

CHAPTER IV

The Eucharistic Family

Marseilles

- **Formal Inauguration of Community Life and Mission**
- **Eight day retreat to inaugurate Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament**

Paris

- **Novitiate of the Society established**
- **Draft of Rules for the Society of the Blessed Sacrament**

Spiritual Teacher

- **Conferences to the Servants**
- **First Communion of Adult Workers**
- **Parish Missions at**
 - **Tarare**
 - **Amplepuis**
 - **Tours**

Disappointments

- **Nantes, Unstable Vocations**

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS) & SERVANTS
(II 199/395 VI 2)

All for Jesus Hostia

To No. 66, On the train, November 2, 1859

Very dear sisters in our Lord,

It was impossible for me to bid you farewell and bless you when I left. I did so in my heart and I do so at this moment.

I sent to each of you my little Blessed Virgin;¹ this good Mother will keep you and lead you. I leave you under her maternal protection and St. Joseph's.

Even if I should die, my sisters, you would have nothing to fear. You belong entirely to Jesus and he belongs entirely to you: what can you fear, little flock, under such a good Shepherd? Who could knock you over if Jesus defends you? Who could kill you if Jesus is your life?

No, no, you have nothing to fear, nothing to worry about. However, remain very closely united to our good Master. Serve him with purity and fervor, with simplicity and joy, with love and sacrifice, and you will be ennobled and strong. You will become a true Cenacle, the privileged family of Jesus and Mary. Don't let yourself be worried or troubled by anything. Yesterday your heart must have suffered because of the vote you had to give before God. It is done and done well. God wanted it so, and his holy Will was clearly manifested: that's fine.

Let that show you, dear daughters, how you ought to praise God for your vocation. You have it: keep it carefully. You have been chosen; consider yourselves fortunate. I am telling you: one day, other religious and the princesses of the world will envy your happiness and your graces. Be courageous and confident, dear daughters.

I remain very united to you with a father's care in the love of our good Master and I bless you with all the affection of my heart.

Eymard

P.S. Miss Guillot

I gave 50 francs to Mr. Carri to give you for Mme. Spazzier, supposing that she would need money.

Let Sr. Benoite stay in bed a little.

Now that the cross is over, don't worry over it. Consider how God is gentle and firm in his divine Providence.

I bless you with my whole heart.

Eymard

¹ a small statue?

885

CO 886

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 36/52)

Marseilles, November 5, 1859

Dear sister in our Lord,

Here I am in Marseilles; I couldn't stop in Lyons on the way because of those who were coming with me. I hope to see you when I return. I wrote this to the Pastor of the Madeleine in Tarare. It would be a great joy for me to see you again after such a long time, and to speak with you about our dear work of love for the good Master.

Your dear father must have written to tell you about his joy in the Lord, to see your dear brother return to the fold, and how he was brought back by divine goodness. We must pray to our good Master to complete what he has begun.

I am sending you a letter about the Aggregation with our little Society² which you love, and which is strongly united to you. I was saddened to know that you are ill, and I ask our good Master to heal you, because there are still some battlefields to be covered for his glory.

Goodbye, dear sister, see you soon.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.
Soc. of the Blessed Sacrament

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Amplepuis (Rhône)

886

CO 887

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 12/19)

Marseilles, November 5, 1859

Very dear sister in our Lord,

I received your fine letter this morning. I understand very well that your spiritual hopes have been dashed and it is a great sacrifice for you; but accept it simply and do not harbor hopes in your heart which can only disturb and trouble you - take up this cross and bear it with our Lord. Do not try to analyze it because it will leave you constantly depressed.

My feeling, therefore, is that you should come to Hyeres - that you should give up your apartment in Paris and surrender to divine Providence. Why should you want to pay rent in two places?³ at the very time when we expect to leave that area as soon as we can?

You tell me that God has only permitted but not willed this rejection. No, my poor daughter, God has so willed it. For myself, I do not want you to try again.

² To be inaugurated on Nov. 17th.

³ Punctuation as in original.

You will always be our dear daughter and sister in our Lord. - I will help you with all my heart, with my advice, to find holiness where you are, but on condition that there is no further question of religious life with these Ladies. Your soul can be entirely dedicated to the divine Eucharist and very holy in the midst of your work and contacts with the world; your mind and heart belong entirely to God. You have nothing to fear about that.

There is nothing new here - we will begin exposition only at the end of the week.

If you wish to stop [to see me] here, I will be happy to see you; but in order to avoid all the trouble with your belongings, you might do well to purchase your ticket for Toulon either in Lyons or in Paris. That would be simpler, since it is possible to make one stop for a day on the same ticket by informing the Station Master.

Please, dear sister, give yourself entirely to God and his will.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup. SS

887

CO 888

TO FR. CYR AMAND CHAMPION

(I 1/5)⁴

Marseilles, November 6, 1859

Very dear Father,

We are here in Marseilles preparing our living arrangements. Today I must determine with the Bishop the date for the Exposition which he desires to be very solemn.

The Chapel is suitable, richly decorated and in good taste. Everyone is very pleased especially with the canopy. There aren't any here, and it is very lovely.

Our arrival brought joy to the whole neighborhood and among all the devout people; but Fr. de Cuers is the one who is especially beside himself with joy. The Bishop is happy about our arrival. Yesterday there was a large procession because of the relic of St. Lazarus, brought by Msgr. d'Autun. The whole city was excited.

As for us, it seems that everything should go well; today we began the Office in choir.

So now we are ready; but I'm afraid that Picard's shipment won't arrive on time and that he has done the same as in the past. The box has been on its way for 10 days, and they have no news about it at the station.

Please have someone go to his place and find out the exact date of the shipment, because I want to complain to the administration, to know whether your packages are being kept too long at the station, as has already happened.

I thank God for Mr. Capdeville's departure. What a lesson, and especially, what a person!

My love to the whole family.

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

⁴ First of 5 letters addressed to Rev. Cyr Armand Champion, Third Superior General of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

888

CO 889

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 200/395 VI 2)

Marseilles, November 6, 1859

Mademoiselle Guillot,

Thank you dear daughter, for your brief note. I wrote to Mme. Spazzier clearly enough. I suspect that she will share my letter with you. That good lady is really not thinking; the position she wants to take can only lead to a disappointment. I've decided to break off relations rather than entertain this illusion.

All has been going well until now. We are preparing for our great feast; I don't know the date yet, but it will be this week.

Please pray and have others pray for us, so that the beginning may fulfill its purpose; the important thing is to begin well, that God may be pleased. Everything needs to be done and done with new men. The more I go, the more I appreciate your Work and your grace. How beautiful it is! How great it is! Whatever is too hectic is feverish; whatever is too conspicuous is too vulnerable and often very empty. Stay close to our Lord; act in such a way that he may be pleased with you. That is the essential thing: people are powerless, they are nothing.... Whatever Jesus wants, happens. Consider yourself happy to be in his adorable service. Be happy in your life, actions, and relationships; for you have every reason to be so, since you are the family of our Lord.

I leave you at His feet.

All yours,
Eymard

889

CO 890

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 9/14)

Marseilles, November 6, 1859

Very dear friend,

Let us bless God on all our paths, by everything which happens to us. It's always for his greater glory and for our greater good.

I agree that you should wait for Rev. Father Ponlevoy. The matter is too serious for you to put it into the hands of an unknown judge if you do not feel drawn to do so. It's better to sacrifice something, to stay a little longer on the cross. Then, grace has time to grow and come to light. - You are ill, dear friend, and you tell me about little Marie's angelic fate.

Oh what laziness! Take care not to think about retreating when we must walk forward! On the contrary, we must multiply ourselves a hundredfold near the divine King and fight his good fights, because evil men are so numerous, Christians so lazy, souls truly committed to his glory so few!

Please! Good friend, you must not leave so many graces buried within you; you must produce a hundredfold in love.

I am sending your affiliation⁵ for your consolation; it is a spiritual bond which will unite us more closely in our Lord, in whom I remain,

Very dear friend,
Always all yours,
Eymard, Superior

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

890

CO 891

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 6/24)

Marseilles, rue nau 7, November 8, 1859

Very dear friend,

I am sending your form for the Aggregation from Marseilles, signed in Paris. I wasn't able to stop in Lyons, since I had a little colony with me. I hope that the good Master will give me that joy when I return in about a month. I will go to see and bless your whole family. Tomorrow, we will begin Exposition. The Bishop will come at 7:30 to do it. So, our Lord will have one more throne on earth, and please God that we might be good and faithful adorers! Because, in order to respond to so many graces, we need to become new men.

Continue to love our Lord greatly, dear friend. Have your family love him and serve him well, because that is the meaning of your fatherhood.

Continue to pray for the one who is very deeply and fondly united to you in our Lord, and remain in his divine love.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

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

⁵ Affiliation as a member of the Third Order of Mary.

891

CO 892

TO MME. ROTTIER (SR. ANTOINETTE DU SS)
(III 2/4)

Marseilles, 7 Nau St., November 11, 1859⁶

Good Lady,

Since I wasn't able to give you this little token of affection in our Lord, before my departure, I'm sending it to you from here. It provides me with the opportunity to express my affectionate regards and recommend myself to your prayers and those of good Mme. Milot. Our first exposition took place on Wednesday the ninth, by the Bishop, with a large attendance and universal joy. We are continuing it with joy.

We are preaching an octave of the Most Blessed Sacrament, in order to explain to the people how to adore and serve our Lord.

We are having very fine weather, but Paris is always Paris. I leave you, dear Lady, in the divine Heart of Jesus.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

To Madame Rottier
14, Impasse des Feuillantines
Paris

Nov. 9th - 17th. - Preached an "Octave" (eight days) in honor of the Blessed Sacrament - to explain to the people "how to adore and serve our Lord." cf. Doc. 891. It closed with the inauguration of the Aggregation in Marseilles.

892

CO 893

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 23/26 VII 17)

Marseilles, Nov. 17, 1859

Mademoiselle and very dear Sister in our Lord,

I received your good letter from Paris. I find in it your friendship as of old, and that feeling, still so deep, which I am far from deserving, but which is most sweet to me. But I am grieved to read of the fulfillment of those sad words I gave you on neglect. I promised to be faithful to you, even beyond death.

I am very glad that you cleared up that business about the Opie convent. - When I get back I shall give Sr. Pauline her Deed. I haven't seen her since my return from Rome. I suppose she is still in the same place.

⁶ Fr. Troussier changed the 11th to the 17th, but the photocopy reads the 11th of November (Garreau).

How brave you were! to come all the way to Marseilles! I was very sorry not to have been here at the time - I am sure I could have seen you if only for a short while, but on my way back I shall stop in Lyons for a few hours and will give you a long "hello."

You are right to spare yourself, especially at the beginning of winter. But you must find our Lord where you are, and be completely his in your inner life; for, dear Sister, when the sun begins to set and the shadows lengthen, we must hasten our steps so as to arrive before nightfall.

Do not be troubled by those natural little feelings against Holy Communion - the child fears the master and loves his own freedom. Nevertheless, when the master is present, he works and obeys him.

Holy Communion always does more good than harm.

The Bishop came on Wednesday, October 9,⁷ to open our chapel and begin the first Exposition - It was a very happy and beautiful day for us. To honor so great a grace, we are preaching an Octave on the Most Blessed Sacrament day and night. This is the evening of the last day, and it has been well attended.

I am sending you an enrollment form [aggregation], as I fear I may have forgotten to do so. I began it here only today; about 100 people have enrolled.

Here we have 4 Priests and 2 Brothers - but we must pray that our Lord will choose good adorers for himself - that is what you are doing. -

I hope to be in Lyons in 3 or 4 weeks, and there, be ever yours in our Lord.

Meanwhile believe me, in his divine charity, dear Sister,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

Mademoiselle de Revel
rue Ste Helene
Lyons

893

CO 894

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SSS) AND SERVANTS
(II 201/395 VI 2)

Feast of the Presentation, Marseilles, November 21, 1859

Very dear daughters,

I presented you to our Lord, in union with the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that you might become good and faithful Servants of Jesus like your good Mother.

I offered him your mind so that it might become one with the mind of Jesus, meek and humble of heart like his, with the simplicity and directness of his own truth, totally still at his feet like Magdalen, to listen to him, and joyfully receive his divine word. Receive it with respect and gratitude, feeding your souls upon it, as the Virgin Mary herself would do.

I offered him your heart, that he might be its Master, its only King and Spouse, where he finds delight, and reigns supreme.

I offered him your will, to be his willing servant, so that your only desire and happiness would be to serve him well.

I offered him your body, to be a holy and living sacrifice, which is pleasing in his sight, by its modesty and self-control.

⁷ It was November 9th.

That is how your holy Mother offered herself with unlimited devotion and unconditional love. Indeed how pleasing she was to God. She truly became like a sweet-smelling sacrifice in his presence.

Give yourselves completely and truly to Jesus, my dear daughters, then you will be true Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The gift of self is the only proof of true love, that's all that God wants. "My Son, give me your heart," he says.

"You will love the Lord your God with your whole mind, your whole heart, your whole soul and with all your strength." That is the first and greatest commandment. It is our whole life and purpose in this world and the next.

