

CHAPTER IV

Solitude in the Whirlwind July - December 1866

“Pray for me that I may be calm in the midst of the whirlwind of affairs and in solitude surrounded by the world.” To Countess d’Andign, Nov. 2, 1866.

Impact of the Cholera in Paris

From Nazareth to the Cenacle - Expropriation rumors in Paris

Purchase and Preparations for the House of St. Maurice: Novitiate, Retreat House, House of Solitude

Foundation at St. Maurice

Impending Storm at Nemours

Pilgrim to La Salette and Laus

Spiritual Teacher

- Work of First Communion of Adults
- Support for fallen priests
- Retreats to his religious men and women at Angers, Marseilles and Nemours
- Mission at Mauron

1815

CO 1813

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 335/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 4, 1866

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

The question of the alley must be brought to a conclusion. Friday, I'll go and bring Mr. False a hundred and fifty francs. I find that very satisfactory because otherwise we could be fighting forever.

It's settled for Friday.

I'll go to Mr. Le Clere. He is somewhat behind because they had trouble with their banker, they had to reimburse him for a certain amount. We really must put our trust in God now, since we have nothing: God, our kind Father, has been so provident toward us.

We won't have to pay our novitiate-house for another four months; and there is nothing urgent. What is more, the bonds for the Lyons railroad have increased in value.

Always be very kind toward Sr. Camille: she needs it and her age requires it.

Sr. Benoite spent a few hours here Monday, she brought us a young novice. Poor woman! She has become very thin, and she is having stomach problems; she did the right thing to leave Riom.

You also need to take care of yourself, dear daughter. So, I prefer to give you the best sister to help you, rather than to see you crushed by the work.

May God bless you and heal you!

Nothing new about our house in Paris. Everything is in God's hands.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1816

CO 1814

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 85/104)

A.R.T.¹

Paris, July 5, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I was going to write to you to ask for news about you and your household when I received your letter.

I didn't preach the Octave of the Blessed Sacrament at Tours, as I was supposed to. A telegram recalled me to Paris for the sick. It was Divine Providence that could see that my strength was insufficient for the task at Tours and called me away from the battlefield. I'm not sick, I'm working at full capacity! We are preparing a new foundation two hours away from Paris, on the way to Tours, for my dear house of solitude. The house has been bought; the workmen are there. I hope to enthrone our Lord and his little guard of adorers toward the end of next August. When too many people pursue me I'll go there to hide a little with our good Master: it's a beautiful solitary place.

¹ Abbreviation for *Adveniat Regnum Tuum*, Thy Kingdom Come.

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Please! Try to be a little kinder, even though you find it hard naturally! Your difficulty is more physical than spiritual, it's nothing! At least try to lessen, soften, let the light shine through this little cross! I suspect that your spirit is weighed down; get some fresh air out in the country! Or better, inner freedom. God is beautiful, kind, tender towards you!

I'm leaving here for Mauron (Morbihan) from the 13th to the 21st. I don't want you [to come] there, I'll be overworked - 200 Associates. If Nantes were only close to Mauron, or on my way, I would see you on the way! I still don't know which way I'll take. Pray for me, I do so for you and all your family who are all dear to my soul in our Lord,

Eymard, P.S.²

1817

CO 1815

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 12/26)

A.R.T.

Paris, July 5, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

Today I am writing only to thank you for your good letters and to tell you how happy I am to see that you were well received by your family. God grant that it may last! What will last, however, will be your piety, generosity and love for God!

I beg you not to let your peace depend on people, says the Imitation, because that is like putting it on shifting sand.

Don't let it depend on your works, your piety, or even on your charity; that would mean to make it depend on yourself. But let it depend entirely on love for the holy Will of God which desires only your greater good, and in childlike trust in his divine goodness which will never leave you.

Since you have just come from a warm climate, and are now where it is colder, you are more vulnerable. So, dress more warmly or work more energetically to maintain the same temperature as Carmel.³

I will leave here July 13th. I'll be at Rennes in the evening and leave Saturday morning for Mauron (Morbihan) where I will give a retreat of five to six days. I hope to see you at Rennes on my way. I will stay with the Pastor at Saint Aubin. See you soon. I wanted to write to good Miss Antonia,⁴ I don't have time. I'm going to preach. I bless you both.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

² Abbreviation for Priest, Superior.

³ Is he speaking of a spiritual climate? Ed.

⁴ Antonia Bost, who was staying with her.

1818

CO 1816

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 39/52)

A.R.T.

Paris, July 5, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I want to write you these few words:

May God scatter such dark clouds! may the Sun of his love shine over you! may his peace replace the enormous turmoil in your soul! As sensitive as you are, you must be suffering deeply! Do offer this cross to the good Lord, but hide it from others.

Because you are innocent of it all, I can understand your suffering at being accused. Unite it all to the calumniated Jesus, it's the right moment to unite yourself to him and to find your peace in submission and patience. [You are] crucified by everything and everyone, but don't look at the nails or at the person who puts them, but at the One who wants them for his glory and for your greater virtue.

Don't look at people on the wayside. Do like a pilot, or rather like the helmsman of a ship, who keeps his eyes on the polar star, his nose in the wind and his hand on the helm which directs the ship.

You are what you are in God's sight! Provided that you don't sin, may God be pleased with you! What matters the grain of dust which soils our shoes, the wind which blows too strongly, whether it rains or snows, what does it matter? provided that the path leads to God!

Please, please! Snuff out this agitation quickly, with the words: "I obey"; have devotion in suffering, then the devotion of trust, finally that of pure love.

I am leaving here the 13th for Mauron (Morbihan) until the 21st. Then I will return here.

I bless you with my whole soul in our Lord.

Eymard

1819

CO 1817

TO THE MODAVE FAMILY

(VII 3/4)

Paris, July 8, 1866

Dear Madame,

Thank you for the fine letter you wrote to me in May. I wanted to write to you sooner, but time and travel delayed me until today. Your soul and your needs are ever present to me in God's sight. Your soul is very close and dear to me.

Yes, the good Lord does love you, and you also do love him, because you are and want to live only for him. All your thoughts and actions are for him. Dear Lady, throw a thick veil over the past, see only divine Mercy and the infinite goodness of God in your life. Make it a virtue and even a duty to desire not to see, nor to examine the past. The present is so good and beautiful for you.

I love our Lady of Good Counsel where I found you both. This good Mother is the one who was to place me on your path. I don't know when I shall go to Brussels, I hope that it will be

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toward Autumn. It will be a joy for me to go see you. I recommend myself to your prayers, I promise you mine forever. It pleases me to pray for you, because you have been so good toward our foundation.

Believe me, dear Lady, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1820

CO 1818

TO THE MODAVE FAMILY
(VII 2/4)

Paris, July 8, 1866

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I am writing to give you good news which will bring joy to your heart which is so dedicated to the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Last Sunday, the feast of the Precious Blood, I preached in our chapel about this beautiful redemptive devotion to the precious blood, the reasons for its divine worship, the excellence of its chaplet, the manner of saying it, its graces and indulgences, etc., etc. After benediction, I promised to distribute the chaplet to everyone.

Well, after Benediction, the entire large attendance came to the Communion rail to kneel and receive the beautiful precious chaplet. They kissed it respectfully as they took it, especially the medal which I had explained had come from Bruges. - I told them I had brought these chaplets from Brussels and from Belgium, where this beautiful devotion has spread.

Well dear Mademoiselle, this chaplet was so successful in awakening an unknown or dormant devotion to the precious blood, that I am now assailed with requests, and to console those who were absent, I promised I would write [and count on] your devotion and charity, because you are its Apostle and I am only the Agent. - I am convinced that devout souls who honor the precious blood of our Lord halt human bloodshed and appease God's wrath, which is so inflamed by so many crimes which fill the world.

If I were in Brussels, I would have gone to tell you my letter, but alas! I am very far from it here, and I cannot go to see this dear city yet, nor our friends in our Lord. - You have one of the first places in our memento; - so pray for us, also, dear Mademoiselle.

Respectfully and devotedly, your servant,
Eymard

P.S. Father Superior from Brussels will have an opportunity to send things to Paris shortly.

1821

CO 1819

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 171/181 VI 2)

Paris, July 9, 1866

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your letter. I'm writing to tell Fr. O'Kelly that I cannot make a decision unless he gives me some specific reason beyond feelings; that you always have shown the greatest charity toward him with me, even when he should have been reproaching himself for failures in religious behavior; that I will be going to Marseilles, and then I will hear his reasons when I am there. And finally, to be a good religious.

I learned that Bishop Place arrived in Paris to be consecrated. The exact time is not yet known.

I think you have everything you need in Marseilles to withdraw your pension. Please do so as soon as possible. It hurts me to feel that Angers is without resources.

I am united to you in our Lord, very dear Father.

Your loving servant,
Eymard, S.S.S.

1822

CO 1820

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 66/75)

Paris, July 9, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I've been wanting to write to you for a long time because I am eager to have news about you. How did your cocoons succeed? Are you pleased with your harvest? Do you have news from China? Are you in good health? Are you happy at Calet? Are you comfortable with God and with yourself? So many questions! I suppose I could create an answer for all of them, especially the last one, but I prefer to hear yours.

Solitude carries the pure and simple soul toward God. Well, you have such a beautiful solitude at Calet, between Heaven and earth, where you can pray, listen to God, contemplate Heaven.

The silence in the countryside recollects the soul naturally, and when we know how to read in every pure creature the good which God has placed in it for human beings and for his own glory. Oh! What beautiful aspirations we can send back to God, the author of every good!

However it is in church, perhaps very often alone in calm and silence, that the soul must pray, and converse with our Lord! You are his first adorer, you must be faithful to him; but you belong to us in our Lord, you must unite yourself to our adorations.

Then you are beginning to get old, like me. We must hurry to make reparation, to earn our ticket, to do what we must to pay homage to God.

I don't know when I will go to Marseilles. I think it may be during the month of August; if our good Master wants me to see you on the way, I would be pleased.

I won't tell you that I am well since I've never worked so much; but the good Lord is supporting this poor machine.

Solitude in the Whirlwind

I bless you and I am in our Lord,

Dear Lady,
Your ever devoted,
Eymard, Superior

1823

CO 1821

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 12/19)

Paris, Madame Mathilde, July 9, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

Do not doubt the interest, joy and wishes of my heart for you, for your dear husband, and for this little creature whom God is giving you for your joy and glory as a mother.

I am sending him all the blessings our Lord gave to St. John. I am offering him to God to be his devoted servant. I am asking that he may be your joy.

The birth of great saints is always the fruit of prayer and holy desires.

Be very devout in order to communicate to him your virtuous feelings and graces.

