment to myself. I was even very disappointed that I couldn't take [care of] everyone, even by hearing confessions as late as 9:00 or 10:00 o'clock. How good the Good Lord is in his divine mercies! Many came back to God, but there are still many left.

I will be here until Quasimodo Sunday.⁴⁴ I'll be leaving on Monday and will stop at No. 9,⁴⁵ about 4:30 p.m., I believe.

I'm feeling better than when I began. God is sustaining me. I don't feel very tired.

I received your two letters. But I must admit that for some time now I didn't even have time to read my letters. I didn't read any; I kept them until later. That will perhaps surprise you. Well, it's true! I read yours today. I would return from church at about 10:00, 11:00 o'clock at night, with my office yet to be said. I put everything aside for souls.

I haven't even read the letter from Miss David. I'll save it for later, for I see that they are now waiting impatiently for me.

Goodbye. I bless you and all the others. Be trusting. How could you suppose coldness on my part? Oh, no! Our Lord knows it well.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

⁴⁴ Sunday after Easter.

⁴⁵ her house.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 60/395 VI 2)

*La Favorite, April 1, 1851*⁴⁶

Mademoiselle,

1. News about you?⁴⁷ - A slight cold, slightly ill.

2. Mother's Jubilee.⁴⁸ - She may attend Mass on any other day of her choice. I had left her entirely free. Her jubilee will be a good one.

3. What should I do about the Directress? Nothing. I read her letter, she is ruffled. - A misunderstanding is possible, but I didn't grasp it. I'm writing to her to mention the difficulties without referring to you. This is my reason: if we should name Miss C., the others would have to be renamed.

4. If she should inquire whether I had sent her letter, or whether you know about mine to her, what should you answer? - No, that you wouldn't want to cause me that sadness, that I shouldn't be informed about these little internal difficulties.

5. Return hers to me.

6. Would you exclude me from the Council? - No. No. If you weren't in it I would put you in... to help you earn your Heaven[ly reward]. For the moment, don't spoil anything. Be as magnanimous and as kind toward Miss D., as she is. Avoid any blame that could wound.

7. Will you exclude Miss C. from it? I'll consult Miss David on that point. She'll find that very difficult... We must pray.

8. Will you find two for me? - You should point them out to me. Look for them.

9. Mass - I'll keep you informed. Come on now, be strong. Good only happens in the midst of difficulties.

Don't worry about the repairs at Miss Jaricot's. Let them do as they wish. We will manage very well.

I bless you with my whole soul.

Eyd.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

⁴⁶ Probably May 1, 1851. Fr. Eymard wrote "April 1, 1851, La Favorite", but in April Fr. was in St. Chamond. Troussier.

⁴⁷ He repeats the questions from Marquerite's letter.

⁴⁸ Jubilee: Lenten celebration.

TO MR. LEO DUPONT
(U1 VII 2)

La Favorite, 22 St. Irenaeus, Lyons, May 10, 1851

Dear Sir,⁴⁹

I am writing to thank you for remembering me and for the precious letters of our mutual friend: their sentiments are sublime, immediately revealing the heights of perfection which would stop at nothing but heroism. As soon as our work is finished, I will share it with you and you will be even more edified to learn so many details which the modesty of our revered friend hid so well, but which could not be hidden from the one whom he called his Father.

I am happy for this opportunity to recommend myself to your prayers and to ask you to believe that I am in our Lord,

Dear Sir,
Your ever devoted and loving servant,
Eymard

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 2/14)

La Favorite, 22 St. Irenaeus, Lyons, May 11, 1851

Dear Sir,

Forgive me for delaying my reply. I've just returned from a Lenten Mission and Jubilee where I was busy and burdened with work.

I am really sorry that I couldn't write to you by the date you wished. In your charity please forgive me. So, you will complete the gift of your entire self to God through Mary, our divine Queen during the beautiful month of Mary. You yourself will be the beautiful flower [offered] for her beautiful Month, and our good Mother will transform this flower of love into fruits of grace, peace and holiness; and I trust into fruit for eternal life.

Then, given the evil days which seem to be rapidly approaching it is good to bind oneself with the cord of hope, with the protection of Mary, and to enroll oneself under her ever victorious banner.

