

CHAPTER V

LA SEYNE-SUR-MER PART I 1851 - 1852

Director of the Boarding School

**Spiritual Correspondence with Members of the
Third Order of Mary - Lyons**

Chaplain to the Navy and prisoners

Coup d'Etat - Uprisings (continued)

Spiritual Guide to Adoration of Toulon

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 65/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, near Toulon (Var), August 7, 1851

I am writing, dear daughter, to give you news about myself, and tell you that I will be staying here through obedience until the end of the month of August to organize a new house. I didn't expect it, but the Good Lord awaited me here, and I am here, as at Lyons, with his holy grace and his eucharistic presence. I am very quiet here, knowing almost no one. I'm busy with material things, repairs, etc... However, I'm often thinking about Lyons and the little house of St. Joseph.¹ I pray for everyone, especially for you, in order that our good Master may carry you in times of weakness, sustain you in frustrations, be your strength and your love in everything. May your faith keep you ever mindful of the love and mercy of our Lord; let it be your life. I hope that in his kindness our Lord will never abandon you.

While I was praying for you particularly during these last few days, a strong thought came to me, to advise you to confess to Fr. Rousselon during my absence. He is Miss Jaricot's chaplain, a holy priest who is very spiritual and very learned in the ways of God. Go to him with confidence. Since I am sending you, he will not refuse you. Tell him whatever you can, without trying to explain the state of your soul to him; tell him your temptations. That will be enough for him to know you, but be sure to tell him how I am directing you and what I want from you, as regards Holy Communion. In your sensitivity of conscience, you are dispensed from explanations. You are like a sick person who can hardly speak, but the Good Lord sees the feelings of the heart.

I also recommend that your sisters go to this fine priest. It would be too long to wait for my return.

What else could you desire, my dear daughter, other than God's holy will? For it is that adorable will which is keeping me here and requires this sacrifice from you. Our Good Master is ever kind and deserving of our love in all things. How happy we are to find God everywhere, to be able to live always in him; there are no more foreign lands then, no more separations! God is all in all.

I was truly sorry that I wasn't able to see Mme. but the Good Lord hasn't yet willed it. So be it.

My best wishes to your whole family, to your dear mother. May she bear everything for the love of God; to Miss Mariette, may she work generously for God and consider herself fortunate to be the Martha of the house; to Miss Claudine, a simple and filial love for Jesus in Nazareth and on Calvary; to Miss Jenny, trust and surrender to whatever God may send: and to you, poor, deaf, blind and mute in the service of our Lord, let yourself be led where he wills and as he wills.

I bless you all in our Lord,
Eymard

And your number?

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

¹ Reference to the Guillot family.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 10/33)

La-Seyne, August 8, 1851

Madame,

Man proposes and God disposes. I am still here at La-Seyne. I expected to stay only a few days, but I must stay until the end of August. God wills it, so do I, and so do you.

How many times I asked God to watch over you and to strengthen you in your good desires, to form in you his spirit of love and holiness! You are made for him. Human beings may tease your heart for a moment, distract your mind, but never fill or satisfy them!

This is the sure and necessary way: go to God by self-detachment, by the sacrifice of your whole life. Evangelical Holiness consists only in immolation, a holocaust, death and life joined in love crucified and crucifying. Well Madame, you know that God is calling you to him by this path. It is very steep, sometimes very thorny, very frightening. But how beautiful to the eyes of love, was Jesus in that sad garden, humiliated in Jerusalem, climbing Calvary in pain and letting himself be consumed there in love. Love is always a martyrdom, but the flame of sacrifice is always love.

Courage, my daughter. Let us not stop on the way. Let's not look too far ahead; it's a mystery. Let's not dwell in our crosses and trials, but in Jesus with our crosses. Remember that God asks only for our will, that is his throne. The rest is the battlefield.

My daughter, let me repeat to you once more, a thousand times more! Ignore lightning and thunder; they cannot touch you. Don't give any importance to your interior trials, in a word. Receive Communion, that is your strength, your victory and your path. You are doing it and you will [continue to] do it. A day without sunshine is like a stormy, dreary night.

Goodbye, I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. I am opening my letter to tell you that I received yours, and to tell you that it brought me joy and comfort. You are suffering a great deal, it's true! But I don't dare tell our Lord to take away your sorrows. It seems to me that it would make you barren and sadden Jesus our Master. Divine love always bears its children in sorrow. Perfect union only takes place on the cross and through the cross. So, dear daughter, forgive me if I praise only your sufferings and pray for you and your fidelity. However, ask our Lord to veil its exterior effects and if he wants your heart to be crucified, let your exterior express a gentle charity and the peace of the Holy Spirit. Let it be your secret. Let this thought: God wants this from me, be stronger than anything else. You have never been more pleasing to God than you are now.

Yes, receive Communion, and receive Communion as I have told you. Your heart is better than your head, and God wants the heart.

Embrace your dear son for me. May God always keep him docile. My fraternal affection to good Mr. Franchet.