Love the good Lord dearly, so that this love may sanctify and adorn two souls in one.

Unite yourself closely to the grace of the Blessed Virgin carrying the Incarnate Word in her womb. When you receive Communion, feed these two souls well.

I hope to go to Marseilles during the month of August. I still don't know the exact time, but you know that I don't pass through Lyons without seeing you.

At this time I'm very busy with the foundation of a retreat house in the outskirts of Paris.

Pray for the duties I still need to carry out, because I'm always late with everyone, even with God.

I bless you with my whole soul in our Lord.
Eymard, SS⁵

1824

CO 1822

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(VI 1/2 II 395)

Telegram Muret⁶

“Sr. Benoite very ill, danger, anointed, come quickly, she asks for you. I wait for you in Paris.”

July 9, 1866

July 15-21 - Retreat for 200 Associates at Mauron.

⁵ Abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

⁶ According to the notes of Mother Marguerite.

1825

CO 1823

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 19/29 VI 2)

Mauron, July 15, 1866

Dear Father,

Here I am at Mauron, I will begin the retreat in a few minutes. I am the same as usual.

I am really worried about Sr. Benoite: they should be writing to me from Nemours. Ask Mr. Meignen, the notary, at 370, rue St. Honore, for the powers of attorney which I had arranged for Fr. Billon, to withdraw a registered letter, etc.

I am sending you the letter from Mr. LeBlanc, the chief engineer. Please send for that information and write to him at Dreux (Eure).

Please send someone to the druggist at rue Montmartre, Bergere City, to purchase a vial of 1 or 2 francs of eye lotion and mail it to me at Mauron (Morbihan).

Please pray for me. I do so for you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1826

CO 1824

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 172/181 VI 2)

Paris, July 23, 1866

Very dear Father,

I received your two letters, thank you. In a few days I'll send you the balance, with your notes paid.

If the two vocations from Menton arrive in Marseilles, keep them there for a little while, in order to test their vocation first. Write to me about them before sending them to Paris.

The cholera has been here for the past four days; it is God visiting this large and guilty city. They say that 110 to 115 people die daily, but it's hardly noticeable.

I'm enclosing a little note for Fr. O'Kelly.

I am in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard

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

1827

CO 1825

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 86/104)

Paris, Feast of St. Anne, 1866 [July 26]⁷

Madame in our Lord,

I am here in Paris, back from Mauron. I was pleased you didn't come, I was busy with so many things. I would have liked to come back through Nantes, but my time was limited; I would have needed two more days. So, I had to give it up, in spite of the joy it would have given me to help you a little in passing and to see your dear patient.

So, we must will what our good Master wills. I would be pleased with you, if you also would be more so; I see that you are on a real battlefield of charity that there are continual attacks, and that there is progress and many little victories in spite of a few wounds. So, continue this way. Our Lord may be leaving your patient a while longer in this world to provide you with a beautiful and unique opportunity. Someday, you will find comfort and joy in it.

I don't have any travel plans.

I bless you, and your dear sister and patient,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.⁸

1828

CO 1826

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 173/181 VI 2)

Paris, July 27, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am enclosing the money order to be signed, so that you may return it to me.

Two days ago the cholera was striking 300 persons a day in Paris. It is less intense now, we hardly notice it. Alas! It's a warning, which is hardly converting anyone.

Here everything is fine. Believe me in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.⁹

⁷ This date is not in Fr. Eymard's handwriting

⁸ Abbreviation for Superior.

⁹ Abbreviation for Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

1829

CO 1828

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 336/395 VI 2)

Paris, August 3, 1866

Very dear daughter,

Mr. Amedee is leaving for Angers. Let him see his dear mother alone,¹⁰ and if you think that a health trip is necessary, you may grant it. However it would be better for all concerned if she didn't go. I even think that such a trip would disturb Mr. Chanuet considerably since his wife is at the springs. I understood that by the answer he gave me about this [possibility].

You did well not to speak about the accident and the sisters did what they had to do.

Fr. Crepon is here. He will reach Angers, Saturday; his eyes are fine and his soul even better.

I am sending you the letters here enclosed. God will bless them, it's for his greater glory.

Have courage and confidence! very dear daughter, you are sacrificing and letting yourself be sacrificed for God each day. However, be like the lamb which is to be shorn or sacrificed: it maintains a wonderful silence. Suffer with God and for God. Let no one know your secret, especially ask God to give you the initial strength needed for unexpected reactions or upsetting things. It would be magnificent if you were always exteriorly in control over your inner reactions.

Don't be surprised about human weakness, dear daughter. God allows them to teach the saints humility, patience and trust.

We don't want a reward from God's children. Let God be served by them, and glorified by us; all our joy and reward in this world lies in that.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

1830

CO 1829

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 4/11)

Assumption 1866

Dear Madame,

Happy Feast of the Blessed Mother! Send Father home for a family meal, with your dear Edmond. I was able to obtain a place as a friend.¹¹ If Father is not close by, send a companion with your dear son. I would like to have them all,¹² but later, for they are almost as dear to me as their mother.

Eymard

¹⁰ Sr. Camille SS - the directive is to let her son into the cloister.

¹¹ Fare on the train.

¹² Her sons as religious of the Blessed Sacrament.

1831

CO 1830

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

(V 56/76)

Paris, August 17, 1866

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am so grateful to you for having written to me and given me news about yourself! I wasn't worried, but I wanted to receive some.

I can see that you are feeling better, although a little weak. They do well to force you to rest, and God is using that to make you rest more often and more quietly at his feet, to be seated at his Table of love.

Although the rest is good and desirable in one sense, it is secondary. The principal thing is the life of God in you, to feed your poor soul with Jesus, to work only under the law of his divine Will.

God loves you, dear daughter! You know it. Do love him in your poor but precious condition.

God doesn't need your work, but he needs your heart and sacrifices. This is your daily task. You will glorify him by doing nothing, or better by doing everything he wills.

Therefore, be like a day-old child in his hands.

I hope to pass through Lyons toward the beginning or the end of September. I will let you know. Besides, since I have the custom of going to see your dear mother, and I really want to see her, that will be the best way of letting you know.

Poor Miss Jenny is leaving us.¹³ God is taking back what was always His. Hers is a very pure and beautiful soul. I hope to see her before she leaves for the Homeland. She is very happy to go to the good Lord.

Goodbye, dear daughter, I bless you very eucharistically in our Lord, and I ask him that you may have the consolation of seeing that dear soul who is one with you¹⁴ belong entirely to God and serve him.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

Madame Gourd

1832

CO 1831

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 41/52)

Miss Stephanie

Paris, August 17, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I read your last letter very attentively! I can still see your old nature flowering and refusing to be inactive or captive. Overcome these worries if they should return, because your heart belongs to God.

You did well to pass over all those crazy and wicked thoughts about God: it's all a proof of our profound weakness and a storm from the devil. You needed to go forward in spite of it and you did! It was also a stroke of the whip; was sluggishness setting in?

¹³ Jenny Guillot, the sister of Marguerite Guillot.

¹⁴ her husband.

Solitude in the Whirlwind

When the good Master returned to Bethany he brought back peace and joy; may he be praised!¹⁵

Do love our good Master who is there with you, and for you alone! The rest of the faithful only benefit from it. Do visit this divine Guest and Friend. Because he loves you so much, it is right that you would give him what propriety and friendship require.

Adorn him well, because he is the King and the King of the heart. He loves the gifts of preferential friendship. You must give him a new bouquet every day, it is a matter of duty in friendship.

I am pleased that you have the opportunity to overcome physical laziness and to make reparation for the past by the present order of things. That is fine! But don't try to finish too quickly; everything would suffer because of it and everything would soon be in disorder.

Work one day at a time and do it all for God.

Always sing a canticle of love, since God loves you so much and you aspire only to love him more and more.

I bless you very faithfully in our Lord,
Eymard

1833

CO 1832

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

(I 174/181 VI 2)

Paris, August 20, 1866

Very dear Father,

I referred Fr. Devze to you. He is a former Marist who left the Society about a year ago to help his mother who has just died. He wrote immediately to ask admission to our Society. The information I sought from several persons is favorable. I even wrote to Very Rev. Fr. Favre, Superior General of the Marists, who also made favorable remarks about him.

Before deciding anything, I advised him to make a retreat under your direction. He is to go see you. Receive him, and see whether he is really coming for the Blessed Sacrament, and whether he can become a good and true adorer.

A few days ago, the cholera took up to 140 people a day, the doctor said. These days it is only taking 50 to 60 people, but it is terrible when it strikes. We have had some light discomforts, but without any consequences.

I'm sending your receipt from Mr. Fouquet. I would need your document to withdraw the 125 francs from your Cross of Honor. Please tell me when the best time would be to come see you and preach the annual retreat. I would like it to be during the month of September. I must also give it in Angers.

My warm regards to the Fathers and Brothers.

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

¹⁵ The Blessed Sacrament was reserved in the family's semi-private chapel.

1834

CO 1833

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 40/52)

*Paris, August 24, 1866*¹⁶

Madame in our Lord,

I have just read your letter and so I want to tell you that I will be in Angers on Monday to begin the retreat for our Fathers. It will last the whole week. I still don't know whether I will give the one for the Ladies immediately after. I hope to see you a few hours in Angers, before you leave.

We must let our good Master arrange everything for the best. When you go to Mee, be sure of my wish to give and pass on to you the graces which God will give me for you, because I am only his poor agent who often damages what he touches.

You have been Martha, a good and gracious Martha, that is fine. Now you will be Mary, a good and devout Mary at the feet of our Lord. It's so good to be at his feet, when he speaks to our heart and opens his own to us!

I have business upon business relating to the novitiate house which God helped us to find and which is like a little Eden. God grant that it may be like the first, or better, a heavenly Eden where the serpent can never enter.

That is all fine; but what is better, what is more nourishing and life-giving, is the spirit of Jesus in us, detachment from everything, to live in him and for him.

People considered on the natural level, in the nature that comes from Adam, are scoundrels. Crystal is beautiful only in the light which shines through it.

Oh! Believe me, I am tired of people (even perfect ones). It's only a little smoke or a very faint ray. All I want is the Sun from Heaven or the divine Host on earth. Do the same.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard, P.¹⁷

1835

CO 1834

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

(V 57/76)

Paris, August 27, 1866

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter of the 25th. I was really frightened by the one from Miss St.¹⁸ We began a novena immediately for M.¹⁹

Oh I can really understand your grief and worry. You did everything that needed to be done. That was fine, it even seemed very effective. Now pray and wait for a favorable and natural moment.