Could anything be more appropriate than to give oneself to the One who has given us everything! What could be more comforting than to give oneself to Jesus as he gives himself entirely to us!

Oh! Why then are we so inconstant, so greedy, so ungrateful toward this good Master?

Nevertheless, he asks us for the total gift of ourselves only in order to make us happy and to be able to give himself to us in the same way!

What else could we desire for our humanity, than to sanctify and divinize it in Jesus?

I know very well that while it is easy to give oneself fully to Jesus in a general way, it costs a great deal to immolate oneself each day for his glory, to die at every moment to our will for love of him. It is because it costs a lot that we become true adorers.

Oh! my good daughters, often remember how generous you once were toward your relatives and friends, and even more toward yourselves. So when something costs you, say to yourselves: What! Would I not do for Jesus what I did for the world, for my own satisfaction!

Often reflect on what there is in you that is not yet given to Jesus, is not his. Then immediately return to our good Master what your love had already given him.

Consider yourselves as foolish, as outsiders, or as wanting, until Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament becomes your only possession, your only happiness, your only joy, because you are not yet fully his. He doesn't yet reign as a sovereign master in you.

Oh! If we were fully his, he would be the constant thought of our hearts, the only law of our lives! Oh! how beautiful, gentle and strong our life would then be! It would be Jesus' life.

Here, we are trying to set the fire of Jesus, and a great number of associates have already been received.

Our Exposition began November 9th, and is well attended. It is truly inspiring.

I expect to stay here another two or three weeks because there is still much to be done. Then I will be happy to come and be at your service, dear daughters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

894

CO 895

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 54/181 VI 4)

*Adveniat Regnum tuum*⁸

*November 22*⁹

Dear Father,

Thank you for last night's brief note. I much prefer that you write me about your suffering. It didn't hurt me, since it had not been my intention to call anyone to vows without consulting the professed priests, especially you. The proof is that I told these men I would submit their profession to the study of the council, and that their election depended on that.

That's all I said, and not even to all of them.

I certainly have enough responsibilities without having that one as well!

If I mentioned it to you in the morning, it was in order to be able to discuss it with you later and not forget it. It happens to me so often to forget things, even important ones, that I expected you would bring it up to me again.

Dear Father, that is the whole story! We've been speaking about it with Fr. Champion for such a long time as something imminent, that I didn't consider it as a decision by the mere fact of having mentioned it to you.

I hope this simple explanation will be enough to satisfy your friendship and [allay] your fears.

I'm very sorry, when I am the cause of your sorrows. But I'm happy when I can share your hopes and joys in the service of our Good Master, in whom I am, good Father,

All yours,
Eymard

895

CO 896

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 202/395 VI 2)

Marseilles, November 23, 1859

Very dear daughter,

I wasn't able to write to you for the Feast of the Presentation. I didn't have enough time, because there is so much to be done here. I feel your sufferings very much, and if it were possible, I would like to spare you from them. But our Lord's crown was made of thorns, and his life was only a cross. So my dear daughter, we must glorify our good Master by every kind of suffering; that is how we will build a throne for him on Calvary. However, when our human nature is afraid, when our minds can no longer explain anything, when everything seems shaken, we need to go to the feet of the Master to humble ourselves, admit our incompetence and unworthiness, beg him to take over the helm, give orders to the storm, give us a hand on this turbulent sea. We must be careful not to let our human nature take over at such times. My dear daughter, I would like to see you physically a little stronger, that the cross would not upset you so much nor give you migraine headaches.

⁸ "Thy Kingdom Come." This invocation, with its variation "Thy Eucharistic Kingdom Come" (A.R.T. or A.R.T.E.) is to appear again and again in Fr. Eymard's correspondence, notably after 1862.

⁹ Fr. Eymard was in Marseilles with him at the time if this placement is correct. Ed.

There will always be something that goes wrong in a house, because God must have his share and his glory.

Adam's children have inherited such illness that they are often delirious and agitated, when they seem to be calm and reasonable; the doctor must recognize and treat them according to their condition.

Human beings are like a portrait which has the strokes of a masterpiece alongside signs of great weakness and stupidity. We shouldn't be surprised at it, but simply esteem what's good and repair what is wrong insofar as we can.

What do the Angels and Saints need to make them happy? God, Jesus Christ. Well! We have him, we are with him, we are at his gracious service! Oh how pitiful! Isn't he enough for us! He is with us, and yet we are discouraged. He is our all and he isn't enough for us! What a shame!

I'm really sorry that poor... is so sad and so weak. Surround her with care. Then, if she doesn't enter into the spirit of her vocation, let her leave, and even tell her to do so if she has misgivings or gives in to whims. Don't worry. I am hoping to find a good sister Martha for you, but not in Provence. I won't look for one here, because of the different customs. It is better to look farther north, in Lyons or in the North.

On November 9th the Bishop exposed the Blessed Sacrament for the first time in the presence of a large and devout gathering. We preached twice a day for the Octave: it was well attended. At the end, I received a great number of Associates. People continue to come to adore our Lord. It's really impressive, there are always some people in our beautiful large chapel, and sometimes many. We will have adoration every day, but only until noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. On the other days until 9:00 p.m.

Fr. de Cuers is fine, he has earned much merit for this foundation. He lived so frugally that it makes me very sad; he lived on bread, cheese and fruit alone; no coffee or meat, nothing hot, and he was very happy. Our Lord must have been with him.

As for us, we have what we need to live, but our cells are very poor, as they should be. Here everything has been done for the Master; but little by little we are buying pins, needles; every now and then we laugh because we don't have what can ordinarily be found even in a shed, it's delightful! On the other hand the chapel is magnificent, adoration is going well.

I hope that the two priests whom I brought will adjust well.

Poor human nature had its fears; they desire a life which is too missionary. Let us pray so that they may understand that the Master must pass ahead of the servants. Unfortunately! there are so few men, so few priests for whom Jesus is enough!

I am fine. Goodbye, very dear daughter. You are always with me at the feet of the Good Master.

Eymard

P.S. Ask Fr. Champion to send me a thousand flyers for the Aggregation.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 26/52)

Marseilles, rue Nau, 7, November 24, 1859

Very dear daughter,

Let your thoughts and feelings flow from your pen as they come to you. Don't worry about their length or apparent unimportance. It will take great simplicity on your part to write to me as you are, naturally and simply.

Oh, dear daughter, surrender to the breath¹⁰ of God's grace, [have] an open and childlike simplicity with God, yourself, and your dear mother. Be like a child with God, without soul-searching or afterthoughts. The true simplicity of God's children consists in holy surrender to his holy and ever gracious Will, clinging to this fatherly Will through love, with the simple desire of pleasing him; of accepting everything without distinction from his divine hand, especially natural frustrations, sorrows that come to us by way of our neighbor or by necessity. God likes to frustrate the earthly and immature sentiments and preferences of our evil nature.

Speak to God like a 6 year-old speaks to his dear mother. Think in him, act in his presence. Remind him of everything you have seen, heard and done. Be simple and open with your good mother, even be happy if she sees your imperfections, in order that she may know you as you are.

Be simple with yourself. Go directly to your duties through obedience, to what is proper and charitable at the moment, without prideful self-scrutiny. For that purpose, consider only God, his truths, his holy Will, his good pleasure. Behave this way and you will have a strong steadfast peace in the depths of your soul, and our Lord will be pleased. Oh! Love our good Master who dwells in your home only for you. Let his Tabernacle be your Tabernacle, and may your heart be his living ciborium.

I do pray for you all and, dear daughter, I leave you with our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

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

(V 38/76)

November 25, 1859, Rue Nau, 7, Marseilles

Dear daughter,

I'm eager to hear news about you and about your whole family. Kindly send me a few words about it. I expect to stay here another two weeks. On November 9th we had the joy of inaugurating¹¹ Exposition in our chapel. Everything was beautiful and devout. The Bishop said holy Mass. A large and devout gathering of the faithful attended, beautiful music made the feast more attractive. Our Lord must have been pleased. The new chapel is quite suitable and large.

¹⁰ Literally: wind.

¹¹ Literally: the cult of Exposition.

We preached a eucharistic Octave which was well attended. Adorers are very numerous. It gave us great joy to see the Master surrounded by his children in a city where unfortunately the devil has so many slaves.

I will stop briefly in Lyons for a day and I will be happy to see your dear and fine mother and your respected father, if I can. Should divine Providence bring you there, I would be very happy to see you.

Dear daughter, always remain the child of divine Providence. Let yourself be led by it as if by the hand. Let it plan, prepare, arrange everything. Everything is the fruit of its love for you.

Be calm and free within yourself as much as possible, and learn how to put aside peacefully the things you love, whether good or unfinished, when our Lord wants you elsewhere.

I bless you, good and dear daughter, I am going to holy Mass to pray for you.

All yours,
Eymard

898

CO 898

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

(III 13/21)

Marseilles, rue Nau, 7, November 25, 1859

Very dear daughter,

I have kept you waiting for an answer. It is because until now I have been weighed down with business. I'm beginning to breathe a little so I'm hurrying to say a quick hello.

I read your welcome letter with real interest and I saw that our dear Master is not forsaking you, but he is drawing good out of evil. - So he replaced Fr. Galtier very well; he sent you kind Fr. Pillet, who helped you so; he rewarded you a little for the good you had done him. So your gratitude is very legitimate and without sin.

When we suffer, when we are on the cross, it is such a great grace to find someone who understands and helps us!

So this good priest is dearer to me, because he was kind to you.

You are truly where the Good Lord wants you for the moment; however, dear daughter, profit from it. You have enough opportunities to be patient, gentle and charitable; just profit by it, and never let yourself be overcome by sadness and worries. God is there.

Continue your Communion: you need them as much as bread and air. - You say that you are not making progress. Alas! dear daughter, true progress consists in fulfilling God's holy Will, in always renewing our courage, always starting over, and constantly saying: I will do better.

Don't be too upset because... or think, that is human weakness. You did well in not paying attention to it: that is progress... our Lord entrusted it to you.

Write often to your sister Marguerite; open your heart to her and always tell her your sorrows; she is so kind!

I will let you know beforehand when I'll be coming to Lyons! I hope to pay you a quick visit, as well as the dear Gaudioz family and the Marcel Ladies.

Goodbye, good daughter, God loves you.

All yours,
Eymard

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 13/19)

Marseilles, November 27, 1859¹²

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I received your good letter this morning. You have now arrived at Hyeres and are settled. Do like the child in a family who agrees to be wherever he is told and remains there as [long as] his father and mother will. Neither look back nor too far ahead; be like a child of [God's] fatherly Providence, which will take good care of you both spiritually and materially.

I read your daily schedule; it's fine. However, you will need to adjust it when your lessons require more time. Duty comes first; provided you have had holy Communion and said your rosary, be flexible about the rest.

Do not be sad about this little setback from the art teachers before you; God will give you your generous share. Take the nourishing diet you need, and do so without scruples.

You are and you will be the disciple of the Blessed Sacrament and our daughter. Jesus is at your service; live in him. I expect to stay here about 2 weeks. Everything is going well, adoration is well attended; we are very busy. Mme. de Guichen wrote to tell me that her husband is out of danger and is making progress toward a good recovery.

I leave you in our Lord, dear daughter.

All yours,
Eymard, S.

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 37/52)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus in
the Most Blessed Sacrament*

*Marseilles
November 26, 1859*

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I have just received your dear letter. It gave me both pleasure and sorrow. I won't be able to see you at Jasson then, since I will be here another two weeks. If I can shorten my stay by a few days, I will do so. But since you must come to the South, it would be better for you to hurry and come sooner. However, please tell me when you are leaving. I have acquaintances at Hyeres who could help you. I am at your service. It would be good to reserve an apartment ahead of time. In that regard I advise you that Hyeres is preferable. I know the pastor there, who is a holy man and Mr. Laure is an excellent doctor in every way.

I will be happy to go to Tarare and make an appearance at Amplepuis from there. Dear daughter, you can understand that it will be hard for me not to find you there: that is life! it's a journey where we only greet one another in passing.

¹² Listed as November 25, 1859 by Fr. Andre Garreau.

I really shared in your joy over the return of your dear brother to his religious duties: the foundations are laid: your dear brother is a good man, he has a good heart and with this quality a person can return from great distances. We must complete through prayer what divine mercy has begun.

Our chapel was opened to the public by the Bishop on November 9th. Since that time, we have daily Exposition and many people have become associates.

So now we have raised a new throne to our good Master: may He rule there until the end of the world!

As for you, dear daughter, don't leave the battlefield yet, nor leave our good Saviour who is deserted by so many people. So, bow your head toward the Cross and the Tabernacle of love: that is sufficient for a loving soul.