Eymard

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 66/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, Near Toulon (Var), August 18, 1851

My dear daughter, I received your letter dated August 10. I was expecting it, but I wasn't expecting you to be suffering so much. I wish I could help you in your extraordinary state of suffering. You know my love for you. And I pray that God may make it increase even more. My suggestion that you go to Fr. Rousselon came only from this principle: as I had just received the order to stay here until September 5th from the Superior General, I felt that it would be too long. And also, it distresses me to know that you are alone, a prey to so many storms. It surely would be a great comfort for me, the greatest you could give me, to hear that you are not alone. The fear of being in a worse state after, is a suffering. In fact, you are not obliged to convey your inner state [of soul], but only your sins, .. and your sins only as you can say them, without trying to explain them. The precept of confession is very simple. We should confess ourselves as best we can at the moment, even poorly. What we ought to desire above all is the grace of absolution. This grace is the grace of God's mercy and goodness. In this way, your confession will be like the confession of the poor publican who was humbled by the awareness of his sins; or of Magdalen, humbled and weeping at the feet of our Lord, unable to express her feelings. So I can only advise you to go. And who knows? The grace of God may be awaiting you there. You know how difficult it has always been for you to change confessors. The Good Lord has his mysteries of grace and timing. So, surrender yourself a bit more to the grace of the moment.

As to your state [of soul], I have always told you, it is a divine state, where you can glorify our Lord very much by the way of inner humiliation and suffering. Don't try to reason about this state. Be satisfied to know that it isn't an obstacle to God's love. It is even the particular means God has chosen to lead you to holiness. It seems to me that this definite decision should bring you consolation. So, go into the desert, eyes closed. To see God in everything, to go to God through everything, to surrender oneself entirely to his will at every moment: that is the unchangeable Rule of a spiritual person.

Write to me. Do I need to tell you? but especially, pray for me, so that God's holy will may be fulfilled perfectly in me. I am here as I would wish you to be: living from day to day, without knowing the future. However, the Good Lord is thinking about it for me.

I continue to pray for my good daughters who become ever dearer to me, and for our beloved Third Order, and for you in particular. My respects to your dear family.

Goodbye in the Lord,
Eymard

P.S. It seems that I will be going to Lyons only around the 5th or 6th of September. If, however, it should be impossible for you to overcome your reluctance for confession, I grant you your ordinary permissions.

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

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 82/145 VI 10)

At the college of La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), August 19, 1851

Very dear sisters,

I've been here in Provence almost four weeks now and I must stay here until the 5th or 6th of September. I am having repairs done to our property. My health is good, I have no problems, and I'm very quiet here. The astonishing thing is that I'm becoming lazy and [I] don't find time to do anything; this extreme heat burdens body and spirit. I received news from the Miles Guillot; they are the same as usual. They tell me that they wrote to you.

About the Third Order and the Pastor: I advise you not to do or say anything. The Pastor is cold; he might say something which would hurt you. Let the matter drop. I will handle it myself with him. What would upset me, would be if good Fr. Pillon had to suffer because of it. Let him be careful about it and ignore all the gossip of devotees who tend to cause disunity between a Pastor and his curate. I also advise you to give up the sacristy and the church ironing if that is causing you any problems with the Pastor. Peace comes first.

Alas! It is not so much with the Pastor as with the persons who stirred him up, that we should be upset. Trials always accompany even the best things, so don't get upset over it. You belong to the Third Order; you share in all its benefits. Live quietly at home; that is the best way to be happy.

I suppose that all your repairs are finished now and that you must be resting a little. It is high time. Write to me at the address at the beginning of my letter.

I am in our Lord, dear sisters, all yours,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil

TO MR. CREUSET
(V 1/8)

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), August 19, 1851

Very dear friend,

I have just received your letter here in Toulon, and I don't want to wait until my return to reply. Your letter brought me joy in our Lord. I can agree in God's sight with everything you tell me, but my conclusion remains the same: I want you to be, and I like you to be, Master of novices. Even if it were time for a renomination, you would be my first choice. All that was said is nothing. I am not the one who said it, and I will never say it. And I must tell you that I would certainly have preferred that Mr. De Fayette keep still. There is one good thing in it: it is that you benefitted from it in God's presence, and I am benefitting from it to repeat my desire and [express] my affection.

They say you do not have the necessary qualities or virtue. So much the better! You can ask God for them and his grace will do everything and will do better. Alas! dear friend, you are

humiliated by it.. I am the one who ought to hide my face in my hands, when I see the outstanding honor which God is giving me to use me for the salvation of the souls chosen by his love. If we had to start counting, I would infinitely outdistance you in lack of ability and limitations. I console myself by telling God: I have nothing, I know nothing, I can only ruin everything. Do everything, arrange everything. And then to the Blessed Virgin: Dear Mother, it's your work; watch over it carefully.

So, dear friend, surrender to the goodness of God and the protection of the Blessed Virgin, and continue.

I was really sorry that I was not there for your August meeting, and I am really sorry that I cannot be there for the one in September. I am held here through obedience until the 5th or the 6th. No, I am mistaken: I hope to be there for the September meeting since it will be only on the 6th.