¹⁶ This letter was erroneously printed as the 15th to Countess d'Andigné and dated Oct. 22, 1863. Its most likely date is Paris, Oct. 22, 1866, because 1866 is the date found on a very old copy. The last number is lacking on the original so it is impossible to verify. (footnote, French edition.)

¹⁷ Abbreviation for Priest.

¹⁸ Probably Miss Jenny Sterlingue from Nemours.

¹⁹ Probably for her husband who was ill and in need of conversion.

Solitude in the Whirlwind

Oh! Yes, I am confident: this dear soul will not perish! God will have mercy on it; the most Blessed Virgin will save it.

I am going to Angers for about two weeks. I expect to pass through Lyons around September 15th. I hope that our good Master will give me the consolation of seeing you there either on my way down or on my way back.

Stay very close to our Lord, the Savior of poor sinners, the good Shepherd of souls.
Don't let worry invade your soul.

I do bless you in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

To Angers via Tours.

1836

CO 1835

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 38/52)

Miss Stephanie

August 27²⁰

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Continue to be close to your father like an angel from God with the gentleness and prudence of the true charity of our Lord. You have done well, now let grace do its work, and water it with your prayers and little sacrifices.

Pay attention to the favorable moments, but don't create them; if anything new should happen, write to me in Angers (rue Lyonnaise) until September 5th.

I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard

1837

CO 1836

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 7/15)

Tours, Aug. 27, 1866

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I am writing to you on the train to Angers where I am going to give the retreat to our Fathers.²¹

Last evening I saw Mme. de Couchies.²² I assure you that she is feeling better and I hope that the good Lord will leave her with you for a long time.

She spoke to me first. She and Mr. de Couchies said that they do not want Mme. Blanche to come to Paris, and did not even accept my offer of Sr. Philomene.²³ I understand that with the good care she is receiving, Madame does not want help which could go on a long time and cause

²⁰ In Volume 5 this letter is placed in 1865, but Father Troussier favors 1866.

²¹ There is no indication that this retreat was given.

²² Mme. de Couchies, his mother-in-law.

²³ Their daughters - Mme. Blanche was his wife.

Solitude in the Whirlwind

inconvenience to others.

We go to see her every day. Your brother²⁴ will make it his duty to replace you near this dear mother. We are praying for all your sick ones, dear friend. It will be repaid with good health. This is the time of the cross and of God's blessing.

Goodbye. All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

Aug. 28-Sept. 1 - Retreat to SSS Religious in Angers.

1838

CO 1838

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 337/395 VI 2)

[Angers, Friday, September, 1866]²⁵

Dear daughter,

Fr. Chanuet is asking me whether his mother²⁶ should begin the hydro-therapy treatment, which the doctor finds necessary. What should we answer?

2. I received a letter from Sr. Emilienne's brother-in-law who says that her mother is very seriously ill and advises that her daughter should come to see her. What do you think about it?

I am sending you the address and note from the insurance. Answer that since you acquired the property from Miss Sterlingue, you do not intend to continue the insurance, and that you are giving up the benefits.

4. I've just received another sad letter from Miss Sterlingue, I'll answer it.

5. Sunday, we will go say holy Mass for you.

Pray very much for our retreat.

Eymard

1839

CO 1839

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 338/395 VI 2)

Angers, September (1866)²⁷

Dear daughter,

I can't come to see you, I am preaching tonight. Send me a copy of your Rule.

Tomorrow, I'll come say holy Mass for you.

I have been working a great deal and I haven't finished. Madame d'Andigne has arrived.

I bless you.
Eymard

²⁴ Fr. Michel Chanuet.

²⁵ Probably August 31, because it was written during the priests retreat. (Troussier)

²⁶ Sister Camille Chanuet.

²⁷ Probably written before August 31. (Troussier)

1840

CO 1837

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 339/395 VI 2)

(Angers, September 1866)²⁸

Forgive me, but I cannot come say holy Mass for you. The Bishop doesn't know that I have arrived, don't tell him anything.

I don't have permission for the Perpetual Vows.

Yes, Sunday we will come say holy Mass for you.

All yours,
Eymard

Aug 28	Conference Servants: Eucharistic union. (Doubtful date.)
Sep 1-7:	Annual Retreat for the Servants in Angers. Opening of retreat.
Sep 2	Sacramental spouses, recollection of mind, heart, will, interior and exterior. Three graces: natural, preparatory, effective.
Sep 3	Conditions for spouses: self-knowledge, love required from a Servant of the Blessed Sacrament.
Sep 4	Purity, vocal prayer, tenderness.
Sep 5	Delicacy, observance, crucified spouses.
Sep 6	Confidence, simplicity, title of SSS, poverty, fidelity, obedience.
Sep 7	Recollection (after retreat), cord, habit, transfiguration.

1841

CO 1841

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS

(I 20/29 VI 2)

Angers, September 2, 1866

Very dear Father,

Fr. Carri will give you the details of the news about us here.

Last night I began the retreat for the Sisters, it will finish only on Saturday because of their feast and their ceremony. I wanted to finish sooner; impossible! Therefore, I will be in Paris only Sunday night or Monday.

Mother Guillot wrote to tell your dear mother to follow her treatment faithfully.

I spoke about Nemours as a place for your dear mother, it's quite possible.

Take care of Brother John, we waited too long.

The pastor from Verneuil is here, he is fine.

Fr. Crepon has all the necessary permissions,²⁹ he is pleased with his decision. Do pray for us.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

²⁸ Probably written before August 31. (Troussier)

²⁹ To enter with the Society.

1842

CO 1840

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 7/11)

*Angers, September 2, 1866*³⁰

Dear Madame in our Lord,

I don't know what to tell you (which is not unusual). I had to give a retreat to the Sister adorers; it will finish only Saturday. So I cannot be in Paris before Saturday night, or more likely, Sunday night. However, I believe that the clock of our Good Master's service is still keeping good time and that the hands of the heart still tell the time of divine love, whatever the circumstances.

I will be deprived of seeing your dear children whom I love so much. I hope they went to the house of the dear Lord as to their own home.

Goodbye, good Lady, I do bless you and all your loved ones in our Lord.

Eymard, Sup.³¹

1843

CO 1842

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 175/181 VI 2)

Angers, September 4, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am writing to you from Angers, where I came to give the retreat to our house.

Thank you very much for your last letter; you did well to dismiss that peasant right away.

I'm learning from Fr. Audibert that Fr. Devze began his retreat in your house. Study him well: I am afraid that he might have an active and busy imagination, rather than the simple and quiet spirit which is needed for a true adorer.

I hope to go to Marseilles around September 22 to preach the retreat, as I have done here. I'm putting it off until then, in order to wait until the initial necessary repairs for the chapel and the rooms are finished at our country house (St. Maurice).

When I return from Marseilles, I want to transfer the Novitiate there. It's time to do so, and it will free the motherhouse a little.

They are assuring us that we will receive the official notice of compulsory purchase on October 1st. I must be in Paris around that time.

See you soon, dear Father. It has been a long time since I have seen you and the dear house of Marseilles.

My warm regards in our Lord to the whole family.

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

³⁰ Published as Nov. 2nd in French, corrected by Fr. Troussier.

³¹ Abbreviation for Superior.

1844

CO 1843

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 67/75)

Paris, September 11, 1866

Dear Madame,

I have just finished preaching two retreats in Angers. I've just received your letter. I had received the first; I wanted to answer it, but didn't have time, then I ended up thinking that I had done so. Your letter tells me the contrary, and so I am doing it today. I congratulate you for your happiness. I prayed for this dear little one from the good Lord and for his good and dear mother.

I bless him every day because he is a blessed child. He is the fruit of prayer, the joy of saints. May he be great in God's sight, holy before men, powerful in works and words.

I would like to write to your dear daughter. I don't have time. May my letter be for you both.

I hope to leave for Marseilles from Paris, Sunday or Monday. I still don't know whether it will be during the day or at night. My wish would be to pass through Grenoble, to be at La Salette on the 19th and to go through Gap to Marseilles. If I don't see you on the way down, I will do so on the way back.

Believe me in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

1845

CO 1844

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 13/19)

Paris, Madame Mathilde, September 11, 1866

Happy Mother!

I can't help sending you a few words of congratulations and blessings.

So now your hopes are fulfilled, your long and numerous prayers heard! What remains now is an ongoing blessing from Heaven: it won't fail you.

Offer this dear little one very often to the good Lord and to the Blessed Virgin, and consider yourself as the nurse of a saint.

I bless you, this dear angel and his happy father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SS

1846

CO 1845

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 176/181 VI 2)

Paris, September 20, 1866

Very dear Father,

Do not expect me in Marseilles for the 22nd. We have two vocation retreatants, and I want to see and decide on the outcome.

Then, since Bishop Place is not in Marseilles and as I want to see him, I prefer to wait a few more days. I've just learned that His Excellency is in Paris and that he will make his episcopal entry in Marseilles on the 30th of the month.

Therefore, I will be in Marseilles only at the end of next week. I long to see you all, for it has been so long since I have seen Marseilles, and especially yourself. Fr. Leroyer tells us that you are often ill. How I would wish to see you improve! However, our Good Master desires that all the mysteries of his life be lived and continued. Dear Father, you have the holiest and most glorious share, although it is most difficult naturally speaking.

While waiting for the consolation of seeing you, dear Father,

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

Sept. 25-26 - Last pilgrimage to La Salette.

1847

CO 1847

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 5/11)

La Salette, September 26, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing you a few words from Notre Dame de La Salette to say that I presented you, your husband, and your four dear children to our good Mother.

I tried to ask on your behalf for the graces you would have asked for yourselves if you had come. For you in particular, I asked for a strong and tender love which is both simple and magnanimous, peaceful and devoted toward our dear Lord in his adorable Sacrament. That is asking everything.

The one who loves gives everything; the one who is loved possesses everything. How fortunate you are to be filled with this divine flame! Fire is self-sufficient, it seeks only to be fed more and more. It is fed by love itself, for God is all love and all goodness.

Saturday I will be in Marseilles (7, rue Nau). My fond regards to Mr. T.... Greetings from the heart to your beloved children.

I bless you abundantly in our Lord.

Eymard, S.

1848

CO 1846

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 6/14)

La Salette, September 26, 1866

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I am writing a few words to you from Notre Dame de La Salette to say that I did pray for you personally and for all your intentions. I also prayed for the realization of all the spiritual wishes I have for your soul and for God's Kingdom in you and through you.

I thank our good Master for your dedication to his service of love and his eucharistic worship. You have given yourself entirely to Him, body, soul, and possessions; there is nothing more you could give him.

May you always direct this absolute and perpetual gift to him. Never stop working on this gift; let it be the only rule of your life, as it is its merit.