My most affectionate greetings to the good Mother, Sr. St. Claire. Regards to your two dear children.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

901

CO 902

TO FR. CYR AMAND CHAMPION

(12/5)

Marseilles, December 1, 1859

Very dear Father,

Our Lord made the storm pass over just in time, I think. Fr. Leroyer is fine. In the last few days he was telling me: "I don't know how I could think and tell you everything that happened between us!" So he is fine, a good adorer. I hope that he will become a good religious. He had a good upbringing. He is very sensitive and shows tact in his holy Ministry. He still is very zealous and has a great need to be doing good, but that is only natural, since he is coming from a purely active life, and has much energy to spend. Our Lord will lead him gently to belong fully to him. The one danger about him is that when zealotry sees an obstacle or a deficiency, then it is exposed to excesses...

Fr. Golliet is fine, he accepts guidance and corrections well, and these happen often, because he is distracted and not good at ceremonies, or he becomes easily confused. Good Fr. de Cuers is fine. From time to time, when something doesn't go well, he has an initial reaction against it that could upset the calmest person; but they will get used to him, and he controls himself as much as he can; he is pleasant and generous in every way. He dreads my departure; however, I must leave soon; I hope to go next week. During this last week, I've been suffering from a little cold. Today it seems to be loosening its stubborn siege.

Here is my plan: I would like to go see my sister for two days, for a family matter, since I am so close.

I promised the Pastor of the Madeleine, at Tarare, to visit his Adoration Association on my way. He wrote me a very fine letter about it. I will spend a few hours, perhaps one day in Lyons. After Tuesday of next week, don't write to me in Marseilles any longer. I want to try to leave quickly. I see that the house can function. As long as I am here, they depend on me. The material aspect is beginning to function, the cooking is suitable and sufficient. Little by little, they are getting organized. So many things are needed when a house is being organized.

Also, write a word to Fr. de Cuers to encourage him. He has so much confidence in and affection for you!

A word about the Chapel: many people and conversions; the Work has a good reputation; the reverence, the Office, the seriousness of worship, everything becomes a lesson and a source of edification.

Three days ago, I was surprised to meet three priests coming down the street. Guess who? Fr. Marcel, Fr. Rochet, and Fr. Dumont, going to Rome,¹³ imagine my surprise! Cordiality and simplicity characterized this happy encounter. I accompanied them a long way; they invited me to supper with them; I declined: they are real friends. I was sorry to learn about the death of Fr. Fayolle which happened a few days ago.

Fr. Choizin is Superior at Toulon and is replacing Fr. Girin, who at this time is preaching at La Seyne.

If you could send me a pack of flyers for the Aggregation between now and Tuesday, I would be grateful. If not, send them to Miss Mariette at Fourvire.

See you soon, dear Father. My best regards to our whole family. Is dear Br. Michel feeling better? news¹⁴ of his illness saddened us all for he is the St. Joseph of the house.

How many times we say here: Ah! if Br. Michel were here, we wouldn't be in so much trouble.

All yours,
Eymard

902

CO 903

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 203/395 VI 2)

Marseilles, December 3, 1859

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I was very pleased to read all the details you gave me about yourself and about your household. I laughed a little to see that you are so worried about us here, while we have everything we need. It is true that at first so many things were missing, but in time everything fell into place; so, we don't need anything. I had a cold, and they filled me with syrup.

Miss Dalaca came to see me twice with Miss Caroline and another young woman; Three days ago they came with her dear mother. I was happy to see her. That fine family continues to be very generous. I expect to leave Thursday at the earliest; tell Fr. Champion about it so that he might send me the flyers for the Aggregation here, as he mentioned in his letter yesterday, that is, without the printed seal and with the indicated corrections, and then have the indicated words removed from the consecration.

My cold is better; here everything is fine for the moment.

I expect to visit my sister only briefly. I'll see your people in Lyons and, if possible I'll give Mme. Galle at least two hours.

Be totally God's and if he so wills, by means of being rejected and humiliated. It is a good path, the shortest one. I have time only to say that I am,

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Guillot
rue du fg St. Jacques 66
Paris

¹³ Probably Marists.

¹⁴ Punctuation as in original.

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 33/75)

Marseilles, December 6, 1859

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am leaving here on the 8th; I will arrive in Lyons at night to enjoy the lights for the beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception. The following day I will be at your home in the afternoon. Since I don't expect to have the pleasure of meeting you there, I will have that of seeing your dear fine daughter. I will stay in Lyons until Saturday around noon and leave from there for Tarare, where I will preach for several days to the Association of the Most Blessed Sacrament, at the Parish of the Madeleine.

We are really praying for your dear patient. She is dear to us, since she is dear to you, dear Madame. We are asking for her healing if it is better for her salvation. If in his mercy God wants to shorten her exile, open his Paradise to her sooner, we will ask not only for resignation to accept what God wants, but for trust which prefers his divine Will to every other good, a childlike abandonment which surrenders itself to his divine good pleasure like a child, a love which purifies, sanctifies, perfects the soul so effectively. Oh! Blessed are those who die in the Lord! says the Holy Spirit. In the presence of so many scandals and defections, if we did not have the holy Eucharist as a consolation and center, who could accept to live a long time on this wretched earth of sin and slavery?

Recommend me to the prayers of your dear patient, because suffering united to prayer is all-powerful.

Dear Madame, I remain in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. You can be sure that if you were in Lyons on Saturday morning, you would complete my joy.

Mme. Jordan C.
at Chervinges
by Villefranche (Rhône)

TO MME. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 7/24)

Marseilles, December 6, 1859

Dear Lady,

As I promised my good friend, I will arrive at your home around 7:00 p.m., next Thursday. If through some unexpected event, I were not there by 8:00 p.m., don't worry. Some unexpected event would have held me back and I will arrive Friday morning.

I will be happy to see your whole family again and bless you all.

The Eucharistic Family

Believe me in our Lord,
Dear Lady,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Madame,
Madame Carrel
Quai d'Orleans 3
Lyons

905

CO 906

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET, NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(VII 2/17)

Marseilles, December 6, 1859

Madame,

They have written from Paris to tell me that you wish to see me when I pass through Lyons. I also will be happy to meet you and to speak with you about your dear son¹⁵ who is edifying us all and who will be a blessing to your family, Madame.

I will be in Lyons on Friday and on Saturday morning. I will stay with Mr. Carrel, Quai d'Orleans, 3. However, dear Mother, it will be my pleasure to go see you on Friday afternoon at [the home of] Mr. Blanc de St. Bonnet.¹⁶ In the meantime, Madame, please believe me in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

December 9th and following: Missions at Tarare and Amplepuis.

<i>Dec 24</i> <i>Conference Servants: The spirit of foundation.</i>

¹⁵Fr. Michel Chanuet.

¹⁶ Her son-in-law.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 55/181 VI 4)

Paris, Christmas, 1859

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your letter and expressions of friendship; I didn't have either the energy or the time to write to you. I came back with a bad cold, then we were kept very busy with our First Communion which took place today. Eighteen [children] were given this joy. It was devout and moving! a beautiful and royal work! we must support it personally and materially: it's the work of zeal par excellence, it deals directly with the reign of the holy Eucharist. They will be confirmed tomorrow. Our chapel was so joyful today. These young people were celebrating with the Child Jesus.

I found everything here the same as usual; I was happy to return to the feet of our Good Master.

Sr. Benoite was anointed last Sunday. I found her near death, everyone thought she would die and so did she; but God healed her. She is better, until something changes.

Your house leaves me with a keen sense of its piety and virtue: it will be blessed by God. Continue what we have begun; beginnings always have greater graces and insight.

I know that beginnings are fervent, and then [the fervor] decreases. However, in our case, it should always increase and rise like the sun toward high noon, because we are always exposed to the ardent sun of the Eucharist.

I was very sorry to read what you told me, that Fr. Golliet has gotten a wig. The reason I regret this is because it is an exception to the common law, and also that he has become more sensitive or sensuous with us than before he came, since he didn't have one. I won't accept their assuming new practices, which they didn't bring with them, nor submitted. I don't know whether Fr. Golliet will hold to his wig more than to his vocation. But whatever be the case, please tell him kindly first of all that he should get back as he was when I left him. He should have spoken to me more seriously about it; in community, we must be more open. If he shouldn't want to give it up, kindly write and tell me, and I will inform him immediately. But I don't think we will have to give a definite command.

I'll go to the candle makers tomorrow and make arrangements for your candles.

Good Fr. Ricoux wanted to have a canopy made for about 60 francs; he would really need three times that much. We'll see what he'll decide about it.

I hope that the milder weather has you back on your feet, dear Father, because I was quite worried about you.

My most heartfelt greetings to all the Fathers and Brothers. Believe me ever in our Lord,

Dear and kind Father,

All yours,

Eymard, S.S.

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET¹⁷
(VII 1/14)

Paris, Christmas, 1859

Dear gentle friend,

I am writing to give some news about myself and news about the house. I was passing through Lyons last Sunday, and on Monday I was sorry to learn only [when I got] here about your arrival in that dear city. I would have gone to greet¹⁸ you when I arrived, because it seems like a century since I had the pleasure of seeing you.

I spent six weeks in Marseilles. I left the house functioning fully with daily exposition. They are six there, three are priests, one theologian and 2 very charming brothers.

The chapel is very busy. What a joy it is for us to be partly responsible for the establishment of 40 hours in Marseilles! The Bishop told us that without our community he couldn't begin it, since he does not have enough churches. We are also beginning the Work of First Communion for adult workers there.

Paris is the same as usual. Mr. Chanuet is edifying us. I think you know that he has been with us for two months.

We have a porter who is a tailor and seems like a courageous young man. We are eight here, and we are expecting two priests. Today we had a great feast! First Communion for 18 children; some of them were from 16-18 years of age.

They really edified and consoled us; what a change takes place in them. These wild, rude, brutish types when they arrive, these little street urchins, become gradually more humane. They become attentive, grateful, good and virtuous. First Communion changes them completely. They are no longer the same! Their hearts open and we find generous and gentle sentiments.

That is our work, dear friend, but it is still in its infancy, because there is still so much good for us to do! Nevertheless there have been 42 since August 15th! Thirty are to be Confirmed by His Eminence.

Mr. Carrie received the 200 francs which you sent us. *Deo Gratias!* Add to that the little which we found, we are paid up to date. The Pastor from St. Jacques gave 30 francs for his.

Now that Marseilles is functioning, I am looking to see where God may want a third Exposition. My heart goes straight to Lyons, but we must wait for the will and a sign from God.

It is well understood, dear Mr. Perret, that wherever we have a house, you will have your room, as a friend.

Thank you for remembering us. Everyone loves you here and embraces you very warmly. I am the first, and most loving in our Lord.

Eymard, Superior Soc.

Dec 27 <i>Conference Servants: Spirit of foundation. A single eucharistic family.</i>

¹⁷ Architect in Lyons.

¹⁸ Literally: embrace.

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 19/104)

Paris, December 28, 1859

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I have been here in Paris for several days. I'm waiting to hear from you now and for news about your family. You have been a long time without writing to me! I think that Calvary has passed and we have reached resurrection and thanksgiving. I unite myself to it with all my heart.

Our house of Marseilles was functioning fully when I left. They have daily Exposition: it is a tiny fire enkindled in a large city.

Now we want to begin another, wherever it will please our good Master to establish his throne of graces and love. Lyons has been mentioned. I don't know yet whether it is the divine will. Our little community is increasing, we are now 15. What we need are true adorers.

I visited two Adorations¹⁹ on my way: one at Tarare, a little city near Lyons, where I gave a short eucharistic retreat; and the other is at Amplepuis. How edified and happy I was to see so many fervent adorers in the parish.

Dear daughter, you are the very first one to whom I'm wishing a holy, happy and very eucharistic year. The holy Eucharist is the all of religion and all the perfection that can be found in this world. Ask from our Good Master that I may have the same love as Saints Peter and John, and I will be pleased with you.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior SSS

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 56/181 VI 4)

COLLECTIVE LETTER TO THE FATHERS AND BROTHERS OF THE CENACLE OF MARSEILLES FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

Paris, December 30, 1859

Happy New Year, very dear Fathers and Brothers! You finished the last one well: God was the one who did the planting. In this year ahead, you are the ones who will water and cultivate the tree of life. You will take this divine graft and graft it onto poor human nature, so that this foreign element may become natural and fruitful.

Yes! Find inspiration in the spirit of death and life which comes from the divine Eucharist. It is by death to ourselves that Jesus reigns in us!

Each day, renew the entire gift of yourselves to the love and glory of Jesus Eucharistic, and you will see that you'll always find something to sacrifice and give.

May our Good Master bless you, crown you with his grace, unite you to one another in his kindly love, the life of all your actions! That is my wish.

¹⁹ Adoration groups.

Ask the same for me and for your brothers in Paris, who join in embracing you very fondly in our Lord.

Eymard

Dear Fr. de Cuers, I imagine that you must have received the ciborium that was supposed to be delivered to you on Saturday morning.

We are waiting for the money order from Marseilles.

I am united to you a thousand times over in our Lord.

910

CO 854

TO MISS J. BILLARD (SR. JOSEPHINE DU SS)

(III 1/1 VI 1/1)

RULE OF LIFE²⁰ FOR MISS BILLARD, IN RELIGION SISTER JOSEPHINE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

On Sundays, make an hour of adoration in the afternoon.

For Vows:

1. For poverty, behave in the house like a good servant who is only the Lord's steward.

Take care of all the needed expenditures.