Dear Sir, continue your daily meditation. It's the compass for the journey, the bread of life, our rule of holiness.

Meditation is ordinarily hard work. If we sow in sorrow and tears, its fruits are delightful. The astonishing thing is that the more a meditation is dry, arid, and accompanied with temptations, the more fruitful and perfect it is. That's because it is a Calvary of expiation and sanctification.

⁴⁹ Letter to Mr. Dupont about Captain Marceau, who had died on Feb. 1, 1851. Father Eymard collected testimonies about his directee, a Third Order Member, in order to write a biography.

Later, he was unable to continue the work and had to give up the project. His friend Fr. Mayet completed the work. The biography was published anonymously in Lyons in 1859, under the title, *August Marceau, frigate Captain, Commander of the "Arche d'Alliance."*

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Therefore, never become discouraged by this fundamental exercise, dear Sir, and don't be astonished if the devil, our enemy, attacks it so violently. St. Therese said: "The devil considers as lost to himself a soul which perseveres in prayer." St. Ligouri says that it's an infallible means to holiness. He says: "Meditation and sin cannot dwell together."

To succeed, never forget these two great principles: the first, that the state of our soul in meditation is the result of God's Will; and consequently, we must meditate in keeping with our present reality which then becomes the rule and form of our actions.

The second principle is that the supernatural success of our meditation depends solely on the grace of God. Consequently, we should not let it depend on beautiful thoughts, nor fervent feelings. We must surely use our faculties in prayer, but as a means to his grace.

Thank you for the news you give me about O... I pray very much for him, for his trials, his sufferings, etc. Fortunately, Heaven is the most beautiful and the richest of all kingdoms.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Sir, your ever dedicated and loving servant and brother.

Eymard

P.S. Your letters will always be very dear and precious to me.

Mr. E. de Leudeville
at Leudeville near Marolles-en-Hurepoix
(Seine et Oise)

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TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 62/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, May 15, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I'm coming to tell you that I haven't and won't be leaving for the trip I had mentioned to you yesterday. Last night I received a counter order. So here I am at La Favorite, and if you should need me, you will always find me at your service.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,

Eymard

P.S. If you see Mme. ... tell her that she will find me here.

Recommended to the Sister Portress.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
at Miss Jaricot's
Montee St. Barthelemy
Lyons

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 63/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, May 29, 1851

My dear daughter, I am writing to give you some news. The Good Lord protected me during my trip and assisted me in my visit. I really needed it, as I had many crosses both to bear and to lighten. Today, I thank him for it.

I'm leaving tomorrow for another visit. I'm going to visit another house at Digne. From there, I hope to go to Notre Dame du Laus toward the middle of next week, to spend at least half a day. There, I will offer all of you to the good Mother of Laus, as I have already done at Notre Dame de la Garde. It's like a feast for me to think that I'll see the Blessed Virgin once again at Laus. This thought follows me everywhere, comforts and strengthens me. Oh! how happy it makes me! Mary is such a Mother there, so kind and so tender! I will ask her to heal all of you, and above all, that you may be worthy spouses of our Lord.

I'll spend a few hours, one day at the most, with my sister. Then I'll be in Lyons towards the end of next week; at least, I hope so.

Continue to pray for me. My health is the same as usual, the Good Lord doesn't seem to want me yet. I assure you that every time I go to Notre Dame du Laus, I say to myself: Oh! If I could die here, be buried near this blessed sanctuary, how happy I would be! but if the Good Lord wants me to continue to work, may he be praised!

I bless you all, and you in particular.
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

May 30 - Visitor to the Major Seminary of Digne. to La Seyne via Laus and La Mure.

TO CANON PIERRE ROUSSELOT
(VI 4/7)

La Favorite S. Ireneus, Lyons, June 24, 1851

Dear Vicar-General and Respected Father,

I am happy to have the opportunity to offer you my [expression of] ever deeper respect and heartfelt gratitude, and to beg you always to remember your son in our Lord. Here is the reason for my letter: a very distinguished English priest, who is the Superior of missions in his diocese, and friendly toward us, has asked me to appeal to you for an explanation of something concerning La Salette. Two months ago he passed through Ars on his way to London. And Father Raymond told him that the Pope "had issued a formal command that the 2 children of La Salette were to reveal their secret to you, by his orders; and if they refused, then all that has happened in the past would have to be considered a hoax."