Pray for me, dear friend, so that I may not place any obstacles to the graces of God upon me. Recommend me to the prayers of your good wife, and believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Marist Priest

Mr. Creuset
Place and rue Bellecour
13, Lyons (Rhône)

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TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 67/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, Near Toulon (Var), August 22, 1851

I'm writing to give a brief answer to your last letter which, however, was so sad! Since our dear Master healed Miss Claudine, he is showing you how much he loves you, and how fatherly is his divine Providence. That was the best news you could give me, because I felt very badly about it. So your dear one is healed. Oh! how good the Good Lord is! I am looking forward to seeing her. But we shouldn't cast a shadow over this beautiful feast with tears. - How could I tell you that I am named Superior here, since all I know is that the nomination hasn't been conveyed to me, and that I'm scheduled to go to the retreat in Lyons. It's true, I know that they are looking for a Superior for La Seyne and that I'm being considered, nothing more. I leave it all to the holy will of God, without worrying about it.

So tell Miss Claudine not to upset me by being upset herself. I'll begin your novena tomorrow.

About your question: all I can advise you is not to worry. I know positively that the Superior General doesn't want to forsake the Third Order and that if he should remove me, he would probably bring someone to Lyons especially for that. Those good women become too anxious, and it would all amount to nothing. If they hold to their opinion, let them be; the Good Lord will do the rest. After you have expressed your way of thinking, be at peace.

If you see M. G. give her my respects. I'm doing the same as she is, I'm sailing under the wind of divine Providence...

Take heart! And what about kind Fr. Rousselon?² - How childish you are! Have courage now! I bless you in our Lord.

Eyd.

² He had advised her to go to Fr. Rousselon for confession Aug. 7, 1851.

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

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TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 5/28)

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), August 22, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I received your letter here in the deep south at Toulon. It came to me under this burning sky, and I am hurrying to answer so that you may not have the same temptation again.

You are sad! And with an indescribable sadness! You feel a distaste for everything. That's a very painful state. We really need God's grace to bear with ourselves in this condition. Then, what is more upsetting is that nothing consoles us or seems to strengthen us. Oh! I really understand that condition. The Good Lord makes me pass through it from time to time.

Well, believe me, we must thank God for it as if it were a great grace. Under such a press the soul is in agony, it's true; but it is in order to be clothed with new life. God lets it be weary and detaches it in order to attach it more strongly to himself.

He shows it the emptiness of everything which is not himself.

At such times of inexpressible pain, offer yourself to our Lord and tell him: "I am suffering, I am dying, but it doesn't matter. My heart and life are yours. I will love you more than my pain and sadness," and you will see a new horizon of hope and love open before you.

There is one point on which we don't agree. You don't like to be an old maid in the world, while I prefer her to an old religious, or to the most deserving mother. It is because she is both virgin and martyr at the same time. She carries the virginal banner of our Savior in the midst of a pagan or indifferent world. She is the beloved apostolic disciple. So, Mademoiselle, think as I do. An old maid is like an old imperial guard covered with the wounds of glory, resulting from a thousand and one battles. We bow respectfully in the presence of this old veteran. Well, what do you think of that? At least, console yourself with the thought that you are where God wants you to be.

I am pleased by your faithfulness to your exercises whatever the cost; only then can you say: I love God more than myself.

Please present my respectful regards to your dear sister: tell her to pray for me. As for you, I count on it.

I was happy to receive Mme. de Chatelux, your fine friend, as a professed member of the Third Order. At first, I was uncomfortable because of the presence of a woman I didn't know, who came with her.

All I have at hand is a poor holy card; I am sending it to you just the same.

I entrust you to the grace of our Lord, and I ask him to make you entirely his and to rule supremely in you.

Eymard

Mme. Tholin-Bost, Negt.³
at Tarare (Rhone)
Miss Bost, P.A.B.⁴

³ Merchant.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 11/33)

La-Seyne, August 25, 1851

Madame,

I have just received your letter expressing so much sadness and tears. My God! What troubles! When will they be lightened? Poor little boat, how shaken it is! And then, the shore is still far away and heaven is still in the shadows, and no help [forthcoming]. What a situation! What can be done? Always stay at the steering wheel, throw out the water which is seeping into the little boat, and then surrender to Providence. Madame, your little boat is safe. It cannot sink or perish. No, no, God is blessing it every moment of the day, but you are not a good passenger yet. You are too afraid. Then, your heart is dying because it can see only the sky and the desert. What can I say? Don't be too upset with it for that reason. It is suffering; it is ill. It seeks relief by complaining a little. But when it wants to go further, you must say: be quiet, my heart, you are misbehaving. You will displease your God and make yourself unhappy. For love of him, you will go no further; and for his love, you will suffer yet a little. Then this heart, which is basically so good, will surrender and return to Jesus' path, following wherever it pleases him to lead it, and it will find peace and freedom once again with strength and love.

Receive Communion, my daughter. The person who is ill needs food. Receive Communion in spite of your faults. They don't destroy the life of divine love. They only test it, purify it. Fruit which grows in a hot-house is always a bit flat and the tree which produces it, very delicate and weak. But the fruit which grows in the high winds, which ripens in its own time, is the best. Receive Communion, and our Lord will be your strength during your great trials. In great temptations we have a need, I would almost say, a real necessity for our Eucharistic Lord. It is the moment of the struggle and if Jesus seems to sleep in the midst of the storm, it is only to try our confidence. So then, be content to stay at his feet. His love never sleeps.

Poor daughter! The feeling you describe in your letter is nothing. You have given it too much importance, and especially, you have analyzed it too much. In confession say only a passing word about it.