Every month render Miss G. an account of your expenses and receipts.

If you can foresee a week in advance that major personal furnishings need to be bought, ask permission for it.

2. For obedience, observe the rules below.

3. For the eucharistic vow:

Make a half hour visit to the Most Blessed Sacrament, and when you cannot, be recollected at home, in union with the adorations which our Lord receives in heaven and on earth.

On Sundays and feast days, make an hour of adoration. It may be divided. Then, remember that you gain a plenary indulgence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Always remember that a servant belongs entirely to the service of her good Master, and serves him joyfully and devotedly.

Remember that a spouse belongs fully to the love of her divine Spouse, and seeks to please him alone and find her joy in him.

Live by the divine Eucharist and for the divine Eucharist, like the angels who live only for God in heaven.

²⁰ Date unknown, but Miss Billard joined the Servants in time for the Retreat of Vows July 1859. It seems likely that this document would have preceded that date. It is placed here in keeping with the listing of Fr. Garreau.

911

CO 854

TO MISS J. BILLARD (SR. JOSEPHINE DU SS)
(VI 1/1 III 1/1)²¹

DAILY SCHEDULE

4:45 a.m.	Rise	: 2 p.m.	Reading
5:30 a.m.	Meditation	: 3 p.m.	Our Fathers to replace
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast	:	the Way of the Cross
8 a.m.	Manual work	: 5 p.m.	Afternoon tea
10 a.m.	Five Our Fathers	: 6 p.m.	Rosary
	with the workers	: 6:30 p.m.	Visit to the Bl. Sacrament
11:55 a.m.	Personal examen	: 7 p.m.	Supper
Noon	Dinner	: 8 p.m.	Evening prayer
1 p.m.	Recreation	: 9 p.m.	Retire
		:	Bless the hour

912

CO 911

TO MISS LOUISE DE BRISSAC
(VIII 1/1)

Mademoiselle²²

I am writing to tell you, in a few words, what you requested.

In September 1848 a young lady of thirty-one fell ill. Towards evening, her confessor was called. She was getting weaker, and she wished to see him herself. When the priest didn't come, I went to the sick woman's house to see how she was, only to find her confessor leaving: "How is the patient?" I asked him. "Better; there is no danger." "You heard her Confession, just in case?" "Yes." "Since I am here, I shall go and pay my respects." He came upstairs with me. I found the patient surrounded by her friends. She recognized me and greeted me. I spoke a few words about trust and surrender into the hands of God. Then, after about ten minutes, her condition changed all at once. She couldn't speak, and her eyes were glazed. She could no longer see nor hear. I felt her pulse; no pulse. Next, a cold sweat; her mouth opened in a death-rattle. So, turning to the confessor, I said, "But don't you see that she is slipping away, the death agony has begun? She'll be dead in a few minutes. Quick! give her Extreme Unction." "Alas!" he said, "It's too late; I have no time to go and get the holy oils." One of her friends heard this, and came up to the dying woman, and poured a few drops of water from La Salette into her mouth. The ability to swallow was gone. After that, the rattle ceased; no more movement, no more sound, but the chill of death. She fell back on her pillow, stiff and cold. Everyone thought she was dead and moved away, shocked and saddened. "Who will tell her family this sad news?" I asked. I fell to my knees at the foot of the bed; I tried to say a "De Profundis" but could not finish. I was obsessed by a thought, a gentle reproach to the Most Blessed Virgin: "O Kind Mother, good Lady of La Salette, she is dead, dead without receiving the sacraments; and yet we invoked You, and she drank water from La Salette. It's too much! You, who are so kind!"

²¹ (Collected writings) Vol. II, p. 149. This timetable is perhaps complementary to the one printed in Volume III of the printed letters, p. 215, date: 1859. cf. Doc. 910.

²² End 1859 or 1860

I stayed a while longer, crushed beneath the weight of this death, so unexpected. I raised my head towards the dead woman, and what did I see? She opened her eyes, smiled and said: "What's the matter?" I stood up. No one dared answer her. "We thought you were dead," I said. "No, of course not! I am all right, the pain has gone." She sat up on the bed, talking and laughing. Everybody was filled with amazement. After a quarter of an hour, full of surprise and joy, we went away.

I was sure that she wouldn't be able to get up for several days; but the next morning, as I was saying the 6 o'clock Mass, the first person to receive Communion was that woman - walking with firm steps, her face beaming with joy and perfect health. When I saw this I almost exclaimed aloud. I could not believe my eyes. After thanksgiving, I sent for her in the parlor. "What! You! so early in the morning!" "I am cured," she said. "No more pain; I had to come and thank the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin." "But what happened? How were you cured? Do you remember seeing me last night?" "No; all I know is, that after my confession, I felt myself fainting away and dying little by little. I couldn't see, hear, or feel anything any more. I was choking, and I seemed to be holding on to life by a thread, and as if I had one foot ready to step into eternity, when the Blessed Virgin came and said: "My daughter, I have obtained mercy for you." I opened my eyes, and felt no more pain." - "What was the Blessed Virgin like?" "She had a crown of diamonds on her head, like uneven rays. Her robe was white, but such a white as I have never seen - bright as light. There were flowers in front, and she had a great cross on her breast, with pincers and a hammer. Why did she have a cross like that on her breast?" she asked. "I've never seen the Blessed Virgin like that." "But," I cried, "it was Our Lady of La Salette who cured you. We invoked her, you drank some miraculous water, and now you are cured. So now you must love her and serve her well!" "Oh yes," she replied; "otherwise I'd be very ungrateful."

The person who was cured is in good health today, and she has kept her word. She dearly loves Our Lady of La Salette, and she serves the Good Lord well.

There, Mademoiselle, is the story of this grace to which I was witness. If I had not [already] believed in the Apparition of the Most Blessed Virgin at La Salette, this would have opened my eyes.

Many people still don't believe it. They are not to be condemned for it; for prejudices, ignorance, influences and subservience can all draw a veil over our eyes. And besides, today, people do not want miracles; they make mockery of the miraculous. They refuse to allow that God has power to communicate with his creatures - poor, ignorant, wretched, full of faults. They are afraid of being deluded and they rush into rationalism. They cry "Imposture!" and dare to condemn all those who believe in La Salette; as if it were a question of self-interest, partisanship, or ambition.

We are always being told: "It isn't possible that the Blessed Virgin appeared to those two children!" There is only one reply to all those poor subterfuges: "Can God do it, or can he not?" If he can, we say that he did; and we can show you the pilgrimage to La Salette with its conversions, its graces obtained, its well-attested miracles, its triumph in the midst of all its enemies, its glory without human glory, its trust in Her, She who has deigned to promise the salvation of the world, if people do penance." Alas! they would do better to be converted.

What makes me rejoice, Mademoiselle, is to see Devotion to Our Lady of La Salette taking all its vitality, its whole mission, from its aim, which is: Reconciliatory Adoration. Adoration is now being made on the holy mountain. The Most Blessed Sacrament is exposed solemnly on various days of the week. Pilgrims are becoming adorers. They are coming to the help of Our Lady of Reconciliation, who says: "I cannot hold up my SON's arm. The sins of men make it too heavy and provoke divine vengeance." Well then! we must come and be at the feet of our Savior, beside Mary, our kind Mother, and we will disarm the just wrath of Heaven, and save the world in spite of itself.

Forgive me this long letter, Mademoiselle. My heart has run away with my pen - but I know that we think alike.

My humble respects to Mr. & Mme. de Brissac, and believe me, in Jesus Christ our Lord,

Your respectful servant,
Eymard, Sup.

913

CO 915

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 34/75)

Paris, January 1, 1860²³

Dear daughter,

Yours is my first New Year's letter. I shouldn't have to say so, but I want you to know that you are always my eldest daughter in our Lord and I protect your right as eldest. Well, one more year has passed, is finished, over, like one day's sunlight, like water in the torrent, but I hope that it was God's. It has gone ahead to wait for us in eternity.

What kind of year should I wish for you, dear daughter? The kingdom of God's love in you? Oh! Yes, this kingdom, because it is everything. If God reigns in us, his truth will be our light, ever true and just; his will, our rule; his law, our inviolable law; his glory, our purpose.

January 8th - Imagine that I was not able to continue my letter until this date!

I have just given a retreat to our Community for five novices who made their vows on the feast of Epiphany. That is what kept me busy.

So, your dear lady friend died? Let's hope that she was received in our Lord's mercy. We must pray for her still, because Purgatory is long and painful. One must be so pure to go to Heaven!

Pray and have a few Masses said for the repose of the soul of your former Pastor, Fr. Brun-Buisson, and you will be doing an excellent work of mercy.

I would like to offer a white cape to our Lord as a New Year's gift. The essentials are lacking: I only have 60 francs and it is costing me about a 100 francs. I am writing to see if you can help me. In that way, you will have Saint Martin's share.²⁴ Wait a little because New Year's must have drained your pocketbook. Just start saving until you come to Paris. That is my gift.

Goodbye, dear daughter, I must go quickly to [help] others.

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

P.S. My wishes and blessings from Heaven and earth for your dear Mathilde.

²³ Finished Jan. 8th.

²⁴ Half.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 112/145 VI 10)

Paris, January 1, 1860²⁵

Good sisters,

Before retiring I want to write to wish you a happy New Year; I made this wish for you this morning at the holy Altar; tonight I am wishing it simply as your brother.

May Jesus be your joy, your love and your happiness! Continue to grow in virtue before him, like a tree watered from above! You are really free to serve him and the poor [as well], make good use of this freedom. Do all the good you can while you still have some energy and strength, for illness will come later, followed by the years when our energy is gone.

The Pastor tells me that you are doing a great deal of good and that he is pleased with you; that is fine, provided our good Master says: Amen!

The sick person about whom I had spoken to you, is better, she was a breath away from death. God is leaving her with us for our edification.²⁶

We are a bit more numerous now, fifteen, which keeps me very busy.

On Epiphany, four will be making their vows. Pray for them.

January 4 - I wasn't able to finish my New Year's letter. I'm trying to do so this morning, at this early hour. My health is quite good, I hardly ever have migraines anymore; I have a slight cold like everyone else. Paris is the same as usual, people run after one another during these visiting days, hoping to miss each other; what a sad thing this social life is!

We are very happy to have the duty of our adorations to keep us tied down at home and to our beautiful service.

Our house in Marseilles is going well, our Lord is truly honored there, people come in crowds. Forty Hours were established in the diocese on our account; it is a great thing!

Goodbye, good sisters, continue to love our Lord and have others love him very much.

All yours in him,
Your brother,
Eymard, Sup.

P.S. This is your gift²⁷: pronounce your consecration after Communion.

²⁵ Finished Jan. 4th.

²⁶ Perhaps Sr. Benoite.

²⁷ New Year's gift.

915

CO 914

TO MME. ROTTIER (SR. ANTOINETTE DU SS)
(III 3/4)

January 1, 1860

Dear Lady I am sending you, as a gift, one of the Good Lord's little girls, in order that you may instruct her in her religion. I blessed you both from the heart at the holy Altar this morning, as well as your good desires.

Eymard

Madame Rottier
14, Impasse de Feuillantines
Paris

916

CO 916

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET, NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(VII 3/17)

Paris, January 1, 1860

Dear Mother,

I join with your dear children in their wishes.²⁸ I want to bless them and add to them in our Lord.

Since I last saw you, the thought of you continues to be with me at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament and I constantly offer you to our good Master for his greater glory, because you are a mother only for his sake.

Also consider us as your little family and as your children.

Please offer to your dear son, [Mr. Amedee], to Madame your daughter, to Mr. Blanc de St. Bonnet, my best wishes and fond respects, and believe me ever in our Lord, dear Mother.

All yours,
Eymard

²⁸New Year's wishes.

917

CO 917

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 38/52)

Paris, January 3, 1860

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your wishes²⁹ at the feet of our little Saviour. May they grow with him and be consumed with him in his divine Sacrament!

I am happy to know that you are with the Dalaca family. I know that nothing will be lacking for your health there; that fine family is so kind! However, you may not have enough sunshine.

I surely prefer to see you there than at Hyeres. I am convinced that Mr. Laure³⁰ didn't settle or conclude anything; consequently, you will not owe anything. However, I'm surprised that they didn't write to you. That would seem to indicate that nothing was done.

Enjoy Jesus, his sunshine, his freedom, his divine goodness.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Give me news about yourself from time to time.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mme. Tholin

918

CO 918

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 57/181 VI 4)

Paris, January 4, 1860

Very dear Father,

I write to congratulate you for your eucharistic feast of Forty Hours, and for the outstanding honor of beginning the year in this way. But honor has its obligations! If only we could be with you to fulfill the glorious service!

We have been on retreat since Monday. The beautiful day of Epiphany will also be celebrated with the profession of Fr. Clavel and Mr. Carri, Brother Michael and Brother Charles; pray and have others pray for them, in order that they might be a true eucharistic guard.