The same rumor is circulating in the city of Lyons, but here they add that the children made no difficulty about revealing their secret to the Supreme Pontiff, or to a delegate. It is even claimed that Maximin said: "I do wish that this delegate from the Pope could be Father Rousselot or the Cardinal of Lyons."

I must tell you, Esteemed Father, that many people who were led astray by the unfotunate behavior of Ars have returned to their original belief. Your brochure has done much good, and the copies I received have nearly all been distributed. *Post tenebras lux*.⁵⁰

I have some more sad news for you: Monteynard, my former parish, is in great trouble. I fear a scandal may break out soon. The parish priest continues to frequent the Colonel house. This is evidenced by the fact that the Colonel woman was in the priest's parents' home on the Pentecost Day, and on June 9th. I saw her myself on my way back from a trip. I was in a coach; she recognized me and came to see me at the hotel, but I anticipated her and had already gone to see the parish priest.

If I may suggest a suitable person to save⁵¹ this poor parish, I would choose Father Girolet of la Mure - [who is] so devout and so prudent - but I must be content with praying for that dear parish which has so many good people and had given me so many consolations!

Believe me ever, dear Father,

Your devoted and ever grateful son,
Eymard, P. Marist

P.S. Dear Father Cholleton asks me to remember him to you and to offer you his fond respects.

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TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 64/395 VI 2)

J.M.J.

Lyons, Friday, July, 1851

My dear daughter,

I received your sad letter. You did well to write to me, and if I could do so, I would go see you, but I can't do so at this time. But when you need me, come, and I will always receive you with a Father's love.

My daughter, adore the holy will of God. With Mary, follow Jesus going up to Calvary. Be like a little child in obedience.

1. You are in a state of temptation... humble yourself, that is the glory which God expects from it.
2. I take upon myself the responsibility for everything. Continue your Communions, you really need them. Go through obedience, like the least of the poor.
3. Offer your day, recite the three Aves of the Third Order.
4. Go to Holy Mass, if your health allows.
5. When you are with your sisters, recite the *Angelus* and the meal prayers.
6. I desire the Rosary.

For the moment I dispense you from the examen, the reading, night prayers. But if your health allows, I want you to visit the Blessed Sacrament in the afternoon, when you are at St. Joseph's.

⁵⁰after darkness, light.

⁵¹literally: restore.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

7. I've given you permission for an hour at night [prayer] twice a week, health permitting. Please! My dear daughter, this is just one more storm through which the Good Lord will do his work. Surrender and obedience.

I bless you. Give me news about yourself. Your condition awakens my compassion.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

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CO 263

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

La Favorite, July 7, 1851

Madame,

I must begin by telling you about the bad luck surrounding your letter. It's by way of excusing myself. I had lost it, I only found it the night before last; imagine how badly I felt... They were constantly telling me that you would be returning to Lyons soon and I was expecting you, and I still expect you. However, I can see that the weeks and months are passing and Mme. Jordan hasn't returned yet. She is so happy in her Hermitage, surrounded by her summer cottages, among the dear native people whose friend, nurse, and mother she has become! It's true that Lyons doesn't charm the heart in the same way, but it has the charms of faith and sacrificial love.

However, Madame, I expect you to come back in good health, very spiritual, joyful and generous. It's good to vary our state of life. The heart is always looking for something new and God as well. I like the thought you expressed: to lend oneself to things without giving oneself to them; and so to protect one's freedom and presence of mind. Do continue to be like our divine Master who passed by while doing good. Thank you so much for your prayers for the Jubilee [I preached] at St. Chamond. God blessed it beyond all hope. His grace is so powerful! I was aware that so many beautiful, consoling conversions could not be the fruit [only] of human words, but of a hidden grace; may God be ever glorified!

I associated the persons you recommend to me, as requested. I knew their reputation! Poor blind people who deserve to be pitied! If they knew God's gift, his goodness, his love, the happiness of hope... They would be so happy!