Oh! you live too much in your heart! I wish that your heart would live entirely in the divine heart of our Lord. - "I cannot!" - Suffering is the beginning of this divine life. Fidelity in suffering is its strength and bond. Courage! You will love the Lord Jesus with your whole heart, your whole mind, your whole will, and all your strength. Both heaven and earth will praise you with me!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁴ Meaning unknown.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 68/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, Wednesday, September 3rd

Mademoiselle,

I received your letter. I'm sorry I don't have time to answer the first part: you will probably say that you haven't received anything.

About your personal question: Oh! May the Good Lord come to your help!

Yesterday, I received the order to go to Lyons for the retreat. I'm leaving tomorrow morning. I'll arrive in Lyons Saturday. I'll go see you Sunday or Monday, I hope. So, be ready. I'll be happy to see Miss Jenny.

I am deeply touched by your sister's greetings and those of your whole family. You know how much I love it in our Lord.

Goodbye, time is pressing.

Eymard,

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

At the annual retreat of the Marist Fathers in Lyons, St. Peter Julian was named Superior of the boarding school of La Seyne. The first reference to this nomination is found in his letter to Captain de Cuers, September 12, 1851. We owe to this assignment away from Lyons a treasury of the most beautiful letters of spiritual direction written by the Saint to his former directees in Lyons.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 1/181)

J.M.J.

Lyons, September 12, 1851

Dear Sir,⁵

I was very happy to receive your kind letter. I thanked God for it. You may become God's chosen one to organize this apostolic work which is so necessary for the missions and which would be so useful to the Church.

I hope you will stop in Lyons when you pass through. We would speak together here, and you would be able to discuss it with our Rev. Fr. Superior General, who knows about your letter. This project deserves consideration.

If you are staying in Toulon this year, I will have the pleasure of seeing you there. Obedience is re-assigning me to the boarding school of La Seyne. I will be there toward the end of September.

⁵ First of 181 letters addressed to Rev. Father Jean Raymond de Cuers, retired frigate Captain, later Fr. de Cuers, and first collaborator with Father Eymard in the foundation of the Institute, the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Goodbye in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, S.M.

Mr. de Cuers, frigate Captain
Place Vieux Palais, 6
Toulon

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TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 69/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, October 5, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I have time only to send you the minutes.⁶ I found them well done. However, it's too bad that they still refer to me.

The thought of you is ever present to me, and I present you all to our Lord every day. Pray for me, I need it. I'm very busy and especially very involved. My health is the same as usual.

Goodby. I'm afraid of missing the mail.

Eyd.

P.S. I'll write you a long letter, one of these days. My respects to all.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

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TO JACQUES GINOUILHAC (BISHOP OF GRENOBLE)
(VIII 1/1)

La Seyne-sur-mer, Oct. 7, 1851

Your Excellency,

It was with a deep feeling of respect and gratitude that I received the letter which Your Excellency was kind enough to write to me, offering the Society of Mary the former minor Seminary of Bourg d'Oisans: I told our Superior-General about this, and he was profoundly touched by your paternal benevolence for a Society which you blessed, Your Excellency, 16 years ago, and which, upon your Petition, Gregory XVI approved on April 26th 1836.

⁶ Minutes of the Third Order meetings.

Your name, Excellency, is inscribed in our Constitutional Brief, as perpetual proof that you are one of our first Fathers.

Our Superior-General writes me at Toulon, where I have been for several weeks, that he would be happy to respond to your gesture of confidence. He greatly regrets [however] that two new foundations which he has made this year make it impossible for him to accept your house this year. He begs you to accept his deep gratitude, and as for me, Your Excellency, I am still your son and every day I pray the God of goodness to keep you for a long time with your flock.

Bless again one who is still happy to be

Your Excellency's very humble son,
Eymard, P.S.M.

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TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 70/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), October 15, 1851

I will begin with you, my daughter in our Lord, to break such a long silence. Until this very day it wasn't possible to find a single moment for myself. Add to that, organizing a house, and the Retreat I preached to the children, etc.... so, you are the first one I am writing to. So you see, I'm not forgetting you. Oh! how could I forget my suffering family which is so loved by the Good Lord, for which he has given me a father's heart! so you are all ever present to me before God, as well as your trials and difficulties. It's my weak point. Sometimes I would like you to be without crosses, but our Lord wills it otherwise. So, may his Holy Cross be blessed, loved and glorified in us!

So here I am among children. I praise God for it, since it is his holy will which has sent me here. That's what gives me strength and a little good will. I'm trying to lock myself in here with my duties, because I'm afraid to make acquaintances. Unfortunately, it's myself I am afraid of: until now I'm still free. But there is so much to be done here! I need so much patience, prayer, and love of God! And my poor Third Order! oh! may the Good Lord bless it always and make it flourish by his holy grace! I have a weakness for it, but I would be so happy to know that it belongs entirely to God! Yet, I can only will what God wills, and if he should want it to terminate, may he also be blessed!

Now about you. About the anonymous letter: it is more a counsel than a correction; that is how you took it, fine. Since you were attacked on your strongest point, it will make you even stronger. Personally, I don't believe that that letter comes from a woman. I believe it comes from a man, from some devotee who might have heard some calumny against you, and who, through charity, would foolishly have thought to perform an act of charity. That writing is not unknown to me, but I can't remember it.