Fr. Champion must have told you that your candles are on the way. I believe that you either have received them, or will receive them today. In the "*Universe*" we read an extract from the mandate; we are expecting the mandate itself. On the days when you don't have adoration, such as the Diocesan Forty Hours, it seems to me that you ought to limit yourself to 12 candles on ordinary days; what the Bishop has required for Forty Hours in his diocese doesn't concern us; that is also Fr. Champion's feeling. We have a tailor and former military man as a porter, he seems well disposed. We also have a new cook who seems to be a good religious; Brother Michel is working in the garden and inside.

²⁹ New Year's wishes.

³⁰ The doctor.

Fr. Amatori hasn't shown up yet. I think that the Bishop of Lyons held him back for the holidays. The one from Angers wrote to make a definite request of entrance. Nothing else is new, except for the New Year's visits which take all our time.

Have courage, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

919

CO 919

**TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE
BL. SACRAMENT)**
(IV 6/36)

Paris, January 10, 1860

Dear sister in our Lord

May Jesus be your life and virtue: these are my wishes for you! That you should be consumed for his adorable kingdom in his divine Sacrament; that is its crown! Oh! What value is there to the richest, wealthiest, most prominent, happiest life without Jesus and his glory?

My heart is very sad and my eyes tearful to see the triumph of the devil on earth. Satan's apostles are more faithful and committed to the ruin of souls than the apostles of Jesus, our good Savior³¹; when I see how few believers there are who understand Jesus Christ and his Gospel even now, so few adorers at the foot of the divine Tabernacle.

Oh! Hell is victorious and evil men are proud and happy to reject the religion of Jesus Christ and his priesthood... Oh! We were not sufficiently vigilant and committed to God's cause. We haven't fought sufficiently for his glory, and storm-bearing clouds are approaching. We must, therefore, really pray and become victims of reparation.

Since I last wrote to you, I went to Marseilles to begin our little foundation. I left three priests, one cleric and two brothers there; 6 in all. They have daily exposition; a great number of devout persons come to adoration.

The Bishop established Forty-Hours in the diocese since Jan. 1st. Our Work is to be complementary to it, because without us, the diocese wouldn't have enough churches for perpetual adoration. What a joy it is for us to serve at least for this great grace!

We are nine here, a few vocations are on the way; but, unfortunately people are afraid of adoration. This eucharistic vocation, which is so beautiful, holy and lovely, frightens people. I always hear them say: "I need the active life," as if divine love were not active, as if the flame which comes out of the hearth is not living and powerful! But that is nature speaking, and they think it's zeal.

I didn't receive any news from your dear, fine curate. He is obeying, that's fine, and he struck me as a good adorer. He is a man of God.

I established the Aggregation at Marseilles. The Bishop wanted to be the first member. A large crowd was enrolled. - When I returned to Paris, I visited the Parish adorations at Tarare and Amplepuis near Lyons, and I associated them. It's a preparation for something more perfect.

I'm also sending you your title; it's only right.³² Then you can send me my gifts.³³

³¹ Than the disciples of Jesus are committed to good and salvation.

³² Membership in the Aggregation.

³³ New Year's wishes.

I leave you in our Lord and Master and I am in his divine love, dear sister,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior Soc. SS

P.S. I'll send the faculties for the association to the priests you will indicate.

Jan 17	Conf. Ser: <i>We must know our Lord; the antithesis, God of glory, annihilated God.</i>
Jan 20	Conf. Ser: <i>How our Lord is our means (no intermediary between him and us).</i>

920

CO 920

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 58/181 VI 4)

Paris, January 21, 1860

Very dear Father,

I was waiting for your letter to answer all your questions without needing to acknowledge your registered letter.

1. I received the 500 francs, that is, 200 for the candles, 100 francs for the Masses, and 200 francs for the house.

2. Mr. Picard began your work last Monday and definitely assured me that you would have things at the determined time. However, he said he might possibly ship the case via freight as far as Lyons, and in Lyons (the longest point of delay for merchandise for Marseilles) on the express, which, he said, wouldn't increase the cost much.

3. The Feast of the Epiphany was very joyful and devout. We had four professions which were very edifying. These were followed by great [personal] improvement. It was the grace of the vows, the blessed fruit of a tree which belongs totally to God.

Mr. Chanuet made his vow of obedience and he is edifying us all. He is a special person, a true adorer.

Mr. Amatori hasn't arrived yet; I don't think he will come. When they stay that long without giving any sign of life, it's either a proof that they don't have manners, or don't have a clear vocation. I learned that he had asked to enter the Fathers of the Holy Spirit in Rome, who had refused him on the grounds of inconstancy.

Mr. de Leudeville comes to see us; he wasn't able to make his retreat yet as Fr. Pontlevoy won't be free until after Lent.

God has replaced these two stragglers: Fr. Bissey from Angers has been here since the 13th, and Fr. Martin, a deacon from Nantes, since the 11th.

Eymard, Sup.

921

CO 921

TO THE MLLLES BOURGES

(V 2/4)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*³⁴

Paris, January 22, 1860

Good and dear Demoiselles,³⁵

If we often put our friends last, it is in order to be able to give them more time.

Thank you for your kind wishes, especially for your dear prayers. They mean a lot to me; you are a little like my family. Everything that concerns you is dear to me, especially your love for our good Master and your beautiful apostolate over the young hearts you are forming so well to [the practice of] virtue. So, that is a reason to love life, and take better care of your health to work a little longer. We will rest in Heaven so we should work for the glory of God [now]. In a certain sense, time is more valuable than Heaven, since Heaven will replace it eternally.

Love the Good Lord dearly, dear daughters in our Lord, because that is the fullness of humanity and of God. Let your rule of life be [found] in his grace of love, your virtues [found] in a single one: love. Then you will be very pleasing to God.

When will I go see you? I want to but I don't know. I do so daily at the holy altar. God is greater than this world, everything lives in him. That is where I bless you and remain,

Dear Demoiselles,

Always ever yours,
Eymard, Superior

922

CO 922

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

(I 59/181 VI 4)

Paris, January 25, 1860

Very dear Father,

I'm writing to tell you that I received your registered letter. Thank you, it's a help from Providence.

Thank you also for the information you gave me about Mr. Bissey; so far we have only been edified by his behavior and his conversation. He has been very open with me. His personal attraction is more for the life of adoration, zeal is only secondary. He strikes me as very educated. So far, I can only thank our Lord for him.

I was in such a hurry, when I wrote to you last time, that I forgot to speak to you about Fr. Hermann's visit. It really surprised me, and I am still wondering why. I think and believe that it was out of his feeling for our former friendship.

He also knew that I had stopped in Lyons. He may have felt sad when he learned that I hadn't gone to see him. It was better not to go. After the letter he had written, I had firmly resolved to put him aside until God should place me in a situation to break the silence.

³⁴This text was printed as a letterhead.

³⁵Their brother was a priest and curate at La Seyne-sur-Mer.

Our conversation was friendly, but we didn't speak about the details of the Society, since other people were there and it wasn't appropriate.

I returned his visit; he told me several times: "Let's remain united, let's remain united."

I was too hurt by his behavior and his words to be as open as in the past. It may come, but not until there are some new signs....

For the loan, I understand that it would be creditable to pay what is most urgent. I wasn't able to find anything here, the time isn't right, people are worried about the outcome of events in Italy. You mentioned Mr. Guerin to Brother Carri: that was a good idea. All yours, Eymard

923

CO 923

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 20/104)

Paris, February 12, 1860

Madame and very dear daughter in our Lord,

You yourself are somewhat the reason why I haven't written to you. In your next to last letter you told me that you would send me a detailed letter. I was wrong to wait for it and then a thousand and one things delayed me until today.

I expect to be in Paris at the time you mention; if I make any changes, I will write to tell you ahead of time. I would be very happy to see you. It has been so long since I've seen you! And the last time you were under such duress.

Regarding your plans for La Salette, it's too soon. It's still too cold in our mountains! Wait for the good weather. You would risk being unable to go up the Holy Mountain and taking unnecessary chances. No, no, wait for the good weather, as I must make a trip to Marseilles, we could coordinate our trip as far as La Salette. I would be so happy to do it, but under one condition; that condition is that you would spend half a day in my little home town of La Mure.

I must tell you that one of your friends is dying in Paris, Mme. George. I've just seen her and heard her confession, she received the Last Sacraments, she really longs to go to the Good Lord. What a beautiful soul! I go to see her when I can. Death appeals to her. Oh! How lovely is the death of one who loves the Good Lord! She was glad to know that I knew you and I to know that she is your friend...

Very dear daughter, it would make me happy if God wanted us at Nantes, among those good people! I'm now asking the Master where he wants us to found a third cenacle! Ask him that for us. Who knows whether the Bishop of Nantes might not want to receive us! Couldn't you ask him? In that case we would prepare ourselves for it; otherwise I would let things develop in Lyons. I always loved Nantes; my father was a royalist, it's the land of the brave.

Don't look for any other will but God's, dear daughter. The best thing is his will at each moment, received with trust and holy surrender.

Don't look for any other virtue than that of a daughter's love which goes towards Jesus, for him and through him, and not through you or for you. Oh! What lovely faults and blessed poverty that create such a great need for our Lord in you!

The poor person loves his rags because they are his claim to charity. So receive Communion every day, dear daughter; and if we could receive Communion a hundred times a day, I would tell you: receive Communion a hundred times. That is where your strength and life are to be found.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I don't have time to reread my letter. I have had a tooth infection until today and it made me lazy.

All yours,
Eymard

924

CO 924

TO MR. ROSEMBERG AND FAMILY
(VII 2/9)

Paris, Feb. 17, 1860

Very dear friends,

I expect to arrive tomorrow night, Saturday, please God. I don't need to tell you the joy in my heart to go see you.

What also makes me hasten this trip is the desire to visit and comfort our dear holy Mr. Dupont. I was expecting to stay with him, unless you prefer otherwise.

Kindly inform good mother Marceau. I am afraid I may not have time to write to her.

All yours,
Eymard

Feb. 18-22 - Sermons to Adoration Society - Lazarist Chapel, Tours.

925

CO 925

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 25/181 VI 4)

February 21, 1860³⁶

Good Father de Cuers,

It has been a long time since you have given me news about yourself, and you know how pleased I am to receive it. So I am sad when it is slow in coming. I know that your time is short, and your strength limited, so it is rather for personal satisfaction that I desire it. I believe that you must have received your candelabras in time, because I also inquired in time whether they were on their way.

For a few weeks now we have had Exposition every day without interruption until 9:00 p.m., and we will prolong nocturnal adoration. It is only right to give more, when we receive more.

All the Fathers and Brothers are well. However, we have one less aspirant-brother, the porter, a new tailor, whom Fr. Champion had tested during my stay in Marseilles. He didn't have the vocation, to say the least. He is gone.

I went to see good Mr. Dupont at Tours. He has just lost his distinguished mother; he was deeply touched by this sign of friendship. I preached for his Nocturnal Adoration group which is doing well; he still loves you very much and asks to be remembered to you. Our theologians are doing well, I went to see the Bishop of Marseilles to request the tonsure for Mr. Carri.

The Sisters at No. 66 are doing their share for the Eucharistic service, especially by suffering.

Sr. Benoit was very sick; as it is her mission to suffer, we eventually get used to it. Her graces are still exceptional; they are especially for the Church and the Sovereign Pontiff. Heaven and earth need prayers, penances and reparation.

³⁶ Although published as 1859, the content of the letter indicates that it was written in 1860. (Troussier)

Fr. Leroyer writes to me that you are not very well, good Father. Please take care of the small spark you still have within you, because we still have work to do for our Good Master and a few battlefields to cover.

Here, my natural feelings sometime surprise me with fears like those [which] pagans have: wondering where we will find what we need to live, to meet our expenses, since we don't have any regular resources, except yours and our Masses. But trust in God quickly chases this devil away and hopes against all hope in our Good Master, who has given us so many proofs of his infinite goodness. It often happens that I don't have anything, not one cent, then I thank God, who knows it well and wants to test us: *etiamsi occiderit me, in ipso sperabo*.³⁷ Goodbye, dear Father. My love to the Fathers and Brothers.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

Feb 22 <i>Conf. Ser: On mortification.</i>
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926

CO 926

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 21/104)

Paris, February 25, 1860

Dear Lady and dear sister in our Lord,

This morning I saw the Bishop of Nantes at 10:00. I was very pleased to meet such a devout and friendly Bishop. We had a great deal to talk about; our little Society, its purpose, its works. He listened to me sympathetically. When we parted he told me that he hoped that our Society would work in his diocese some day. In everything his Excellency told me, I could see that our Work would correspond to his spiritual [inclinations]; his Vicar General also seemed interested.

So, dear lady, the first step has been taken. You will take the second if God so inspires you; and if he wants us in Nantes his kindness will provide us with the means. I was told that there is a beautiful chapel which is free and would be suitable for adoration: the one at the Oratory.

It would truly be Providential if we began Exposition in Nantes during this year. We would begin with six people, as at Marseilles. This number is sufficient for daily adoration.

I received a letter from Miss Aglae de Martel who was asking about the Aggregation. Perhaps she might become interested in the Work?