I am leaving for Marseilles and on my way I will greet my childhood's place of pilgrimage, of love and of grace, Notre Dame du Laus. I will be in Marseilles on Saturday morning, at rue Nau, 7.

I really prayed to Our Good Mother to heal this poor, dear sick one. Did she hear me? May her greater will be done!

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard, S.S.S.

Sept. 27-28 - Last pilgrimage to Laus.

1849

CO 1848

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

Marseilles, September 29, 1866

Very dear Father,

Today is your dear feast day. I wished you a happy feast day at the holy Altar and at the feet of the great prince of the heavenly court, the great captain of the glory of God: "Quis ut Deus".³²

Like him, let us often say: "quis ut Jesus?"³³ Who deserves more honor, love and glory than the God of the Eucharist? So, be a captain in the good service of the great King, ever happy to make him loved and served by all your people. It is a great mark of our Lord's trust that he is entrusting you with his family, his person and his glory. Be totally dedicated to that grace and glory.

I am here in Marseilles. I will begin our retreat Monday, or rather tomorrow night, I do recommend it to your prayers.

Have a novena to St. Michael for St. Maurice and for the house of Paris. Everything is going fine here. Fr. de Cuers is not strong: his mission is one of suffering. But God must be pleased with his good will, for he is doing all that he can; and then he goes so directly to God and his glory.

³² Who is like God?

³³ Who is like Jesus?

Solitude in the Whirlwind

I bless you on this holy day; I prayed fervently for you at Notre Dame de La Salette and Laus. I never stop doing so everywhere, because you are the nurturing mother of the children of the Society.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I was very pleased to see your good mother, your sister Miss Zenaide and especially good Lady Blanche, with whom I had a long spiritual conversation. In Lyons I had the good fortune to see your good brother Amedee. How good the good Lord is to put in my path those who are so dear to me in him!

1850

CO 1849

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 340/395 VI 2)

Marseilles, Rue Nau, 7, September 29, 1866

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

I arrived here in Marseilles this morning. At St. Seine I saw Sr. Camille. That really pleased her, as well as her family and Miss Zenaide.

She had a boil, that might have a better outcome. I found her better than in Paris, but weak.

In Lyons, I saw your good and dear sisters. Miss Jenny is still peaceful; hers is such an honest and pure soul! She sees her own approaching death as a grace. That one is certainly well-prepared for heaven; however I hope that she will live a little longer.

Your sister Mariette stays with her like a mother with her daughter. I was happy to see that she still belongs wholly to God and his Society.

Mme. Gourd came and we were able to speak a little about her spiritual life. What a good Servant she is, humble and dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament! Her great suffering is Mr. G's procrastination in giving himself to God. We must really pray for him, so that this poor soul may respond to so many graces which surround him.

At La Salette, I prayed very much for you personally because your needs are a personal concern of mine. Your joys I will let you keep, but I'd like to take away all your crosses and sorrows, so that you might delight in greater joy, calm and recollection at the feet of our good Master.

Not that the cross isn't an excellent grace in itself; but with so many worries, so much work, and so many children to care for, a mother needs rather to feed on God, to rest at his feet.

I visited Notre Dame du Laus when we passed by. My sister and Nanette came there with me. We spent nearly two days there. We were thinking and speaking about that meeting which took place a long time ago, and had brought us all together at the feet of the good Mother, with your sister Claudine. What beautiful moments those were!

Finally, yesterday the 28th at Laus, I gave my sister and Nanette permission to leave La Mure, to go join you. They are happy about that grace and will prepare for it.

The Ravanat family will accompany them.

Many good young women from La Mure would like to follow them, but we must choose and wait.

Now I am in Marseilles. On Monday, I will begin the retreat. Pray and have others pray for it.

Solitude in the Whirlwind

I bless you, dear daughter. Always be happy that you can work so nobly for the service and glory of our good Master,

In whom I am,
All yours,
Eymard

1851

CO 1851

TO EDMOND TENAILLON (FR. E. TENAILLON SSS)
(III 1/3)

Marseilles, October 3, 1866

Dear Friend in our Lord,

I can see that I won't be able to be in Paris for your departure. I had hoped that I could. All my blessings and best wishes will be with you and your two brothers. Don't thank me for the little I have done: you were a friend to me from the very first. How and why? That cannot be explained. There seems to be an affinity of souls! Then also, all the children and friends of the Blessed Sacrament are our brothers.

When I saw how soon you would be leaving, I said to myself: I will not go to bid them farewell, but to greet them at Montmorillon. I like that idea, and I tell our good Master about it.

I'm happy that you liked St. Maurice. If I had been in Paris, I would have liked to take you there myself.

You consult me, dear friend, about corporal penances. I say: not as a rule: your schedule, your studies and your duties are a continual penance. However, since virtue in general is nothing at all or very little, it is necessary to perform a few penances on certain days, like Fridays, and also when we have failed in a promise made to God with penance as a penalty.

Well, dear friends, I bless you all wholeheartedly, so that this year may be truly holy and fruitful.³⁴

Keep a joyful conscience, a free heart, and perpetual gratitude at the sight of such beautiful family graces which God is showering upon you.

You have such a good father and loving mother!

Goodbye, dear friends.

May God keep you always.

In him, all yours,
Eymard, Sup.

Fr. Edmond Tenaillon
at home
25, Humboldt St.
Paris

³⁴ Edmond Tenaillon and his two brothers were due to enter the Seminary of Montmorillon a few days later.

1852

CO 1850

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 22/29 VI 2)

Marseilles, October 3, 1866

Very dear Father,

I will answer your letters now. I wanted to take a few days to pray, before making a decision.

1. Dismiss Fr. Vancastel without regrets. It's one more good lesson that a religious who has been dismissed or who is leaving a good congregation is not worth anything for us. If you don't know how to proceed, I am enclosing a letter for him. Take advantage of a holiday to dismiss him; have his trunk prepared beforehand, because it's important that he should see no one when he leaves.

2. Also dismiss the young man from Rodez immediately. That was not truthful: these are rejects from others.

3. Take care of Brother Henry. Tell him clearly what reproaches are being made against him, but be on guard toward those who make personal complaints. I distrust those who accuse others, who complain. No doubt, we can learn from it, but be on your guard in regard to this mentality of tale-bearing.

4. I would really regret losing Brother Jean; that poor Brother may be a little better at St. Maurice; help him to struggle against that temptation. I know that, when one is not well, it's a terrible trial; but we must pray for him.

The retreat is proceeding well. Brother Francois and Brother Marie will make their perpetual vows Saturday. Pray for them.

Goodbye, dear Father. It seems that the city will not bother us before January 1.³⁵ Praise God!

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

1853

CO 1852

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 6/11)

Marseilles, October 5, 1866

Dear Mother,

I don't want to send a letter to your children without sending you a brief greeting from our Lord, to put you at the head of and in the heart of the blessing I am sending them.

Mr. Edmond's letter pleased me very much. He is on the right track and is growing in virtue and knowledge.

I still don't know on which day I will return next week.

The retreat ends tomorrow. I hope our Good Master will bless it.

Thank you for your letter, because a letter is read with the heart, it never finds it too long, and everything is interesting.

³⁵ For the compulsory sale in Paris.

Solitude in the Whirlwind

I see that your trip was a plus for our Lord and also for you. I bless you.

Eymard

To Madame T.

1854

CO 1853

TO BISHOP PLACE (MARSEILLES)

(VI 1/1)

Marseilles, October 9, 1866

Your Excellency,

Before I return to Paris I would like to entrust to your great and tender devotion toward the Most Blessed Sacrament, our small family in Marseilles. Your two venerable predecessors have loved it and favored its beginnings by giving some of their members to it.

We have at present 2 professed religious from Marseilles - Frederic Stafford and Marius Billon, both in Theology. I would like to request, for the second (in Brussels) a Dimissorial Letter for the Tonsure and other Orders. The first, who is residing in Marseilles, would be happy to be ordained by his bishop.

We join in the happiness and joy of your good people, Your Excellency. We shall not cease to pray at the feet of the Divine Shepherd for your Episcopate, which is already so beautiful and so blessed in its dawning.

It is with the most profound and cordial veneration that I am happy to call myself, in our Lord, Your Excellency,

Your most humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS.³⁶

Oct. 13-14 - In Anger to negotiate the purchase of a new house for the Society.

1855

CO 1856

TO MME. LEPAGE

(IV 13/26)

Angers, October 16, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

An answer has been long overdue. What happened is that I stayed three weeks in Marseilles, and now I am in Angers, on the train to return to Paris where I will stay until November 20th.

I was very happy for the good news of family unity. May God preserve it! Be happy about it without letting your peace depend too much upon it.

³⁶ Abbreviation: Superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Solitude in the Whirlwind

Receive this family grace gratefully; keep it alive with ordinary kindness; always retain your personal freedom.

You do very well to act legally and firmly in a business manner with the captain from Bordeaux. When we have to deal with worldly people, we must use the prudence of the serpent and the virtue of justice.

Act without fear or turmoil.

I will send you your christ³⁷ when I arrive.

With religious feeling and dedication to dear Miss Antonia.

Best wishes in our Lord to you both,

Eymard

Oct 16	<i>Conference Servants: The fruits of the mysteries of the Rosary. The year of stones (La Salette), recollection.</i>
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1856

CO 1854

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 87/104)

Le Mans, October 16, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I've just spent 2 days in Angers. I had decided to spend a day in Nantes. But it's impossible, the trains are not running.

I hope to return to Angers in a month to examine the repairs we are having done on a building we just bought on Saturday for our Work. I hope to have a better chance to see you then.

I've just come in from Marseilles, I am returning to Paris until November 20th. On the 24th, I must be in Brussels. Fr. Audibert told me how much kindness you showed when you received them: thank you for it. I'm sure that your love for the Blessed Sacrament was blessed. I've just learned that a Priest from Nantes is considering our Society. May God be praised and glorified!

I am praying very much for your deceased (fem), for your kind sister and for you, whom I remember daily to our Lord.

Eymard, Superior

On the train.

³⁷ Perhaps statues or crucifixes.

1857

CO 1855

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 22/28)

On the train to Mans, October 16, 1866

Dear Mademoiselle in our Lord,

In exchange for the flower from St. Malo, I am sending you a flower picked on the holy mountain of La Salette. I was there September 24th. It will tell you that I am not forgetting you: that wouldn't be possible. We cannot forget our dear and beloved family in our Lord.

I would like to see you in better health. I still haven't written to your friend at Carcassone. I will do so soon.

I showed your brother's picture. He is among those sinners who are coming back, but have not begun to walk. That pleased me.