About your temptations in regard to your confession - don't trouble yourself so much. Accuse yourself in a general way about whatever may have offended God in your humiliating temptations; those against faith, charity, despair, and that will be enough, even according to the strictest theology, and following the strictest authors. Don't worry because you cannot explain yourself, give a clear account of your failings, or distinguish where guilt lies. No, no, the Good Lord doesn't ask that. Let obedience override all such concerns. Then in spite of it all, continue to receive Communion. Trials of conscience that can neither be explained nor well understood are among the greatest interior trials. God often reserves its secret for himself to maintain the person within the mystery of obedience and total submission of mind. In this crucifying state, the soul is purified of whatever is yet too natural within it. I believe this is the more perfect way that was shown you in prayer; because then interior peace no longer rests on a person's actions nor on the interior witness

of conscience, but only on a blind act of faith to obedience. Keep to this rule, my daughter. The Good Lord has left you in this state for a long time now, and he asks this sacrifice from you.

About which sins you should confess, don't worry so much. The precept for the accusation of venial sins is broad and forgiveness is easy. "But in doubt whether my sins are mortal or venial, what should I think?" - Consider them as venial always. And even if you should be troubled, ignore and pass over them. That is clear. - "But if I'm almost sure of having consented?" - Same answer. We must not judge our consent by impressions, worry, feelings, but by the judgement of the will. A concrete reason would be needed. Don't examine those troubling temptations; pass over them like burning coals.

Then, when your confessor stops you, obey very simply and don't try to come back on the matter. Make a sheer act of obedience saying: the Good Lord is satisfied with my good will.

Now, about the Third Order. I'm very happy to see that you are wholly dedicated to the Third Order of the Blessed Virgin. She will bless you for it. When you are consulted, answer as you see fit at the time. Encourage them to be calm, and not so agitated; to be content with what they have, I mean, to learn how to wait for God's time. I find that these good women are too restless.

In all matters, my dear daughter, carefully evaluate each thing. Give all the talk, complaints and worries you hear from others, I say, give them only the weight they have before God. Judge them only as God judges them in the light of truth. When someone speaks to you, consider that person's bent of mind, their temperament, how upset or emotional they are. After stripping the question of what is merely human, it will appear to you in all its simplicity, and often as invalid.

Take heart! I leave you in the love of our Lord. Your letters please me, they really please me. I received them all and read them with greatest interest.

May our Lord bless you and keep you in his holy grace!

Eyd.

P.S. Would you like me to write to the pastor I had mentioned to you, about placing Miss Jenny in his convent as a boarder? This pastor is Fr. Dupuy, at St. Maurice, near Rive-de-Gier.

I am writing to Miss Jenny at Chasselay. My best wishes to the Gaudioz family,⁷ which is one with yours.

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

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

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, October 16, 1851

Madame,

I feel as if I am coming out of a chaotic storm, as you can imagine, after two months in the midst of all kinds of people, workmen, etc., and then sent back here to head a Boarding school, organize it, prepare the opening [of the school year], the retreat, etc.... The conclusion is: I deserve your indulgence.

⁷ Her sister and brother-in-law.

I was sorry I could not see you. Miss Agarithe must have told you so. On returning from Toulon, my thought was to stop and greet you while passing at Valence; but they told me you weren't at Romans, but in the country. So, I had to give it up; I didn't have enough time.

Well! Madame, so many things [have happened] since our last conversation! So many difficulties and sacrifices were awaiting you! How sad! I felt so sorry for you! I was almost afraid you would be discouraged. However, one thought reassured me: this good sister belongs generously to God. No, she will not weaken; she will attach herself more strongly to God alone. Poor Pastor at St. Marcellin! This news pierced my heart. He was and has been so kind toward me. He helped me so much at the beginning of my ministry! heaven must rejoice, but it is a great loss for us, especially for you, Madame. Then, this was followed by your friend's sad death. Let us adore God's plans and hope again in his mercy for this poor soul. God is so good! To think that in order to be saved we only need one sigh from the heart, one act of love, of repentance, of trust! Oh! how good God is! He wants to save us almost in spite of ourselves. And so, Madame, put aside all your worries, self-blame about your cowardice, etc.... You know that in this case, you could only advise and do no more. Be at peace about it; this is my advice. Anything else would become a temptation.

Madame, always be watchful against interior turmoil and sadness of heart; the devil will use that means to harm you. It is his way of blinding you like Samson of old. Keep telling yourself: If I am upset, there is a hidden temptation under the appearance of good. Then, go forward. Oh! Please don't put aside your Communion; you would be putting down your weapons; you would fall into inaction. Feed yourself; you are weak, and then you will be strong. Remember that holy Communion is a great fire which destroys the straw of our daily imperfections in one instant. In daily meditation, glean a few divine particles from our Lord. In the morning take your supply of manna and you will never lose your peace and strength.

I also have a teaching for you which is a bit harsh: Seek strength, joy and consolation in Jesus alone. Oh Madame! May God help you to understand and appreciate this hidden treasure which puts us beyond the realm of storms and the shifting circumstances of this passing life.

Goodbye, dear Madame and sister. This has been a long letter, but my heart tells the Good Lord even more on your behalf every day. He knows how much I desire his grace and love for you.

Regards to your dear daughter. May she always be simple and kind toward you.