What a grace for Nantes, if it were God's will! We are discerning whether we should start with Lyons or Nantes. A few smaller cities would like us to come, but as I told the Bishop, we would prefer the large cities, in order to have influence over a greater area.

Mme. George, a fine lady, died about 10 days ago, with a most gentle and strong trust in God's mercy. She was pleased with your letter and your friendship. In her great desire to be one with God and no longer offend him she said to me: "Father, tell me that I will die soon. Oh! How happy I would be if you would tell me that I will die today! I have really offended God, but he is so good that I trust in his infinite mercy." Then, when some fears would come to disturb her soul, she would cry out: "Oh Mary! Mary! My dear Mother! I trust in you, in you who are so kind, you whom I have loved, and whom I love. No, you will not forsake me." Then she would say to me: "I am afraid that the Blessed Virgin no longer loves me. - Why? - Because I can no longer recite the

³⁷ Even if he killed me, I would trust in him.

Office of the Immaculate Conception now. Is that a sin for me? Eight years ago I promised the Blessed Virgin to say her Office every day, until my death, and I have always said it.” “No, no,” I told her, “your condition dispenses you from it and so do I.” Then I gave her a short prayer to say. “So then, you believe that Mary still loves me?” - “Oh yes, and very much.” Then, this poor dying woman who could no longer make herself heard, unless we leaned very close to her, raised her hands toward heaven, and cried out in a voice which could be heard throughout the house: “Oh Mary! Mary! My dear Mother, my hope, yes, those who call upon you will never be forsaken. Help me at this time, defend me against my enemies. I will owe my salvation to you. I love you. Oh yes, I love you.” As she said this she fell back into her state of agony, and she died a few hours later. Oh what a happy death!

I’ve just returned from Tours where I preached the Forty Hours for my friend Mr. Dupont’s adoration group. That explains my delay. I thought about you. If only you had been just a few hours away, I would have gone to see you.

I can’t tell you yet whether I’ll be here at Easter. I’ll write to tell you later.

Goodbye, dear lady and dear sister in our Lord. Love our Lord very much and be fully given to his glory.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, S.

I’ve just received your letter. Thank you. Pray, and go directly to the Bishop. See whether there is any hope. I will gladly make the trip to Nantes to assess the possibilities. I feel something in the depths of my heart which pushes me strongly toward Nantes. Well then, long live Nantes in our Lord!

927

CO 927

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 39/76)

Paris, February 27, 1860

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your kind letter. I really wanted to receive news from you. It’s true that I am late with you. I offered my wishes³⁸ for you at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament, and you know what I wish for you, the love of our Lord, that is, a simple childlike surrendering love; a love which keeps nothing for self, which does nothing for self, which wants nothing for itself from anyone on the human level. Oh! happy the soul who loves in this way, for whom Jesus is every good, every joy, every desire!

Dear daughter, be like the blind man, the paralytic, God’s own beggar, and you will live by Jesus Christ. May my wishes for you also include your dear daughter. She hasn’t given me any sign of life for a long time. As for the letter of Fr. M., it made me happy to read it. Through his words we can perceive a devout soul which belongs entirely to God, but which is embarrassed to make a request. Now, about the money, if it weren’t Fr. Mayet who was telling you about his plans, I would say no, because the project will take place in any case. But it seems to me that there is a delicate question here. So then, make your little offering.

³⁸ New Year’s wishes.

I was hoping to see you come to Paris, but God is holding you back. May he be praised anyway! I bless you, dear daughter, as well as dear Stephanie. May God fill you with his holy love!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I was sorry that I didn't see your nephew. I would have sent him to a Polish doctor, a priest at the Cemetery of Fr. Lachaise, who has permission from the Minister to treat eye problems. We are continually praying for your father, Mr. G., and your whole family. Oh! count on the mercy of God!

Unfortunately, it is the consequence of stubbornness, your maid caused problems. So forgive failings of the heart, errors, etc., but be firm about authority.

Miss Boisson, teacher at Thorins,
Romaneche (Sane and Loire)

928

CO 800

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 50/52)³⁹

...⁴⁰

The month of St. Joseph is near. It is your dear mother's month.⁴¹ We will celebrate it as fervently as we can and place you with us at the feet of this great Saint.

Your poor mother really needs you and your influence of grace. Stay near her as if you were carrying our Lord in your hands. There is an influence of grace, just as there is an influence from nature: the first is more spiritual, but just as real... and of conformity to the divine Will.

Please don't forget me in God's presence. Your souls are always present to me in Him.

All yours in Our Lord,
Eymard, S.

<i>Feb 28</i>	<i>Conf. Ser: The month of St. Joseph (various thoughts).</i>
<i>Mar 1</i>	<i>Ret. Serv: Routine.</i>
<i>Mar 2</i>	<i>Ret. Serv: Faults.</i>

³⁹ Excerpt form a letter.

⁴⁰ No indication of date. Tentative placement.

⁴¹ Patronal month: her mother's name was Josephine.

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 2/14)

Paris, March 4, 1860

Very dear Mr. Perret,

I had begun a letter to you and a thousand and one things obliged me to put it aside. I hope this one will succeed better.

We certainly shared in your pain and sorrow over the illness and death of your dear brother. You are always the one to console everyone else, and so I hope that you will find great comfort in God's mercy, and that your brother will owe a Christian death partly to you. Then again, he was so kind, so generous toward the poor! And he suffered so. These are forerunners, initiations into the grace of salvation. We continue to pray for him.

So, dear Mr. Perret, you have been ill. This made me very sad because I know very well that you have responsibilities for the family, and here we would have been so happy to see you and heal you quickly. - I think that you are bedridden because of so many painful emotions and night vigils.

We will pray so that you can come back to us quickly; you have been away from us for so long! You will find good friends and brothers here: Mr. Chanuet, Fr. Bissey with a golden heart, and others. Now our Exposition takes place all day, every day. Our only ambition is to see it perpetual, day and night.

We are 11 here and 6 in Marseilles. I would have liked to found the third house in Lyons, Mary's city, at the feet of prayerful Fourviere, where I received so many graces! and especially the first thought of the Work of the Blessed Sacrament, but it seems that our good Master doesn't want it, and then, His Eminence of Lyons doesn't want it.

The Work of First Communion continues to grow, 63 children plus 4 older adults, and weddings to perform.

35 children are preparing for First Communion at Easter - They are well-behaved. The lotteries always perform miracles; the good points are like gold from California. Mr. LeRebours found 300 francs to help us dress the children, but it will not be enough.

If only you were here, good papa Perret! This is your work, you sowed and watered it! See how God is blessing it. We prepared guidelines for the Work. It is new. I am sending you a copy. Mr. Prevel liked it.

Give us news about yourself or have someone tell us how you are, RSVP.

I am very fondly and devotedly yours in our Lord, dear friend and brother.

Eymard, Sup.

P.S. News! A few days ago they told me: The porter is gone with the watch, money, Masses etc... It seems that we are meant to be poor. - I ran to your house, the gates were well closed - the Angel was watching over them. - I saw your shoe repairman.

Mr. Louis Perret, Architect
8 Quai de l'Archeveche
Lyons

<i>Mar 9</i> <i>Conf. Ser: Simplicity.</i>
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TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 22/104)

Paris, March 9, 1860

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I've just received your kind letter telling me that God's time hasn't come yet.⁴² I thanked him for letting me know so clearly. Well then, dear lady, we will prepare for it. We'll work, not at becoming greater, more numerous, more eloquent, wealthier, but more nothing in the love of our Lord. Then, when the time will have come, the doors will all open by themselves, because everything obeys our Lord.

You have been given a beautiful mission, that of prayer. It is great and all powerful. We will join with you. So, we will leave our Lord in the tomb a little while longer.

While you were working for the foundation of Nantes, we were on a small cross. A porter ran away after stealing everything he could from us. Then, not satisfied with this escape, he returned during the Office on Monday, and took everything that was left, as he pleased. Well, we must thank God again, because that poor wretch only stole things from us. Fortunately, he didn't touch the sacred vessels.

We still have Jesus. We are rich enough. But now we will have to appear before the judge, and it's naturally distasteful.

I am definitely staying in Paris during Lent. On Easter we will have a beautiful ceremony of First Communion for our adults, and I must prepare them. May God be all in all for you.

Goodbye, dear lady.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior.

Madame de Grandville
8 rue Saint-Laurent,
Nantes

TO MISS FANNY MATAGRIN
(V 5/5)

Paris, March 11, 1860

Dear Mademoiselle,

Your letter was the first from Tarare, but also the first in my heart. Thank you, thank you for your good thoughts; not for your gratitude, because I have done so little for you! But I hope it will be an account [from which you draw.]

⁴² For a foundation in Nantes.

You really pleased my heart when you told me that adoration is going well and has increased a little. It is truly the royal work, from which all the others flow, and it is the grace and purpose of them all. So, dear Mademoiselle, continue to be very committed to it. It's the duty of the Angels.

When you find the time is right with the Pastor, we will go to give a good eucharistic retreat. But we would need to give it a full week, to do something a little solid and consistent.

Mme. Tholin writes these words to me from Toulon (where she is convalescing): "This is what Fr. Duffieux from St. Chamond wrote me: For some time I have been hoping for Fr. Eymard's visit. Please assure him, when you have the opportunity, of my respect and sincere affection."

So, you see, everything is not lost and unfortunately I am not yet on the path of canonization.

But now, let's talk about you, that would be better.

The holy will of God at every moment, as indicated by necessity, is the greatest grace. It's worth more than any work of zeal, than holy Communion itself, because it is our holiness. When you cannot go to beg the bread of life, then, receive Communion spiritually in order to maintain a hunger and thirst for God, and your soul longs for the gift of his love, while remaining where you are like St. John the Baptist.

Accomplish your vocal prayers as a duty, that's all, but be faithful to prayer of the heart. That will always have more feeling, because it expresses the present feelings of your soul.

Get as close to an interior life of union with God as you can, by uniting your heart and by the adherence of your will to whatever God wants for you at each moment. That's the fountain of love which gives and love which receives.

How sad I was that I didn't know that good Fleury was at Tarare! I would have been happy to see him, but I will make up for it by praying for him.

My health is good enough, since I keep going, and I am working more than the others. So, I must be well.

My faithful greetings to your good devout sister, to Mme. Duttrel, and believe me very sincerely one with you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

932

CO 931

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST

(IV 39/52)

Paris, March 12, 1860

Dear sister in our Lord,

I am upset with myself for having neglected you so long! though your charity forgives me. So, we need to forgive something.

Our good Master sometimes visits us with his grace from Calvary, but also with the strength of his love. It's good to see this divine love lighten his Cross. This dear daughter⁴³ must come to us from Heaven, otherwise we would remain quietly on Mt. Tabor.

Things pass quickly: the sun is more beautiful after the storm, when the clouds have passed.

I didn't write to you about Alger, dear daughter. Nothing was clear to me.

Your good sister, who can travel free, would do better to come to see you in Toulon.

I am sending you the two flyers requested for St. Chamond.

⁴³ The Cross.

I was perhaps wrong to send a certificate to the Pastor of St. Peter's to associate adorers. My only consideration in all of it was the spiritual welfare of souls and a pledge of friendship toward this kind Pastor. Does he see it as a search for an invitation or does he feel a need to be reserved because of the Marist Fathers? May God be praised for everything!

I'm happy to know that you are getting better and are at home. Mr. Tholin must have been happy to see your health improve.

Yes, dear daughter, there is still much to do in this world; Heaven is eternal, but this life of Calvary is passing.

Be good and write to me without fear of disturbing me. You know how happy I am to receive news about you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mme. Tholin
at Mr. Dalaca's, Restaurant keeper
rue Bourbon
Toulon

933

CO 932

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

(I 60/181 VI 4)

Paris, March 13, 1860

Very dear Father,

Your letter reassured me a little. I can see that you are ill, and very ill. I won't tell you: take care of yourself, take care of your health, do only what you think is prudent for you to do: that would all be true, and both friendship and charity require it. But I'll go further, I tell you: find your strength in our Lord. You are a poor invalid serving the Good Master, and everything must serve his honor, just like old veterans who honor their King.

For my part, I ask our Lord to spare you, so that you may work yet a while. On the battlefield we need all our soldiers; and each one must devote himself until death. Obey what your condition requires.

Now about your errands:

The candles have been ordered as you wish. Here enclosed is the bill for your purple vestment; I deposited the money for a hundred and twenty Masses.

Really, that poor Mr. Picard has no brains. I went to see him and he said: "The first shipment left by freight. I will send the other by freight as far as Lyons; (from Lyons) to Marseilles by express. It won't cost much and we will gain eight days."

It's really distressing, it's finished with him. We will go elsewhere for your things; at least we will be served better and more properly.

I'm pleased with your plan to send Fr. Leroyer here for profession, but only one month before. You need him, and one month here will be enough for him. He will have a Eucharistic month and be the first one.

Therefore, I will send you Father Clavel. I'll send him ahead of time so that he may have time to be trained. This dear Father has improved a lot. He is broadening out and beginning to do a great deal of good. However, as long as you have a breath of life, good Father, your shadow must

be the Superior, unless our Lord says the opposite twice over. It isn't talent, nor human prudence, nor virtue that makes a good Superior, but obedience and trust in one's grace of state.