I bless you,

All yours,
Eymard

1858

CO 1857

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 15/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum!

Paris, October 22, 1866³⁸

Madame,

I felt very sad about you, without knowing you were ill... (2 lines erased). Your letter made me cry with sadness and joy. You can understand how much I thanked our Lord for healing you! And how much I ask him to keep watch over you! because you must still work for his glory and receive greater and more precious graces from his love. Oh! how upset I would have been to learn that you had died! I surely would have gone immediately on receiving the news, as I certainly owe you this charity. You did well to surrender yourself to the good Lord's good pleasure for death or for Purgatory: you could do nothing more pleasing to his Heart. So, as soon as you had made this sacrifice, the good Lord was pleased, and he put you back on the path of life. I was pleased with your prayer to the holy Cure d'Ars. So then, by healing you he will intercede for the other grace that you requested, I wish it for you with all my heart. You already have half of it with the Most Blessed Sacrament. This illness was worth a brief but good retreat. Coming back from the shores of eternity, you know the value of time and of God's grace. God does love you, you may be sure of it. Surrender yourself to his holy Will.

I bless and offer you to our Lord, in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard

³⁸ This letter was numbered erroneously as the 15th and as 42nd of this collection dated: Paris, October 22, 1863. The likely date is Paris, October 22, 1866 because this date is the one which can be found on a very old copy. The last number of the date is missing on the original. So it is impossible to check. (Garreau)

Solitude in the Whirlwind

P.S. I wasn't able to see the Ladies before writing to you,³⁹ as I wanted to thank you right away and hope to have news of you again. This photograph was just sent to me from Tours;⁴⁰ I am sending it to you.

Madame d'Andigne
Lyon d'Angers

Oct. 24 - To Brussels for a day. cf. Letter of October 16. Did these plans materialize?

1859

CO 1858

TO MR. RAVANAT
(III 2/5)

Paris, October 25, 1866

Dear Mr. Ravanat,

I'm expecting you with my sisters and all your dear daughters.⁴¹ Come confidently into the house of our Lord. You will be welcomed and loved there like a brother and father, for you will be Saint Joseph, the protector and guardian of the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

You are leaving a great deal to serve him, but he will repay you with the hundredfold now.

Then, your dear daughters would be happy to have their father in the same vocation.

Therefore I am expecting you joyfully. And you, dear daughters Marie and Louise, come into the house of your dear Master. Come, while giving him your hearts, consecrating your life to him to adore, love and serve him until you reach heaven. Leave this world with joy, you will find a better one. Don't look at what you are giving up, but at the good things and the happiness that are awaiting you. You will see that you did not make a mistake, and that you have the better part. Therefore, have courage!

I bless you and expect you with your dear, kind father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mr. Ravanat

³⁹ Perhaps to make arrangements for her to come on retreat - a usual procedure on her behalf.

⁴⁰ Probably a photograph of himself.

⁴¹ He was expecting Mr. Ravanat, his daughters and Fr. Eymard's own sisters to come together from La Mure to Paris to enter the religious life.

1860

CO 1859

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

Rule for Mme. Marechal
by Fr. Eymard

I

Rising and retiring at set times, insofar as possible. For example, from 11 to 7. In the winter 8 hours of sleep; in the summer 7 1/2.

II

Religious Exercises

8:00	1/2 hour meditation in one's room.
8:30	Mass and thanksgiving: 1 hour. Office of the Blessed Virgin in free time. Rosary in the coach, when it applies. Half-hour of spiritual reading in the afternoon.
6:00	1 hour adoration, including the instruction - But try to give 1/2 hour to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Meals

Take something after Mass. Lunch 11:30.

Dinner at 7:00.

During your free time:

Household duties, family duties, social necessities.

Simple works:

Aspire to be lovingly present to God - nourish this divine presence by the offering of each thing and by thanksgiving.

Have an ongoing plan for your mind, some thought or pious study, so that it may have a specific goal.

Love to read Sacred Scripture. This reading helps the soul aspire toward God, feeds it, keeps it delightfully occupied.

I bless you.

Eymard

October 25, 1866

1861

CO 1860

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS

(III 7/14)

A.R.T.

Paris, October 26, 1866

Very dear Mademoiselle in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter, it pleased me. I can understand that you are suffering because you no longer see the adorable Host and you are far from this dear chapel which is your whole life. In that way you can see how much our dear Master has loved you and does love you by wanting you to be entirely his, with him and for him. It is true that he is hidden in the blessed Tabernacle, but our eyes seek him, and when they see him, it seems that our heart is closer to him.⁴² This happiness will soon be yours again, for I hope to see you soon. The chapel is grieving a little for you.

It is most likely that St. Maurice will be ready only in a month. I must go to give the retreat at Nemours, the week after All Saints, barring any obstacles. Then, I will go to Brussels around the 25th. I want to free myself from external matters so that I may remain here once the novitiate is at St Maurice.

I bless you abundantly in our Lord.

If you must stay longer, give us news about yourself.

There is nothing new here. Everything is the same as usual. The cold weather is beginning. Miss Larousse is fine.

All yours in our Lord.

Eymard, S.S.S.

1862

CO 1861

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I 41/54)

Paris, October 30, 1866

Very dear Father,

We bought the Aubert Theater on Saumur Boulevard for 63,500 francs. As a business deal, it is a good one: the house and chapel will be very well situated, between the boulevard, St. Martin's Cloister and St. Aubin street. We have these three roads. We shall raze the theater to build a chapel for 300 persons.

On reflection, the Bishop thought he should not authorize worship in a theater, even after it would be transformed. Considering his thought as coming from God, we had it destroyed.

There are 2000 meters of land. Dear Father, you understand my surprise, when, instead of 25,000, it cost almost 75,000, all fees included. There was a mistake on the telegram; God allowed it. I would not have had the courage [to buy] at such a high price. We are being given time to pay it.

You have been included in the deed of acquisition; the three of us backed you up. However, you must send me your nomination for the purchase and administration of the property.

I ordered your medals. I'm giving your note to Brother Frederic. He will take care of it quickly.

⁴² He is speaking about the spiritual benefits of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Bishop's decision to give only an Exeat will force us to send for Brother Jules to receive Orders in Paris. The Archbishop has been more generous; but with that, I don't dare ask His Excellency for a deed for Marseilles, for fear that he might take away what he promised me for the ordination candidates for Paris. For that reason, I'm keeping Brother Frederic, and I'll situate the scholasticate in Paris, since Paris is causing us fewer difficulties.

I would have thought that Bishop Place would have been as kind to us as his two predecessors.

I feel very badly about the ill health of good Fr. de Cuers and Brother Marius. I'll wait until Brother is better to ask you to send him to Angers.

St. Maurice, the novitiate house, will be ready only at the end of November. The weather wasn't favorable for the work.

Nothing new about the compulsory sale in Paris. We are still waiting, but we have the Good Master with us.

Goodbye, good Father; continue to work for the glory of the Good Master.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1863

CO 1862

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 341/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 1, 1866

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I wrote to La Mure to tell them⁴³ to come before the cold weather. I haven't heard anything; I think they must be preparing for it.

I told them to send me a telegram when they leave. I thought I would go to meet them at Morel, bring them to Nemours, let them spend the day there, and then, if possible, I would bring them to Paris in the evening to send them on their way to Angers. I wouldn't like them to stay too long in Paris, nor could I refuse my sister the joy of seeing Nemours on the way.

I ordered two dozen clips. They are working on them. They told me that it was.... francs, per clip. Sunday night, or Monday morning, I will begin the retreat at Nemours.

I want to get all the external things out of the way, because once the novitiate is located at St. Maurice, I will be riveted to Paris since we will be only two priests there.

I expect to leave for Brussels, November 22. I will stay there until December 3rd or 4th.⁴⁴

Then I will establish the Novitiate on the beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception.

I sent your letter to Nemours and sent one of my own after it, saying about the same thing.⁴⁵

I received a letter from Nemours telling me that the question regarding the kitchen is finished. I'll hold firmly to that, the time for concessions is over as well.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Work to become a saint, so that heaven may celebrate your feast. To be a saint, love our Lord dearly, sacrifice your personality to him, and joyfully consecrate your whole life to him.

I bless you very faithfully in our Lord, and your daughters, as well.

Eymard

⁴³ His sisters were coming to join the Servants in Angers.

⁴⁴ These plans were delayed.

⁴⁵ We do not have this correspondence.

P.S. I invited Miss Larousse to come to Nemours for her retreat. That will put things back in place; she was somewhat slighted.

1864

CO 1863

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 28/36)

Paris, November 1, 1866

Dear sister in our Lord,

I'm beginning my celebration of All Saints Day by writing to you.

God has called you to great holiness. Your present state, your past graces, the love which our Lord has always shown you, tell you so [better] than anything else.

Therefore, dear sister, be very holy, holy like Jesus your Master and Spouse. You are now on the path that he so loved, the last one he lived and trod. This period of difficulties and present troubles has brought you a bit more to the foot of the cross, and that is a great benefit. It obliges you to dwell more in humility than in zeal, more with God than with his creatures, scorned rather than esteemed - it is a divine thing.

It's time to bury yourself with Jesus, to tie yourself to the dock during the storm.

My thought then, is that you let charity be the servant of royal humility, that you be silent, speak about it only to God and to your Director, don't even give a thought to the injustices, calumnies, present persecutions, and even less to those of the past. Be greater than Job and say: May God be glorified the more by it! Don't focus your heart and mind on suffering, but on the glory of God which issues from these wounds and sufferings.

Goodbye, dear sister. Happy feast day on earth and in Heaven. I will be in Belgium from November 22 to December 2nd or 3rd. Pray for our little Society.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1865

CO 1865

TO FR. ARTHUR DHE
(VI 1/1)

Paris, November 1, 1866

My dear friend,

Go to Rome, go and kiss the feet of the Holy Father! There only, with all the majesty of truth do we find all the truth of charity and of his motherly heart. This beautiful idea of doing something serious, substantial, religious and proper for the poor stones of the sanctuary, soiled as they are, overturned and trampled underfoot with scorn and despair, - this idea offered by your poor servant to the Holy Father in May 1855,⁴⁶ was met with this word of consolation: "This thought comes from

⁴⁶ Perhaps August

God, I am sure of it; the Church has need of this support, it should be established without delay.” Indeed, dear friend, what desolation for good priests to see their brothers in the priesthood fall on the field of battle, and lie there without help for their wounds. Let us admit it is their own fault; but, really, because a man is a priest, is there to be no charity, no mercy for him? It is said that these fallen priests are without resources and have no sincere repentance. Alas! is it not because they are rejected and despised on a par with thieves and murderers? It’s easy to despise, and to speak of incorrigibility! He who is without mercy for his brothers, does he not deserve to be treated in the same way? Ah! if there were only a few who were brought back and reinstated, would that not be a huge victory over Satan, and a stroke of grace to delight heaven and earth? I say there would be many, for our Lord surely has more mercy for his priests than for the faithful. Holy Church has more tenderness and charity for them than for her children. See what was done in Rome for these poor priests: a respectable house, paternal ministration, a private retreat is in some way offered to them. There, they are rehabilitated progressively. There the Holy Father resides through the heart of his fatherly charity. One goes in, remains, goes out; and the world does not know who lives there. This is because honor is part of charity as charity is of God’s love.