Pray for me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. And the Third Order? Support it together with Mme. David, and the Blessed Virgin will repay you a hundredfold. I will write to dear Miss Agarithe. Providentially, I had the pleasure of traveling with her.

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CO 281

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON
(V 2/9)

All for God alone

La Seyne Sur-Mer (Var), Oct. 17, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I often like to recall that providential journey. I often thank God for it, and I was beginning to complain when your dear letter arrived. Thank you; it did me good and made me happy. I think that your temperament and your way of seeing things would soon make you friends: but, let's come to the point!

I find peace and confidence in the thought that you are the one whom God has chosen to write the life of our mutual friend.⁸ I had been searching until now. Very many distinguished persons had been mentioned to me but an uncomfortable feeling kept telling me: No! No! That isn't the David of God's heart! and now he is found! He must work to raise a temple to the glory of God. - And so, Mademoiselle, I will wage war with you and a just war. Please don't go back on your word; you would be responsible for my discouragement. So, I am still counting on it.

I wrote to good Mme. Jourdan. I would miss her, if I didn't know the generosity of her heart for God. She has made and will make great sacrifices, because God is calling her to perfection. You can help her a little, because she has great confidence in you.

If I didn't have so much ministry, I would envy your situation. You can do an immense amount of good, and God is doing so through you. Continue the magnanimous and solid direction you give your young people, it's the evangelical hundredfold. It's true, it's a difficult existence, from morning till night. But it's also the application of the great divine principle: "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself and follow me."

This self-denial at every moment of the day is what I find difficult: to give oneself to a thousand and one things, to hear things that are foreign to my taste and attraction! God wants it: That's my only consolation among all these little people, and this crowd of parents, who, alas! are for the most part, without a solid Christian education.

If you wish, I will write to Mr. Danjou from Montpellier, and I will put you in contact with him to study education. This good man has founded a newspaper which is concerned only with education and its true principles. He is fighting to extremes against the pagan teaching which is being given to youth. Mr. Alzon from Nimes has spoken and shares his feelings. They are beginning to battle in the breach against paganism in our institutions.

I don't have anything to say about my stay here. I haven't even taken a walk outside our property. I stay at my glebe⁹ from morning until night. The poetry of the sea, of the squadron, of the beautiful sky of Provence haven't brought me joy yet! There is so little poetry in the practical matters of a house of education, in reading through dead authors, Grammar, Greek and Latin!

Pray for me, and I will repay you the same as a good brother [should].

When will you write to me? When will your need for repairs make you impatient! I really laughed because that had been my daily cross for the last two months.

Goodbye in our Lord,

All yours *in Christo*,
Eymard

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CO 282

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 8/76)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), October 18, 1851

Madame,

I am somewhat free from responsibilities of a house to organize, the opening of the school year, etc., and I am turning to you. Your letter pleased me very much. I was hoping to see you in Lyons, but the Good Lord didn't will it; may he be blessed nonetheless! Well, Madame, we are now 140 leagues apart, separated forever, perhaps. Such is life! A transitory life of exile! The consoling

⁸ Captain Marceau.

⁹ obsolete.

thing is that our good Father is between us and his grace, his love, and the same hope unite us in his divine heart.

I must admit to you, Madame, that I thank the Good Lord for being away from Lyons. I believe it's a grace for me. God wanted to force me to live for him alone. In the midst of my occupations in Lyons, I also experienced great consolations from my daughters. He wanted me to make that sacrifice. Oh! may he be blessed a thousand times! Provided they serve and love him wholeheartedly; that is all my joy. As for you, my dear daughter, you will always love our good Master and have others love him in the midst of your problems and difficulties. Graciously let everyone steal your time, your work, your preferences. But your heart will belong to Jesus and to self-denial through love. I will always be pleased to receive your letters. If I can help you from here, you know how much I want your spiritual good, as my own.

Now about your letter. You blame yourself for negligence in God's service, in your duties towards your servants. You experience sadness about your Communions. It's true, we must struggle against negligence in God's service, because it quickly produces spiritual weakness, loathing for sacrifice. The soul becomes weak like a plant without sugar. Yes, struggle gently but strongly against spiritual negligence. That is the side from which the devil would attack you. Economize your time, your means, but always find a moment for God alone. Contact with the world, even the pious [world] has this in common: it uses up the interior strength of the soul. Sometimes we must do like our Lord: when our day was spent entirely for our neighbor, we must go up on the mountain, and there, in solitude of heart, converse a little with God alone. So also, my daughter, when our good Master places you in an extraordinary situation of charity towards your neighbor, then you must leave everything for this dear neighbor; but I said "in an extraordinary state", and even then, the more we expend exteriorly, the more we must feed our inner life by its union with God.

Oh! If we could be like the guardian angels! They see God continually while at the same time they are always concerned with us. That is because God is their absolute center.

And your distractions! Oh! I don't worry about those. It's like rheumatism that we must bear in this life. It's the poverty of our poor nature. Oh! How humiliating it is for a heart, which should live only in God! So then, do only one thing, when your soul has forgotten the Good Lord for too long, bring it back gently to his feet, in humility of heart, like a poor sheep which has strayed far away from the Good Shepherd.

As for your duties as Lady of the house. If you have faithful and dedicated servants, depend on them a little. However, always keep an eye on them, and keep yourself informed, at least in general, about your house. Otherwise you will be correcting them too often. Pray a great deal for your household and for all those who serve you.