Have cells made on the south side when you can. Then our Lord will pay for them and fill them.

I wasn't able to see the Bishop of Marseilles yet. You know how many times you had to go sometimes.

You didn't tell me anything about Fr. Golliet! Is it because things aren't going well, won't go well? Is he just a Mr. Huan?⁴⁴ That frightens me. Thank you for your remittance from the Legion of Honor. It arrived just in time, as divine Providence always does, letting me wait until my last penny.

At the city hall of Observatory (which is ours now), I was told, as at the Pantheon, that you need only to go to the city hall in Marseilles with the note I'm sending you, and you will be paid there.

I'll write to Fr. Leroyer soon.

Everyone embraces you.

All yours,
Eymard

934

CO 933

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 23/104)

Paris, March 13, 1860

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I've just received your letter and offering at this very moment: may Jesus repay you. I will also pay daily interests,⁴⁵ because I feel how pleasant and sacred is my debt toward you.

Yes, there is still hope that we will go to Nantes. That is always how our Lord acts toward us and through us. The foundation is already written in Heaven. I've made my plans: you will be the first associate and the first sister.

When we are ready, I'll write to tell you, and you'll see how simple things are for the Master and how all the doors will open when he arrives.

I asked St. Joseph for one year. It will be his foundation and his cenacle.

Don't come to Paris yet, the weather is too nasty. It's already something that you can lessen negative things. What is positive takes place in heaven at the same time, but you don't have to see it.

Dear daughter, love and put wood on the fire.

You can begin getting the furnishings for the foundation of St. Joseph with sacred linens and a few purchases for the altar. I have great confidence. Goodbye.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SS

Madame de Grandville
8 rue Saint-Laurent,
Nantes, (...Loire)

⁴⁴ Name of a candidate who had left at the beginning of the foundation. cf Doc. 732.

⁴⁵ Through prayer.

<i>Mar 14</i> <i>Conference Servants: We must cling to our Lord more than to his gifts.</i>

935

CO 934

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET

(VII 3/14)

Paris, March 14, 1860

Very dear Mr. Perret,

Are you feeling better? We hope so - we are praying very much for your prompt and complete recovery because there is so much good for you to do. However, since I have received no news after the [first] one telling me you were ill, we are quite worried, and if Lyons were not so far, or if we could heal you, we would come to you right away.

Very dear papa Perret, kindly have the charity to send me or have someone send news about you to your children⁴⁶ and friends - who are waiting and counting the days until you arrive.

The little, rather, the large catechism family is still increasing - 63.

The children for Easter First Communions are well-behaved. Now it is really a family.

The gentlemen of St. Vincent de Paul always come to help us.

But now it's time to clothe them. I do go to beg a little for them, but I know so few people. - However, I have 5 pledges.

God will come to our help.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Very dear Mr. Perret,

All yours,
Eymard

936

CO 935

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 113/145 VI 10)

Paris, March 15, 1860

Very dear sisters,

If I wrote to you as often as I think of you, you would often receive letters from me, for you are my only family on earth, and I love La Mure because of you. So, if you should die before me, I would go to La Mure only to cry.

I must admit that I really want to see you. Perhaps our Lord will grant me this opportunity in his divine goodness, but I don't know when and how. We must entrust it to his divine Providence.

You must be suffering a lot from the extreme cold, so, dear sister, you must stay at home more when you are unsure of the weather or when you are not well. Avoid sudden changes from hot to cold; that has always been your great problem. Though we all must do penance, nevertheless, you should spare yourself in regard to penance and to your weakness. Let Nanette do a little more.

⁴⁶ The First Communicants in Paris.

And you good Nanette, like the heart, you never stop; that is fine. St. Martha will receive you gladly in Paradise. But don't wear yourself out too quickly because each of you must live as long as the other.

As for the will, I don't know what should be done, except that you simply put me in both of yours. Here I have made mine in your favor, both of you. On that point consult Mr. Arnaud, or better, don't mention me in it.

Everything is going well in Paris; we always have much to do; our beautiful Work is still giving us great consolation and could keep a hundred people busy. Our house in Marseilles is going well and doing much good. We are now seventeen.

These good women are fine;⁴⁷ Sister Benoite is always the crucified one; what an extraordinary person! I don't know whether there is anyone like her; what is admirable is that she is not aware of her graces and gifts.

Pray very much for us. Goodbye, good sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

Please forward this letter as addressed. Send me the name of the military person you spoke of and a certificate about his mother's poverty and infirmity, signed by the Mayor, and one from the doctor, if possible.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
la Mure d'Isere

<i>Mar 16</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Self-love.</i>
<i>Mar 19</i>	<i>Conference Servants: The knowledge of our Lord.</i>
<i>Mar 20</i>	<i>Conference Servants: St. Gabriel. It is difficult to be recollected. The best adoration.</i>
<i>Mar 23</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Adoration.</i>
<i>Apr 3</i>	<i>Conference Servants: The last days of Holy Week.</i>

937

CO 936

TO CARDINAL MORLOT, (PARIS)⁴⁸
(VI 2/4)

Eminence,

Bishop de Langalerie, Bishop of Belley, by the enclosed permissory letters of March 18, 1860, authorizes Fr. Marie-Michel Chanuet, a priest of his diocese and a member of our Congregation, to receive the Tonsure and all the Sacred Orders at the hand of Your Eminence or any Bishop delegated by yourself. The undersigned Superior of the above-mentioned Congregation requests Your Eminence to kindly delegate for the Tonsure Bishop Sarra⁴⁹ Jean-Marie Benoit, Bishop of Perth in Western Australia, who is passing through Paris; and also to allow him to confirm the young workers for First Communion, who number 45.

⁴⁷ the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

⁴⁸ Approved and signed as follows: Fiat ut petitur
die 3a Aprilis 60
S. Buquet

⁴⁹ Is it Bishop Serra, cf Doc. 939.

It is with the deepest respect that I am happy to be, Your Eminence,

Your most humble and devoted son in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

Paris
April 3, 1860
fg St. Jacques 68

938

CO 937

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 24/26 VII 17)

Holy Saturday 1860⁵⁰

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in J.C.,

I greet you with the first Alleluia and wish you a Happy Easter! Your Lent is long and excruciating, always in prison with your cross,⁵¹ but how good and beautiful Easter in Heaven will be! Desire it with all your heart for it is truth without a cloud, goodness without trials, love without pain.

And yet I don't wish it for you just yet, because there is no fruit without the tree and no crown without combat. And I would not wish for your happiness yet; this is the time for great profits; since the capital of Grace is immense, the gain must be proportionate.

Take your state of health as your rule for devotions. Illness takes the place of everything, to the highest degree; the state of suffering counts for much; let that be the weight in the scale.

The Holy Will of God at a given moment: that is the best timepiece!

You mention a retreat with me later - you may count upon my heart for that - for it [my heart] would be happy to help you. -

I saw Mme. Spazzier here one day; she came to Nancy with a lady from Hyeres. She returned to Hyeres yesterday at 11 a.m., where she is to stay another month.

I continue to think that the religious life is not her vocation - I advised her to settle at Notre Dame de Laus, where, with her small income, she could live simply and piously, but I told her to think about it further.

I have seen the good Lady from Leusse - with the greatest pleasure - what a beautiful soul!

I have not yet given Sr. Pauline your document. I found her address only these last few days.

I would be pleased to meet the holy Priest from Valence whom you mention, but let's wait until he has more time. I don't usually believe in that excuse of lack of time when something important is involved, since I reproach myself, with good cause in such matters; I have been very lazy in this regard. We waste so much time on trivial things.

Tomorrow we are having the First Communion for 36 adults - what a fine harvest! and on Quasimodo Sunday,⁵² 45 to be Confirmed. How good the Lord is to console us like this!

Our house in Marseilles is doing wonderful things - it is enough to inspire a Holy⁵³ jealousy; the city of Marseilles has more fervor, even more than Lyons, where they want nothing more - not even the Forty Hours.

⁵⁰Paris, April 7, 1860.

⁵¹Perhaps she was a shut-in.

⁵²Sunday after Easter.

⁵³Capitalized in original.

Our Paris house is going well - there are 22 of us. We have exposition daily and part of the night.

We've had an adventure! We were robbed⁵⁴ by a new caretaker, by the name of Joseph Riboulet, former sergeant of prison guards in Toulon and tollkeepers in Roussillon. If ever that rascal approaches you, as he has some acquaintances, be warned - he is a crafty thief and a hypocrite - an image of our [own] wretchedness before God who has done so much more for me than I ever did for that poor devil.

I was unable to go back to see you on my way through Lyons. I had to leave suddenly when I learned that someone in the community next door was dying. - God cured her.⁵⁵

Goodbye, dear daughter. Alleluia.

All yours,
Eymard

939

CO 938

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 61/181 VI 4)

*Easter Monday, 1860*⁵⁶

Very dear Fr. de Cuers,

I was eager to write and wish you the Resurrection *Alleluia* or even to write to you sooner. I couldn't do so, my little migraine headaches come back in the spring, and in this state I am lazy and stupid.

We've been crushed with work, yet very happy. Yesterday on the holy day of Easter, thirty-three young workmen made their First Communion in our chapel, along with three girls.

Bishop Serra, Bishop of New Holland, came in the morning to Confirm them and conferred the tonsure on Mr. Chanuet. If you have seen the Bishop of Marseilles, His Excellency must have told you about his visit to our house, and that he conferred the tonsure on Mr. Carri on Passion Sunday. So now we have two additional clerics.

During my stay at Marseilles, Fr. Champion had temporarily taken a sergeant tailor from the Dauphin; we had ended by making him a porter. He seemed to be devoted and capable, then one day, during Benediction, he disappeared, taking with him a watch, money, clothing. He had the audacity to steal a second time. During the morning Office, he took all Mr. Carri's secular clothes.

That was a small trial: the worst part was that we had to appear before the commissioner, the judge of instruction, while waiting for the courts.

God be praised for everything!

Mr. Perret is still in Lyons where he lost his older brother. He writes that he will come to Paris at the end of the month; in Lyons he took up all his good works. He is a holy man.

Here everything is the same as usual. I've just had an excellent sergeant-major make a retreat of discernment. He seems to have excellent dispositions, he is intelligent, we are studying to see whether he is suitable for us.

⁵⁴ In the margin, he wrote: twice.

⁵⁵ Sr. Benoite.

⁵⁶ Probably April 9, from Paris.

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 40/76)

All for Jesus, Host of Love

Paris, April 21, 1860

I'm sorry that I made you wait for my reply, dear daughter. I had forgotten.

1. Don't commit yourself to the request on your own or in your own name, without consulting Mr. G., for many reasons which you can understand. If he says no, definitely no, consider it as a sign from Heaven. However, you can still present the reasons in favor.

2. If the answer is no, you can make it known while expressing your good will for a later date.

3. Dear daughter, although the Blessed Sacrament is your royal dwelling and your abode of love, since you are still living a social life you have social responsibilities and duties which cannot appropriately be left aside. In that case (if you cannot do otherwise) you must consider what is suitable to your situation, your submission and peace, and do for the best.

4. I was happy to learn that your father fulfilled his Easter duties on Wednesday. May God be praised and may he bring to completion what his divine mercy has begun so well! The time which followed the conversion was a time of great grace: it's the time to plant seeds for Heaven.

If he had died immediately after his confession, there was no doubt to hope for his salvation; but while he is living under the influence of sanctifying grace, he can praise God and beautify his crown.

Dear daughter, love our Lord very much, for he loves you so. Belong entirely to him, in your intentions, actions, and suffering. It's only right! Constantly give yourself again and again to his love. That is the sign of true love.

May God be everything in you!

Goodbye dear daughter.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Read my letter to Miss Stephanie.

Apr 18	<i>Conference Servants: The different lives of our Lord.</i>
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TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 27/52)

April 21, 1860

Miss Stephanie

Finally, dear daughter, I have a few words from you! But you are easily excused since you are at the service of everyone and since our good Master is your all. It is the greatest consolation I can have to see or hear that my spiritual children use every means to go to God and belong to him independently of everything else. Yes, use everything as a means, rest only in Jesus. Be available for everything like a servant, but belong only to your one Master and Lord Jesus.

Listen to the Angel who speaks God's words to you, but esteem and love him only as a minister of Jesus the King, who alone must live, reign and find pleasure in your heart.

However, I do regret the loss of your curate, for I see that he was good and prudent for your soul. If he were to stay, I would tell you: Continue with him. But since he is leaving, see whether the Pastor will help your soul remain in peace and be free in its duties and in God.

I can't remember the book I wanted to recommend to you, unless it is a book about the Blessed Sacrament. I really like the meditations of Fr. Dupont on the life and mysteries of Jesus Christ, republished by Perisse, I believe, or is it by Pelagaud? However, the best book is Jesus, and the best copy is your heart united to Jesus.

In general, when you receive Communion, let holy Communion or thanksgiving be everything and replace everything. Why do you want to be introduced when you are with the King? to look for a piece of bread when the King is placing you at his divine table?