So, my dear friend, go to Rome. Go and see for yourself that fine and holy Work which is lacking in France. We still give bread to these poor ones, but we leave them in despair or degradation. Then they feel the pinch, and sell themselves to iniquity or attach themselves to some Herodias. You know that two or three years ago there were as many as 900 on the streets of Paris. I know some of these poor human beings who ask no more than a charitable refuge! They are terrified by [the idea of] the Trappists. This is because that remedy is usually too strong for their weakness, and unfortunately it is a remedy which brings dishonor these days, even in the Christian world. What is needed for these men - dishonored, discouraged and frustrated - is gentle charity, honorable virtue, and a religious life, but with its levels of goodwill.⁴⁷ Would to God that the moment of grace has come! May you be the person I am looking for, who will devote himself to this Work of the Heart of Jesus, with his body, soul and possessions.

In this matter we cannot look at the difficulties, but at the grace of God and the service of His Holy Church. Count on my feeble help, as I count on your life, your death. Mother Therese⁴⁸ must espouse this Work along with the Work of the Holy Face. It is indeed here that the Holy Face of the Savior is covered with spittle, with blood and with slime upon the face of his priest. The first reparation to be made is surely that of the ministers of Judas, the unfaithful priests. Reparation for the lost glory of Jesus can only be truly fulfilled by penitent, rehabilitated priests. Oh, Mother Therese! It isn’t only to honor the disfigured image of Jesus Christ that you have been called to the devotion of the Holy Face. It is for the reality, for Jesus Christ at the Altar, but Jesus Christ a poor priest.

You possess nothing, my good friend, so much the better! If you had a fine house, with every comfort and a good income, rich connections, lucrative prospects..I would say, “Stay where you are..God has nothing for you to do.” The work of God begins at Bethlehem, is tested in Nazareth, and flourishes in the shadow of the Cross of Calvary.

I admit that if I looked at the difficulties awaiting this priestly work, the persecutions and disappointments it would cost, I would be overcome with terror, but God asks for trust and effort. The rest is his business. The mason who dies after laying the foundations of a colossal building is more of a founder than the one who completes it. Go to Rome. Any work must germinate upon the tomb of St. Peter to have grace and life. But come to see me before Monday, and do nothing without seeing me. I bless you and your idea.

Eymard⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Consideration for the degree they can handle.

⁴⁸ Mother Therese Dubouche?

⁴⁹ This letter is followed by the following petition:

Most Holy Father,

Prostrated at the feet of Your Holiness, I have the honor to put before you that, considering the sacred Character of

1866

CO 1864

TO LOUIS BAGARRE (BROTHER CALIXTE SSS)
(VI1/1)

Paris, November 1, 1866

Dear son,

I intended to delay receiving you, but since you long so much to come to Paris and to be a good adorer of Jesus - come, I receive you so you may have this joy in preference to others who are waiting their turn.

I bless you, dear son; the vocation you are about to embrace is truly a great one - I hope that you will be truly faithful to it.

Give my respects to your dear parents who are giving you in this way to the service of God. You must never forget their goodness to you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1867

CO 1867

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 14/26)

Paris, November 2, 1866

Dear Madame in our Lord,

I believe I may have forgotten to tell you that I won't be in Paris next week. I'm going to give a retreat at Nemours. It is due to begin Sunday night. However, if I knew you would be in Paris next Sunday, I would begin only on Monday. If you are coming before Saturday or Sunday, send me a note.

I would be very happy to see you also go to Bergerac. I praise God for it; you will help your dear sister, and she will help you.

I can understand that you love that delightful Carmel! It is doubly lovable, so I encourage you to it. It's too bad that you can't bring your friend there, but I understand that she must stay in Rennes, especially if she isn't too well. Give her my best regards, like a member of the family and the [blessings] of God.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

poor priests under censure, the Reverend Father Eymard, founder of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, canonically established by the Holy See, and myself, Arthur Dhe, priest of the Paris Clergy, have agreed upon the project of consecrating ourselves to work for their rehabilitation, in keeping with a wise and prudent charity, and, to this end, to found in France a first establishment for ecclesiastical retreat, under the auspices of N.N.S.S. the Bishops, and with the assistance of the faithful, zealous for the honor of priestly dignity.

With this in view, and as a pledge of the fruits of penance which are the object of our desires, we beseech Your Holiness to grant to our ministry, our persons and those of our collaborators, the grace and consolation of the apostolic blessing.
12 Xber 1866

Reply from Pius IX.

Benedicat vos Deus et dives sicuti est in misericordia, pulset ad ostium peccatorum et redeant ad cor.

Pius PP.IX

Translation: May God bless you since he is rich in mercy, may he knock at the door of sinners and may they return to His Heart.
Pope Pius IX

1868

CO 1866

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 88/104)

Paris, November 2, 1866

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter, but I can see that the cross still follows you. The greatest one is to be deprived of a priest. If only you were here! I would give you one right away, and if we were at Nantes I would do the same.

In Nantes, you need to have a house of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Your kind Bishop hadn't refused me, he had almost agreed. We are so unassuming here that I don't see how anyone could be afraid of us: there is nothing about us which draws over-zealous vocations: to come to us a person must be either on fire for our Lord, or dead to the world. Poor self-love only dies here.

I will be available to you⁵⁰ after Dec. 8th for your retreat in Paris. I'll be remaining there for awhile; because, since I will be establishing the Novitiate in the country on December 8th, I will have very few people left in Paris, consequently [I will be] obliged to remain here on a regular basis.

There is nothing else for today. I continue to pray for you, in order that you may be fully spiritual, in the grace and love of our good Master.

Think very little about yourself, a great deal about God and his glory.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1869

CO 1868

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 42/52)

Paris, November 2, 1866

Madame in our Lord,⁵¹

I received your letter, I am writing to reply immediately, for fear that I won't have time later.

I am leaving Sunday for Nemours where I will give the retreat during the week.

If you were free, I would invite you to come there; it would be more quiet than Angers, and you would be on time if you got there by Monday.

I could see that your soul was troubled because you had expressed your grief in my presence; as soon as you left, everything fell into place. It was an outpouring of your repressed and suffering nature. Don't give any importance to these spontaneous reactions, when you receive the grace to act, everything becomes supernatural. God leaves us the thorns of our human weakness: forget it completely.

Situate your state of soul, not in the outcome of your service to God, even less in good feelings - that is all too changeable and untrue.

⁵⁰ Literally: at your service.

⁵¹ Although authentic, this text was not copied from the original.

Solitude in the Whirlwind

Establish your peace - remember this well - in [your] trust in God, because He is good, because he loves you as his child.

So, put your lifelong confidence in his Providence which is watching over you at every moment. Everything comes to us in the name of God to fulfill a mission of salvation in our regard. So welcome everything as heavenly messengers.

Put your trust for the way in the holy and gracious Will of God, because what God wills is always the best for you, the best way to serve him.

And so, serve God with equal fidelity in whatever state of soul, body, or duty you may be.

Place your trust especially in God's love for you, which is so great, constant, fatherly.

I know many souls, I don't know any who are more privileged than you are. No, no, you are not putting your mind sufficiently at rest.

Holy surrender to the love of God produces the same effect on a soul as the love of a child for its mother. She carries it, she watches over it; it sleeps peacefully surrounded by the greatest dangers, because there is nothing to fear. Do the same.

I am praying for you by proxy, and you must be sure to pray for me and the thousand and one things that surround me, so that I may be calm in the midst of a whirlwind of affairs and in solitude surrounded by the world.

Please rejoice always in the Lord, rejoice in his divine goodness, live in gratitude, spontaneity, openness, affection, love, in the outpouring of your whole soul in Jesus, in whom I am for eternity.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Fr. Crepon is arriving Sunday.

1870

CO 1869

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(VI 7/10 III 145)

Paris, November 5, 1866

Dear Nanette,

I received your short note. Please believe that what you are suffering is only a temptation. Reject all that and put your trust in God.

Be convinced that the troubles you fear will not happen, but that many graces await you all in Angers, but do not delay your arrival for I have to leave Paris on November 22nd to go to Belgium. So hurry and come, and when you have decided on the day, write and tell me.

As for the Pastor, you don't have to get his permission, simply inform him - for, since the good Lord is opening the door of his Cenacle to you, come, my dear daughters, and I hope you will be content and happy.

I bless you, dear ones,

Eymard

Nov. 5-11 - To Nemours where he preached a retreat to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

Nov 5	Annual Retreat to the Servants in Nemours: On the Need for Repeated Conversion.The Eternal Love of God.On Spiritual Direction.
Nov 6	God Created Us for Heaven.Heaven is Given Only to Purity of Heart.On Examens of Conscience.
Nov 7	We must Live of the Mercy of God.The Virginal Love of Jesus.On Confession.
Nov 8	The Gift of One's Personality to Jesus.Jesus and Mary, Models of the Gift of Self.The Interior Education of an Adorer.
Nov 9	The Spirit of the Vows and the Gift of Self.The Virtue of the Gift of Self: the Humility of Love.On the Supernatural Life.
Nov 10	The Purity of Love.On Patience and Humility.Confidence and Repose in God Alone.

1871

CO 1870

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 342/395 VI 2)

Nemours, November 6, 1866

Very dear Daughter in our Lord,

We are now on the second day of the retreat. I am giving three exercises a day:

The first Meditation at 9:30 - Conference after the rosary. - The second Meditation after Vespers, at 4:30. - Benediction is given in the evening before retiring, at 8:00 p.m.

I expect to finish the retreat Sunday morning.

Sr. Benoite tells me, that for the simple vows, the sisters are within the requirements of the Rule

As Superior your personal consent is required to admit them. The Council here has accepted them.

The Sisters seem to be in good dispositions for the retreat. We must really pray for them so that the grace of the retreat may work powerfully.

They spoke to me regarding Sr. Philomena's profession. Since it would require a dispensation of 4 to 5 months, I will let you be the judge. They know that we dispensed a few others at the retreat in Angers. However, I hinted that there was still too much time left for a dispensation.