As for Communions, don't let any pass by through your own fault. You need them. When our Lord is calling you to come toward him in spite of your weakness, it would be very wrong to choose to stay away from his eucharistic table through humility. So then, my daughter, go in spite of your weaknesses. I mean, rather, go with your weaknesses and poverty. This is your admission ticket to our good Master.

I'm sorry that I wasn't able to see the good woman whom you sent to me several times. Really, we must say that the Good Lord didn't will it, as she came so often. There is nothing dangerous about the medicine. It would be good if it cured such a hopeless illness. Yes, she can pay her debts, as you say, in spite of the anger, etc. Poor woman. Have her pray a great deal, because there is something diabolical in it all.

And you, my poor daughter, you now have a new cross! Mr. G. is ill. Yes, I have prayed and am praying very much for him and for you. This news made me sad. Please give me news about him when you can. Won't you come to spend the winter at Hyeres? I would go see you there, if possible.

Goodbye. I entrust you to divine goodness and believe me ever in our Lord,

Totally yours,
Eymard

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 7/52)

All for God alone

October 19, 1851

Miss Stephanie,

My daughter, I am writing to answer your letter with a few words. I don't need to tell you that I read it with the greatest interest. You know all the good I desire for your soul and how I would like to see it belong entirely to your divine Spouse. Oh! yes, belong entirely to our Lord as he is entirely yours. [Let there be] no reservations in your gift, no sharing in your heart, no other center than his adorable and ever gracious will.

When we really know this dear Jesus, can anything compare to Him? And when we have enjoyed the delights of his love, can we live without Him? Oh! no! never, we would be too unhappy! How blessed you are, my dear daughter, to belong to our good Master and to desire to be his forever! This choice is worth more than any crown or any of the world's best possibilities. The one for whom Jesus is everything is very rich. However, you are not satisfied with yourself, meditation leaves you dry and cold; it seems fruitless. The thought of God is not coming naturally, you are at war with pride. These are great troubles, and these troubles will accompany you throughout the desert of life. - What can be done?

Correct what is imperfect and humbly bear the effects of humiliation. Know and admit to God and yourself that you are full of pride, that this is your nature, that you love the Good Lord very little, that you are not very fervent in his holy service. Cover yourself with these rags as proofs of your poverty and present yourself as such to God with full confidence. Then you will change evil into good and you will find grace in the presence of the God of kindness. He rests his indulgent glance on this poor weak child and wants to lift her up to his privileged love.

My dear daughter, let us learn how to draw out of our very faults the remedy which will correct them. We must not live with them peacefully, but live in peace in humility; "Learn from me," says our good Savior, "that I am meek and humble of heart."

If you notice that your meditation is always vague and that it never captures your attention, change your topic. At ordinary times, usually make your meditation on the *Imitation*; but prepare yourself at least by choosing the chapter or the verse.

If you are in an exceptional state, choose a subject which suits your condition. So, in desolation, Chapter 21 of the first book; Chapters 9, 11, 12 of the second book.

When you feel a resistance to sacrifice, the chapters on love, the three on Heaven: 47, 48 49.

When you feel scattered, the 1st chapter of the second book, the first chapters of the third book.

In these states we mustn't treat our soul like a sick person who is disgusted with everything. The main resolution to take is to accomplish promptly and through love the sacrifices of self-denial which God will ask of us during the day as soon as he lets us see them.

So then, there is only one thing for us to do. Remain vigilant for the time of sacrifice, or better, always be prepared to say to God: My heart is ready, oh my God, to accomplish your holy Will in everything. But this vigilance must be free, without bondage, without stress. It is the vigil of love, and love doesn't tire. It watches while it sleeps, it watches while it works.

Always be even-tempered toward your good mother. Be like a little girl in your heart-to-heart relationship to such a degree that you will not even feel the need for another heart-friend. Only merit and good can come from revealing your transparent heart to her.

Oh! Thank God for giving you such a mother! She is more valuable to you than all the convents and religious of the world.

Continue to pray for me, my daughter. There is no distance for spiritual union in God. Actually, distances only strengthen relationships in his divine love.

I leave you in his divine grace.

Eymard

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CO 284

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 6/28)

All for God alone!

October 21, 1851

Mlle Antonia,
Mademoiselle,

The few words you wrote brought me joy in our Lord. Continue to pray for me. You will continue to love and serve your divine Spouse with your whole being. He will always rule alone over your heart; what joy!

I believe that our good Master will always continue to purify your heart in order to attach it more closely to himself.

So, let him act. He will be removing foreign matter mixed with the gold, so that it may become purer.

Remember that sufferings of the heart are the fire of divine love. Yes, do love your dear sister, your good parents, but in divine love. Love Jesus in all the states of his love. When you feel sad and distressed, love together with Jesus who is distressed, who continues to love more and more.

My respectful regards to our fine sister, Mme. de Chatelux.¹⁰ I will at least be able to recognize her in Heaven. Her visit was short.

Goodbye, Mademoiselle. Always remain calm in your desires, peaceful in your sorrows, exteriorly gentle and more so within.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

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CO 285

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 12/33)

All for God Alone!