The possibility of a vicariate would be good, if that were the absolute condition to keep the Reserved Sacrament. But, as long as they leave you the Most Holy Eucharist, be happy.

Be kind, pleasant and gracious in small sacrifices, dear daughter. That is the flower of divine love.

Goodbye, I bless and leave you with Jesus.

All yours,
Eymard

<i>Apr 22</i>	<i>Conference Servants: The essence of love is suffering.</i>
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<i>Apr 24</i>	<i>Conference Servants: The mystery of suffering, the virtue and grace of suffering.</i>
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942

CO 941

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

(I 62/181 VI 4)

Paris, April 24, 1860

Very dear Father,

1. Fr. Leroyer must have told you that I received everything you had mentioned before. Thank you very much, it really came at a good time.

2. As I told you, we have exposition every day until an hour after midnight, except Wednesdays and Saturdays, when it ends at 9:00 p.m., to clean the chapel. When will it be perpetual? The Master must pay for the increase of candles and feed his new soldiers.

3. Kindly mail me (postpaid) 6 bound offices of the Blessed Sacrament from Chauffard, addressed to Miss Guillot, Marguerite, rue du Juge de paix 17, Fourviere-Lyons. I will inform you of the cost.

4. I'm happy about the good news from Marseilles. Nothing can please me or console me more than to see our Good Master rise and reign.

I'd like to see your church built in gold, and your vestments be the most beautiful in the world; a daughter is always adorned more richly.⁵⁷

5. I'm sending you my letter to Mr. Golliet, it's final and sad. He also was only a temporary worker and not a son of the family.

6. If he makes his decision immediately, write to me and I will send you Fr. Clavel sooner.

Nothing new here, everyone is working and very busy. May God be praised!

⁵⁷ Marseilles should be more beautiful than Paris.

I can't tell you how pleased we are with your letters and how much your courage for the service of our Good Master does me good. In him I am,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

943

CO 942

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 14/19)

Paris, April 24, 1860

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I have just received the letter from the fine Fr. Superior at Laus; I am sending it to you; surely the conditions are very minimal. You will see when you get there. There is also a large house below with a big garden; you are familiar with it. With 100 fr. you will be able to manage, and 400 fr. for your maintenance.

It seems to me that a secluded life near a religious group and a man of God like Fr. Blachard is an attractive situation from the point of view of your salvation.

I don't have any other insights, dear daughter, except to see the suitability of your desires, as you cannot and do not want to be a boarder in a convent.

Because to be next to the Ladies here without being part of them,⁵⁸ would always be [a cause of] inexpressible suffering. - It's better to avoid that.

I believe that you will find a way to keep busy and be helpful at Laus and if I can find some designs for small holy cards here - as I hope, everything will go well.-

I didn't say anything about your plan to Mme. de Prailly except to tell you that I had written to Laus. As I was expecting the reply any day, I didn't want to write twice.

Continue your little exercises and meditation as Miss G. had told you, but without being a slave to them. We must follow the attraction of grace at the time.

Try to come to Gap on the day there is a coach for Laus. I think it will be in service throughout the month of May.

May God bless and accompany you, dear daughter. In his divine love, I am

All yours,
Eymard, Sup. S.

Madame
Mme. Isabelle Spazzier
8 rue Massilon, Maison Giraud
Hyerès (Var)

⁵⁸ She had been dismissed from the community.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 114/145 VI 10)

Paris, April 25, 1860

Very dear sisters,

I am still a little lazy. But I hope you will forgive me in your charity for it isn't ill will. There are times when one is so busy, like Easter time.

I received the answer from the Emperor's chamberlain saying that the petition had been returned by the Minister of War to the general of Corporal Oddoux's division. I have also been told that this matter is going well. Please tell Bethoux the postman that I am taking care of his business matter.

I will write to Madame the Countess d'Harenc about her little niece. If she can no longer stay at the convent because of her age, she should learn a trade in Lyons.

I am fine, our little Society is progressing well. We are eighteen adorers.

I don't know when I'll be able to go see you. I'm like the birds who don't know where they will fly to on the morrow, nor even one hour in advance.

I would love to go kiss the rock of Notre Dame de La Salette and the stalls of the church of Laus; but as God wills.

I will reproach Miss Guillot, because I had made her responsible to give you detailed news about us. She is also very busy.

You have no idea what life in Paris is like and how busy one is in every way; there are so many people!

Spring is coming, dear sisters, be on the watch against pleurisy; at least, take care of your weak health; as for me, the Good Lord is taking care of it.

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

Your very affectionate brother,
Eymard, Sup.

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 24/104)

Paris, April 26, 1860

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I have a few moments to give you now. We have been very busy with a beautiful and very touching First Communion day for our adult workers; 36 on the holy day of Easter. Well, to prepare this large family worthily for the royal banquet, we had to devote ourselves totally to it. Now we are beginning to prepare about 30 others for the feast of the Assumption. It is a beautiful mission which is hard, naturally speaking.⁵⁹ It's repugnant to a self-seeking person, but faith makes it so beautiful and love so pleasant!

⁵⁹ Literally: goes against nature.

I expect to be absent, only for the Feast of the Holy Trinity, from June 3rd to the 10th, when I will be giving a retreat of adoration at Rouen.

The Archbishop wants to know about our Work and wants to see me. If Rouen were close to Nantes, I would tell you: come to this retreat.

So you are beginning St. Joseph's preparations, to lodge our Lord a year from now.⁶⁰ You don't really seem to believe it. It's because you don't put your trust in people; you would be right if our foundation were based on them, but that isn't where to start. The wind goes where God pushes it, and everything which is on the path of the heavenly wind moves with it. And so it must, unless it be a rock... and even the rock obeys God.

Well, what about you, dear daughter, what are you doing? Are you loving God dearly, this Good Lord who loves you so much? you, whom he is choosing in his love from among all the daughters of Israel! who has become your sun, your feast, your daily life! May this divine sun itself remove the frost covering over your actions and your faults! It will happen faster that way. May this royal feast be the joy of your soul, have none other. May your life be like the life of the branch and the vine, like the lily's flower, like the fruit of love.... When rays penetrate crystal, it becomes full of light. Then why do we remain opaque in the presence of this sun, always cold when exposed to this divine flame, always numb under the action of divine power? It's because we are still sick, still bound by things, full of ill-will which troubles our spirit and makes us falter. Oh! pool of Siloam, this is the remedy for all evils! Jesus is this bath, this life.

If Nantes were as close as Orleans, I would have gone to see you, because it's been a century since I've seen you... but we must wait for the time to come and go and orders to leave.

Goodbye dear daughter! You are always very dear to me in the Eucharist and united in our Lord in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

946

CO 945

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 35/75)

Paris, April 26, 1860

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

It has been so long since I've written you anything! First of all, thank you for sending the Masses and for the Blessed Sacrament. The cope is made and is honoring our Lord.

I wanted to write to you through your niece. I couldn't do so; I chose to wait for a more quiet moment.

I was told that Joseph Riboulet (from Roussillon), our thief, was jailed in Lyons. It seems this was not his first attempt.

We had a very interesting First Communion at Easter with 36 of our neglected children. They were well prepared and I hope that our Lord was pleased with these little hearts. Now we are preparing about 30 for the Assumption. Paris is a "*refugium peccatorum*,"⁶¹ where, I believe, the devil sends everything he finds elsewhere.

Here we are moving with joy and happiness toward the fulfillment of our royal purpose: perpetual adoration. Exposition takes place each day. Adoration continues until one in the

⁶⁰ Plans for a foundation.

⁶¹ Refuge of sinners.

morning. See how kind our good Master is to increase our graces and to remain on his throne of love at night, just for us!

So, I do place you there at his feet, as my eldest daughter and dear sister in our Lord, also your dear Mathilde and all your loved ones. It's only right since it was promised.

Soon you will be going to care for your silkworms. Why aren't they succeeding any more? The devil is in it.

I just had this thought: Promise to tithe to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the King. If he gives you a wonderful harvest, what would you fear? Either way, you will gain.

So, don't get discouraged.

The month of May has come, the month of mothers and children. Honor the Blessed Virgin a little more as a model adorer, and in the last period in her life in the Cenacle.

Don't always stay behind at Nazareth, when the Blessed Virgin is in Jerusalem and at the Cenacle.

You will soon receive a copy of the Office of the Most Blessed Sacrament. It is on the way.

When will I see you? I don't know. I can understand and really accept the reasons which have made you the keeper of the house.

It is the religion of duty and charity; very well!

The Good Lord is involved with events, it is his struggle;⁶² who can overcome him? We will regain lost authority, the basic principle of our faith, who is the Pope.

Temporal considerations are only a pretext in this case, be sure of it. Secret societies wanted to cancel [him] out by divesting [him] to chase [him] by dispossessing [him]. I am aware of admissions and principles which would be an eye-opener for many people.

Goodbye dear daughter, you know how united I am to you in our Lord.

Eymard

947

CO 946

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

(I 63/181 VI 4)

Paris, April 29, 1860

Very dear Father,

1. I'm sending you the answer to Mr. Golliet's letter. I excuse him, because in this case he didn't understand the meaning of certain terms. However, I want to teach a lesson to whoever wouldn't be honest with the Society and would seek something other than its purpose. Yes, whoever comes into this Society for human motives will either be sent away or suffer a great deal because of it.

2. I'll send you Fr. Clavel as soon as possible, he is arranging his things. He'll arrive there this week.

3. About the 30-year-old priest:

1) First of all, ask him whether his Bishop will give him a dimissory letter or a dismissal. If it is a dismissal, don't accept him. It's a bad sign.

2) See if he has selfish motives; I don't like such pressure.

3) If he gives some hope of a good vocation, you could study him more closely during a few days of retreat.

⁶² Socio-political events.

4. About the habit for the brothers who go out. My feeling is that they should have a little cassock which closes in front, replacing a sweater; a straight collar like one on a cassock. On this little cassock we could put half a cassock going down to the bottom, from the belt. That way the extern brothers won't constantly need to change: a round hat, black pants, a white collar in the house.

5. Brother Carri will write to you; he is burdened with work, his theology, his Latin, his children, his sacristy. He promised me he would write to you soon.

6. Mr. Golliet could go to Corsica with the help of Mr. Meynier. Mr. Meynier knows the Bishop personally.

Everyone embraces you in *osculo sancto* [with a holy kiss].

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

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

948

CO 947

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 40/52)

Paris, April 29, 1860

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I fully share in the new cross which our Lord is offering to you. I understand how it must touch you. Fortunately, you belong entirely to our good Master and his beloved will. You know that everything is weighed in the scales of divine Goodness.

Live a bit on your savings; economize the strength you recovered under the Southern sun. Alas! Poor daughter, your soul is a field in which everyone comes to furrow a row and God throws into it a seed for eternal life.

Tell your dear father that I am praying for him, your dear brother that I love him even more, your fine husband that I am devoted to him. - And as for you, dear lady, believe that I am ever, in union with our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

P.S. Mr. Favrel has just told me that God has called your dear devout father to himself. May Heaven be his dwelling and Jesus Christ his crown! Be consoled by your hope, dear Madame. Let it be a consolation that you were able to assist him until his last breath. I will pray for him and for all of you.

Mme. Tholin-Bost
Amplepuis (Rhône)

TO MISS JENNY GAUDIOZ
(VII 2/3)⁶³

Paris, April 29, 1860

Very dear sister in our Lord,

Your dear letter of the 13th is here, claiming its turn. It would have been first, before everything else, if I could have found a moment, but the Paschal season and an excess of work prevented me from answering you until now.

Dear daughter, I am pleased with your happiness. We are always fine where the Good Lord wants us and blesses us - we would be unhappy elsewhere, even if it were in an earthly paradise. I am not surprised that you are happy in that holy and gracious Community of the Sacred Heart where Jesus is love and glory, where adoration follows upon action. You must desire only one thing, it is the confirmation of your vocation. The holy habit is long in coming! and yet you have the first habit, which is the one of total gift of self to God and the joy of his service.

Yes, dear daughter, give to God unconditionally, as a perpetual annuity, and you will lose nothing. Remember that religious life is the hell of sin, the Purgatory of mediocrity, the Paradise of love.

To be truly happy here, we must will only the greater service of God by death to self. Then, when self-love finds no more sustenance, no more escape, it surrenders, it is easily replaced by love for humility, charity and Holy Love.

I don't know whether your dear sister Marie is thinking of the religious life. At least, I don't believe she is thinking of her Aunt's, which is beautiful in God's sight, but is nothing in the sight of men because one must die before bearing fruit.

Your aunts are well. Sr. Benoite is well. I see them in passing. I have so much to do, that I can hardly do the essentials.

I was very sorry that I could not see you when I passed through Lyons. I was so taken up by errands and the bad weather that I hardly saw anyone.

Friendly regards to your fine gracious parents, to your Sister Marie.

Especially, do not forget to remember me to your Rev. Mother Superior and her charity toward me. I always keep in my heart that precious memory of my visit to Sacred Heart where the love of God is breathed so purely. I bless you, dear daughter, and I am in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

⁶³ Niece of Marguerite Guillot.