In Paris they received news about Mama Chanuet. It seems that she isn't well at all. The ideal would be that she return to the life of her religious family. I told Fr. Chanuet so.

Miss Sterlingue is still ill, she seems calmer. However we will really need to borrow in order to repay her some of the money she loaned us, because she is really in bad straits.

I bless you; believe me ever in our Lord, dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. - Sr. Benoite asks if you would send the cinctures immediately.

1872

CO 1871

TO MISS MARIE (QUERENEL)
(VII 2/3)

Paris, November 13, 1866

Dear Demoiselle,

You said you had 3,000 [fr.] sleeping at home. Wouldn't you be wiser to put them to work for 6% with a friend of mine, Mr. Coltat, the medal maker. He is a fine gentleman.

I am leaving for four days in Angers. It has almost been a year since I saw you. - I will not be in Paris from December 8 to the 26th.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Nov. 14-17 - Visit to Angers.

Nov. 14 - Letter from the Bishop of Nantes asking him to preach a Triduum.

1873

CO 1872

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 343/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 20, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm writing to my sister to tell her to arrive in Paris tomorrow, and leave Thursday morning at 7:30, in order to arrive there⁵² at 3:00 p.m. or in the evening.

They are happy to go to be with you.

Papa Ravanat will leave with them for Angers.

I will try to have him go with them Thursday, he is so good. It would be a fine thing if we could keep him because I trust that he would prefer to stay with you in Angers and be close to his daughters. He is a holy man. In that case you wouldn't need to have a helper. He would be like a father for material things, he is a good buyer.

Study the matter. I told him not to say anything about it over there, just that he is going to see his daughter.

I know that Joseph has many qualities, but he's also a burden.

Believe me, I would prefer that you have a lay or turn sister for the outside, like so many other communities do. It isn't possible for you to stay without someone to do your errands.

I don't need to tell you that God alone has known my sorrow, that I didn't say a word about it to anyone.

It will all pass. These are crosses for the journey, planted by God in spite of ourselves, but which we must sanctify.

My poor migraine headaches are slow to leave me. I think it was caused a little bit by the cold: from time to time we need to have a little crown of thorns.

⁵² In Angers.

Solitude in the Whirlwind

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

All yours,
Eymard

1874

CO 1873

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 89/104)

Paris, November 21, 1866

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Now it's my turn to thank you for your letter, for the good news about your chaplain. I was trying to see how I could find you one and I had almost done so.

Now news which will surprise you! The Archbishop of Nantes is offering me to go to preach a Triduum of Adoration in Nantes during the first two weeks of January. I've just accepted today - it will be a way to see you soon.

At this time I'm very busy establishing our novitiate at St. Maurice by December 8th. As soon as I see a week when I might be free, I will let you know; I would be happy if I could help your soul a little.

From time to time we need to return to the fire of the Cenacle to ask for a greater grace from the Holy Spirit. Your desire for it, the wise advice you have been given to do so, everything seems to indicate that Heaven is preparing this grace of graces for you.

Today, on the feast of the Presentation, I will present you to our Lord in the arms of the Blessed Virgin, your Mother.

Often give yourself to God and give him even more frequently all your thoughts, desires and actions.

I bless you and your dear sister whose healing I really hope for.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1875

CO 1874

TO MISS MARIE (QUERENEL)

(VII 3/3)

Paris, November 21, 1866

Very dear Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I regret that I did not see you. I have been absent from Paris so often lately. I will be so again from December 8 to the 16th. Then I hope to be more stable in Paris. At this time we are founding a house and that is what is keeping me so busy.

Have you invested your money? You must not leave it like that, especially at home!

I wasn't able to stop in Grenoble. Consequently, I didn't see your sister. I was sorry, but I ran out of time.

I am very closely united and dedicated to you in our Lord.

Eymard, Sup.

1876

CO 1875

TO DR. GERMAIN BONNES, LA MURE
(VII 1/2)

Paris, November 24, 1866

Dear Mr. Bonnes,

I am writing to give you news about my sister. She and her companions had a good journey. I would even say that the trip did her some good. She was struck with awe about Paris, and to find such fine people here.

Friday, I put her on the coach for Angers, where she arrived in the afternoon. I accompanied them part of the way and left them happy. Nanette would think about La Mure occasionally and become a little sad, since she had never traveled and the thought of such a long trip left her even fearful of the company. Miss Moulin, from Prunieres, became frightened in Lyons and said that she was going to die if she went any farther. - She returned to Prunieres and that was a good thing, because a sad, tearful trip leads to the hospital.

Dear Mr. Bonnes, I need to thank you for all your fine and gracious care of my sister. After God, she owes her life to you. Her cure is a great success of yours, because she was so ill!

My sister told me that you wanted to put your kitchen in the shed and make a door through the present kitchen. - We consent wholeheartedly, since that is convenient for you, do as you wish.

I was sorry not to go back through La Mure on my trip to Gap, but since I had very little time of my own, I did like people who rush. I took the short cut through Sisteron, which saved me 24 hours.

Goodbye dear Mr. Bonnes. Believe me ever,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1877

CO 1876

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 344/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 27, 1866

Dear daughter,

I'm really worried about your dear sister Jenny and about both of you. Your silence worries me. Poor Jenny! If this beautiful and pure soul is still in this world, tell her that I bless her, that I receive her wholeheartedly as a Servant of the Most Blessed Sacrament, that she must be with us in heaven in the eucharistic court.

She always obeyed me and so she must do this, too.

I bless you and anxiously wait for news from you.

All yours,
Eymard

1878

CO 1877

TO CAROLINE DE BOISGROLLIER (SR. MARIE DU SS)
(III 4/5)

Paris, November 27, 1866

I request that Sister Marie receive this new candidate from Marseilles.

Eymard

1879

CO 1878

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 68/75)

Paris, November 27, 1866

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for your letters. I was complaining [to God] about it, now I am quiet.

Great thanksgiving to the Mother and Queen of Mothers, good St. Anne. I was still hoping for this grace and continuing to do so; it is better than the best nanny in the world.

I do pray for your husband. I met him on my way back from Marseilles, I was happy about that.

I am thrilled that angelic Edmee prefers her dignity and the royalty of her heart to the most beautiful situations.⁵³ She is right a thousand times over. Since God is asking to be her preference, tell her when you write to her, that I am pleased.

Now that you are a bit more alone, you will belong more to Jesus in the desert, where he speaks softly, because the secrets of the heart are spoken thus to those whom we love like ourselves.

Try to stay there long enough to find him, hear him and enjoy him. Charity has its time, so also does recollection.

I am praying a great deal for you, for dear Mathilde and her little saint.

I bless you all in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.

⁵³ Probably a request in marriage. Ed.

1880

CO 1879

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 177/181 VI 2)

Paris, December 7, 1866

Dear Father,

Thank you for your authorization. - Your funds are being sent today. - I've been delayed by the preparations for the novitiate house at St. Maurice. Please forgive me; you know how easily I let myself become busy with present concerns.

In spite of all our efforts, the house of St. Maurice is not ready because of the painters, the rainy weather wasn't favorable for the work; so now we will have to wait until Christmas or the Epiphany.

I will take advantage of this time to go to Belgium.

I thank God for having saved Brother Marie. He may have a faster and better convalescence if you would send him here. I'll let you judge the practicality of this.

Dear Father, may our Lord keep you in the holy peace and charity of your love for him and for this little Society, which is so fragile and inexperienced in virtue. It has such a great need of prayers and strength.

In this Good Master, I am,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

1881

CO 1880

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 345/395 VI 2)

Paris, December 7, 1866

Very dear daughter,

Your letters reached me at St. Maurice, hence the delay.

I consent wholeheartedly that you send whatever sisters you choose to be with your dear saintly sister.⁵⁴ If only I were a sister, I would go myself!

However, I understand how it hurts you to leave her, so, if you think it's better, stay there. If Heaven were to open soon for this beautiful soul, it would be better to be there waiting for that heavenly call. If there is a delay, then find a way to work things out.

I have time only to bless you and tell you that I am,

All yours,
Eymard

I wholeheartedly bless the dear patient and receive her as a Sister of the Blessed Sacrament.

⁵⁴ Her sister Jenny who is seriously ill.

1882

CO 1881

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 346/395 VI 2)

Paris, December 8, 1866

Dear daughter,

I don't want to leave for Belgium without sending you a word.

It seems to me that it's better for you to stay a while longer with your dear sister Jenny, otherwise it would kill her.

Your house in Angers is going well. God is providing during your absence.

Fr. Audibert is going there often enough and writes to me that there is a fine spirit in the house.

So, dear daughter, don't worry about both situations.⁵⁵

Sr. Mariette is surely among those professed longer. Consequently her right and her place are acquired.⁵⁶ However, should we hope for a house in Lyons? I would really like that for you. It seems to me that it could hardly be done under the Cardinal.

What shall we do? It's safer to sell.⁵⁷ for who knows how long we would have to wait, especially since there is a convent of the Reparation? However, it isn't pressing at the moment.

I must stay about 12 days in Belgium.

I would surely be very happy to see you here when you pass through. I expect to be here a week from Thursday.

Tell Sr. Jenny that she is still my daughter, that I constantly present her to God, that I bless her every morning at Mass, that I give her all our prayers.

I don't forget you either, nor your good sister Mariette. Goodbye, it is eleven o'clock at night and I am leaving tomorrow morning.

Eymard

My address: Ghent
Quai au Bois, 40
Belgium (6 cents for postage).

⁵⁵ The Community and her sister.

⁵⁶ Her sister Mariette was caring for Jenny and therefore had not been able to enter the religious Community.

⁵⁷ A property being offered for this purpose.

1883

CO 1882

TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS
(III 1/11)

Paris, December 8, 1866

To dear brother Frederic

Dear Brother,

Since the ordination is on the 22nd, it is necessary that you return to Paris to prepare for your exam on a treatise of theology of your own choice, and then enter on retreat, Monday of the following week.

However, finish what you have begun for the Altar.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

1884

CO 1883

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 8/15)

Paris, December 8, 1866

Dear Mr. Amedee,

No doubt you know that I was the first to receive your father-in-law.⁵⁸ He arrived here directly, without knowing anything. I brought him gradually to the sad and painful news. He cried a great deal, but he is resigned.

The handwritten words of Madame, which I read to him and which he is keeping, showed him Madame's loving reasons not to have him there when she died. He really edified me. Sr. Vincent⁵⁹ saw him a half-hour later; she completed the good that had been started. This dear father left with her for Lille. He promised me he would come back.

I gave the will and its postscript to Mr. de Couchies.