Now about your young man. It would be easy to receive him as a brother with us at this time, if you present and sponsor him, Madame. I'll make it a duty to recommend him. We need to know his age, moral qualities; or better, have him come visit us in Lyons, because we do not ordinarily receive postulants sight unseen. If we did not accept him, he could apply to Fr. Rey at Tullins or the Marist Brothers at St. Chamond and I could give him a letter of recommendation.

The Third Order continues to be a comfort and a source of edification; several members are like my good Dauphinoise⁵² meditating at the sight of nature's beauty amid the peace and quiet of the valleys and hills. Don't forget my rock, its chapel, its beautiful view. Oh! What a delightful hour I spent there a few years ago, toward the close of a lovely day! I felt my soul enjoy a peace and meditation which are never forgotten.⁵³

⁵² From the Dauphin, a section of France.

⁵³ At St. Romans, when he was curate at Chatte sometime between 1835-1839.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Goodbye, Madame, you know how I name and bless you every day at the holy Altar, you, your dear daughter and fine husband.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, P.

Mme. Jordan, at the cottage
at St Romans via St. Marcellin
(Isere)

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TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 81/145 VI 10)

J.M.J.

*La Favorite, July 10, 1851*⁵⁴

Dear sisters,

I hope that everything is going well at La Mure and that you arrived safely, on the wings of divine Providence.

Here, very simply, is the purpose of my letter. Fr. Cat knows about the existence of the Third Order at La Mure. He knows all the details about it: the monthly Mass attended by all the affiliates, the exhortations by Fr. Pillon who is spoken of as director, etc. He sees it as a clique, or at least as a possible cause of little troubles in the future... I answered that it is only a private affiliation, for in fact it is nothing else, as I have never wanted any meetings, nor organizations at La Mure. It seems that someone from the Third Order must have told the Pastor everything. I would not be surprised; all it takes is one indiscrete or gossip person.

What needs to be done now, dear sisters, is not to communicate to them what you receive from Lyons concerning the Third Order. Do not trust pietistic persons. They keep no secrets from their director.

What I mean is, do nothing which gives the appearance of a meeting.

As a private Third Order the Pastor could say nothing, but if it becomes a society he would have the right to complain. I wish that Fr. Pillon would be very prudent, putting all that aside. I fear slander by the devotees of La Mure. I leave it all to your great discretion. You are familiar with the terrain and the sensitivity of the people involved.

Live happily in your little corner, but don't worry about it all, it is nothing. The Pastor was very nice to me. I am well and pray for you, dear sisters.

All yours in J. C.
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

⁵⁴ Volume III of the French Letters says July 20. It must be the 10th because the postmark reads the 11th. Troussier.

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 7/76)

J.M.J.

July 18, 1851

Madame,

Thank you for your prayers for me, especially to my holy patron. If only I resembled him a little in his love for our Lord and for his glory! But alas! I'm so poor and so cold [spiritually]. I need to receive alms⁵⁵ from my daughters. Strangely enough I think of their good more than of my own.

Now about your letter. Advise the distraught pitiful mother: 1. to remain always in the state of grace, so that the devil, who seems to dominate that man, may have no power over her. That is the important point.

2. Let her offer her sufferings to God for her husband's salvation. Because alas! he is really in danger.

3. She would do well to replace the precious relic of Venerable Gaspard de Buffalo, reciting some prayers in honor of the Precious Blood, daily, through the intercession of this great Servant of God. Here, we will join our prayers to hers and to yours, Madame.

So then, you are still very busy, always caring for others! Praise God! We can never be more certain of doing God's holy Will than when we aren't doing our own. We are never more free, nor more peaceful than in filial surrender to the most gracious Will of God. Be very happy, therefore, when you can say to the Good Lord at night:

"My God, I gave you my own will all day long."

However, don't forget that a spiritual person shouldn't become completely external, but always keep her eye on the presence of God and on her duty.

Speak interiorly with her good Master and so find God with people in the midst of the world.

See to your vocal prayers of devotion during the day, as much as possible, in order that you may be free in the evenings.

Goodbye Madame. My regards to Mademoiselle [Stephanie]: May she always be simple with the Good Lord, with herself, with you. May her road toward divine Love consist of the purity which results from sacrifice of heart and will.

All yours in our Lord

Madame Gourd,
at Romaneche
(Saone and Loire)

⁵⁵ prayers.