I kept a lock of hair from her devout and holy mother for your dear wife, and a little pious writing which I am sending you.

I will leave tomorrow for Brussels. I will stay about 10 more days, then I will return to Paris.

I am praying for you and for Mme. Blanche who is undergoing this great trial. She had such a good mother. Now she has a saint in heaven.

I bless you all very respectfully in our Lord,

Eymard, Sup.

Dec. 10-c19 - To Brussels.

⁵⁸ Mr. de Couchies.

⁵⁹ Sr. Vincent de Couchies, a sister of Charity, daughter of Mr. de Couchies.

1885

CO 1884

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET, SSS
(VI2/2I29)

Ghent, Quai au bois 40, [December 10, 1866]

Very dear Father,⁶⁰

Here I am in Ghent - the House of Brussels is going well - but they are very few to maintain adoration from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. I promised to send them someone.

Dear Father, aim for the octave of the Immaculate Conception to obtain Marie-Therese - without saying so. Also plan a retreat for our four candidates for Ordination. On Monday, give them the following schedule:

6 a.m. Mass
7-8 Reading on Holy Orders. Olier.
9-10 1st Meditation
10-11 Notes on the previous meditation
11 1st Rosary
2 p.m. 2nd Rosary
2:30 Way of the Cross
3-4 2nd Meditation of adoration
5-6 Reading of Rodriguez. Choose a treatise for them.

Separate them from the others - for the whole Retreat.

Please have this letter sent at once, with Brother Albert or another, to Father Bedel. His parents were living with Remquet, the printer, at St Sulpice - Brother Charles knows about this.

Please pray for my retreat. I have a cold and I am hoarse. I don't know how I am to make myself heard - I leave it to God's grace.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Please mail this letter from Mr. Darterac with a stamp of 10 centimes.

1886

CO 1885

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 90/104)

Brussels, December 17, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I share in your sorrow, and even more in your trust and hope. Yes, have confidence, God has heard your prayers for this dear soul. In his infinite mercy God has miraculous graces in reserve.

We will really pray for her. In the same mail, I will write to Fr. Jubineau, the Superior, to accept the Triduum on the 17th, 18th and 19th of January. The Superior is asking and insisting that I accept his hospitality. I don't see how I could refuse. Therefore, I will repay you in some other way.

⁶⁰ At the top of the letter was written: "read the letters from Paris and send me the others, adding 10 cents. Postage 50 cents."

Solitude in the Whirlwind

I will be in Paris tomorrow. If you should be free after Christmas, or at the beginning of January, I would be entirely at your service in Paris.

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

All yours,
Eymard, S.

1887

CO 1886

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 347/395 VI 2)

Brussels, December 18, 1866

Very dear daughter,

I am in Brussels. I have just learned from Fr. Champion about the death of your dear and holy sister Jenny, yesterday at 2:30. I knelt down immediately to pray for her, and I offered all the merits and indulgences of the Society to God for her for nine days, so that, if she needs to be further purified, God may let her enter Heaven as soon as possible.

Your dear sister had the comfort of receiving our Lord yesterday morning at 6:00. It was a great grace, because the good Master whom she had always loved and served so purely and devoutly, must have welcomed her into his arms of mercy and love.

Poor sister! I would grieve for her, if her death were not so beautiful and holy. So, instead of grieving for her, I envy her. I would like to be in her place. Yes, yes! Tomorrow, I will say holy Mass for her and also for you, dear daughter, and for your dear sister Mariette. In addition to physical fatigue, your soul must be very sad, a very legitimate sadness, because it is a loss for the heart. Poor daughter, it is a meeting place, where your good sister has arrived first.

I'm leaving Thursday morning from Brussels for Paris. I will get there at 5 p.m.; I'll expect news from you there. Write to tell me the day and time of your arrival, so that I may go for you or send someone to get you at the station.

You did well to convince Sr. Camille to follow her treatment. Her dear son, Fr. Chanuet, is sad to see his mother outside the convent, and I understand that very well.

Do for the best, dear daughter, for your belongings. You have the grace and experience for it.

Goodbye. I bless you, you and your dear sister Mariette. Don't travel right away, you need to rest a bit.

May God be your comfort and strength!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1888

CO 1887

To FR. MICHEL CHANUET, SSS
(U 1129 VI 2/2)

MANDATUM (LETTER OF OBEDIENCE)⁶¹

To Reverend Father Michel Chanuet, Superior of the house of St. Maurice, of the diocese of Versailles, heartfelt wishes and love in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We, the undersigned Superior of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament, in the presence of the Lord and for His greater Glory, elect and name you, most beloved Father, as Superior and master of Novices of the house of formation, Saint Maurice, for a term of three years so that, in the name of the Lord and by our authority, you may direct those under your care and teach them the rules and discipline of our vocation. Trusting in the grace of God and Holy Obedience, you will be able to accomplish this.

For so important a work of our Institute, by which the vocation, virtue, life or death of our religious depend on you, most dearly beloved, work diligently and we do and will always commend you to God and the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, so that you will always be faithful, strong and comforted by divine love.

Given at Paris, from the general house on December 22, 1866.

Eymard
Superior of the Congregation
of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Dec. 25 - Foundation of the Novitiate of St. Maurice at Midnight Mass with 14 novices.

1889

CO 1888

To COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 178/181 VI 2)

Paris, December 30, 1866

Very dear Father,

Your reflections about Brother Marie are too true for me to resist them. May God give him the strength to return to his eucharistic service.

I thank you and your family wholeheartedly for your Christmas wishes: Christian Rome wishes happy feast days; faithless countries wish Happy New Year's Day. Oh yes! I placed you all on the paten of the sacrifice at midnight, especially you, dear Father. I was celebrating Mass at the Novitiate house of St. Maurice, which was inaugurated that night with royal exposition of the divine Master having 15 adorers, among whom were Fr. Crepon, the pastor of Angers, and Fr. Augonnet. We worked hard for that moment, because the workmen had let us down.

The Master is well lodged; that is the main thing.

⁶¹ Translated from the Latin.

Solitude in the Whirlwind

I stayed at St. Maurice until Thursday night. Now I'm in Paris, busy with our children's First Communion which they just made today. Now, New Year's Day visits are beginning: alas! What a busy life! Provided that our Lord may find his glory in it...

I'm pleased with our scholastics. I'll begin their classes until I send for Fr. Viguier from Brussels to help me. Brother Jules is in minor orders, Brother Anatole from Paris in minor orders, Brothers Frederic and Albert tonsured; Brother Anatole is only a novice, and left us. I am staying here with the three others, Brother Charles, Brother Alexander, a novice and Fr. Billon with his three little brothers: that is our entire household. The service hasn't suffered from it; we continue nocturnal adoration as before.

In addition, we have a priest on retreat. Everything is going fine. I hope that the Good Master will be pleased with our good will.

Goodbye, dear Father.

1890

CO 1889

TO MR. RAVANAT
(III 3/5)

Paris, December 30, 1866

Dear papa Ravanat,

I keep expecting you to come here with us, you belong with the Blessed Sacrament with your three daughters. Your cell is ready at Saint-Maurice. At Midnight Mass we exposed the Blessed Sacrament in this lovely chapel: everything is finished, and everything is beautiful. Be assured, good papa Ravanat, that everything will become easy for you there. Our fasts are the same as those of the Church, we don't have extraordinary penances. Your health is more than sufficient for this style of life.

I was very sorry to learn that Brother Eugene had hurt you. Excuse him because he was a little upset. Besides, he is no longer at Saint-Maurice and is not due to return there. I'm expecting you for Epiphany, with your dear daughter Marie, and it will be a feast for your friends to see you again and to welcome you.

I also wish you a happy and holy New Year, the best that you have ever had, with the grace of the religious life.

When you come, bring us a bottle of Chartreuse liqueur. You will find it at Grenoble at Miss Marsalat's, Place Notre-Dame. She also sells church vestments.

Goodbye then. I bless you and your dear daughter Marie.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1891

CO 1890

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS

(12/20)

A.R.T.

Paris, December 31, 1866

Very dear Father,

Your feelings for the Society, which are always so thoughtful and devoted for the Society and so kind toward me, always touch me to the depths of my soul. It is true that our souls have been united in our Lord and for our Lord for so long. You have been a friend since the first moment, and you keep your privileged rank. Thank you then, very dear Father, thank you in the love and blessings of our Good Master, for your wishes and for your wishes that are so eucharistic. At the foot of the throne of grace I will try to express the same for you and ask our Lord once again to increase his blessings on your work and desires for his glory and service.

On Christmas Day we opened the house of St. Maurice. At midnight, our Lord took over the altar and his throne; I hope that he will be better there than in the crib at Bethlehem. I left 14 Novices there. I couldn't let you know, because nothing was ready. On Christmas Eve, there were still workers and painters in the chapel. We rushed the work, because it would never have come to an end. This proved to me that Brother Eugene can only lend a helping hand, but cannot follow a project to completion, much less several things at the same time. He has lost my confidence: I thought he was more capable and especially more thrifty. As for me, he is a man of little worth, and I would even say dangerous, because he doesn't know how to count: to gain a penny, he spends a franc.

At the Ordination we had two who received the tonsure: Brother Frederic and Brother Albert; two tonsures and two in minor orders: Brother Jules and Brother Anatole, novice.

I was pleased with Brussels. There will be a retreat for the Associates at the beginning of Lent. Fr. Champion really wants to have you. You would find a lovely family there. The Belgians are fine people; a bit cold, but sincere.

I will come to see you in mid January. The Bishop of Nantes is begging me to preach a Triduum on the 17th, 18th and 19th to his Adorers at Nantes. I accepted. So, I will come to see you first.

When you write to your dear family, remember me to them. Dear Father, I am in the holy love of our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

1892

CO 1891

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 348/395 VI 2)

Paris, December 31, 1866

Very dear daughter,

Thank you for your wishes. I repay them a hundredfold at the feet of our good Master. He knows how dear your soul is to me, how consoling are your sacrifices for his service and his glory.

In all things, we should consider only the eucharistic Service of Jesus, and esteem, love, and desire only the things which relate directly to the divine Eucharist. We ought to love the Society only because it is the blessed and faithful servant of our good Master, most fortunate to have been chosen to work at its beginnings.

Please give your dear sister Mariette also all my fond and devoted regards, [tell her] that God will repay her a hundredfold for everything she has done for him.

You would do well to go to Nemours. Sr. Benoite needs you, and your daughters too. These poor children suffered greatly from the initial difficulties. Try also to give them two more sisters, because their service is too difficult, being so few.

You'll find me in Paris, where I hope to see you and give you your little gifts. I received everything.

I bless you reverently in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, SS