October 21, 1851

My daughter,

I am writing to thank you for remembering me. Why are you always giving me this duty?¹¹ In this I know your good heart. To sum up, may God repay you! I cannot.

I couldn't write to you sooner. I was so busy with a thousand and one things that I could hardly get above water. But if I haven't written, I prayed and do pray for my poor discouraged daughter who is crucified, and yet ever living for God and his holy love.

¹⁰ A member of the Third Order of Mary.

¹¹ to express gratitude.

See, there are some souls who can belong fully to God only by the way of suffering and be united to Him only by attachment to the Cross. Well, that is your lot in the life of divine love. God has given it to you. Receive it from his beautiful and beloved hand. This path is sometimes bloody, but it is a noble one, worthy of great souls. The one who loves God needs sacrifice and suffering. Otherwise, the heart alone, without this activity, would make it suffer too much. For sorrows detach us, strip us of our former self, make us long for the Homeland, lead us to press to our heart Jesus crucified, the one we call our God and our all.

Courage, my daughter, you have already accompanied Jesus to the garden of Olives, even to Calvary. Don't turn back; continue always to go forward. Life, death, burial, resurrection, everything can be found on Mount Calvary. - I was a cross for you. The Good Lord willed it. Say: Oh! May the Good Lord be praised for everything! I still have him!

Now I will answer the details of your letter.

1. About a director close at hand. I hope you will find one who knows you and who helps you as much as I would wish. If our Lord could be enough for you in many things, that would be the best, but sometimes he wants us to humble ourselves to an Ananias.

2. About the delicate question. I wish to remind you what I told you. Don't torment yourself about it, especially, do not weary your conscience so much. As I see it, you are ill.

3. For your dear Charles, his health comes first, poor child! He is so good! He must be a comfort to you. Greet him for me. So you are praying for me, thank you! I need it. You didn't mention my dear Third Order. Continue to be ever faithful and dedicated to it! But I would like to scold you! What! Our Lord tells you, "Poor suffering and unhappy daughter, come to me and I will comfort you." Then you don't go. You are no longer receiving Communion! Please, go back to obedience on this point. Go to find strength at the divine Source of strength.

I leave you to God's grace and I bless you.

Eymard

P.S. I was forgetting to tell you that I am well and that I would have many opportunities to gain merit if I knew how to benefit from them.

My fraternal respects to your dear husband, please.

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CO 286

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 7/52)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), October 22, 1851¹²

I received your dear letter dated the 1st. Needless to say how happy it made me in our Lord. I really thank him very much and blessed you, as well as your kind sister for it. I've been busy until now organizing the house which was entrusted to me by his holy Will. I regretted that I couldn't answer you right away, but please forgive me in your charity. Next time I will be more prompt.

So then, I am here now, far from my dear daughters in Jesus and Mary.¹³ I accepted this sacrifice, willed by the Good Lord, and I renew it every day by offering everyone to our good Saviour in the holy Sacrifice [of the Mass]. I often go to visit and bless them,¹⁴ and you know that you are one of the first.

¹² The French edition lists the date as October 20, 1851. Troussier lists it as the 22nd.

¹³ Members of the Third Order of Mary. In September 1851, he was named Superior of the College of La Seyne.

¹⁴ in spirit.

Now I turn to your letter. You may write to me about your spiritual life. If our Lord gives me any insights, I will share them with you. I don't know whom to indicate as a director in Lyons at this time. Pray.

As for the Work of the Association of Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament,¹⁵ the best answer I can give you is to say that I take the hour from nine to ten myself. Two navy officers who are fine servants of God want to have an hour: Mr. de la Sachette and Mr. Lacroix. Yes, yes, spread this fire to icy hearts, rouse the dying spark in [these] disheartened people: our Savior wants nothing more.

The explanation you sent me is fine. I don't see what could be added or deleted. There is no need for an approbation to become associated. However, since some seem to desire it, let Mme. de Pomey present it to His Eminence. She can be sure to be well received and encouraged. Devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament is the preferred devotion of the Bishop.

I have often reflected upon the remedies for the universal indifference which is taking hold of so many Catholics in a frightening way. I can find only one: the Eucharist, love for Jesus Eucharistic. Loss of faith comes in the first place from loss of love; darkness, from the loss of light; the freezing cold of death from the absence of fire. Oh! Jesus didn't say: I've come to bring a revelation of the most sublime mysteries: but rather, "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and all I desire is to see it enkindle the whole world." Madame, light this divine fire all around you and you will have brought joy to the heart of our Lord. Continue to be true to the inner movement of grace. Let yourself be led by our Lord, like a child, without any other desire than his good will. Be sure that all you need to do is to follow our Lord who is ever walking before you. You will need only to place your foot in his divine footprints.

Pray for me, Madame, I need it. Pray that I may have a spirit of wisdom and the love of our Lord.

I am, in his divine love,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. At the boarding school of La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var)

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CO 287

TO MR. CREUSET

(V 2/8)

*T.P.D.S.*¹⁶

La Seyne-sur-Mer, November 6, 1851

Dear friend and brother in Mary,

I am writing to thank you for your good letter and tell you how much it pleased me. You speak to me about the dear Third Order; what joy that gives me! I loved it and I will always love it, especially when I see its good spirit. Continue to sustain it by establishing spiritual bonds of brotherhood among its members, by keeping it always attached to the trunk [the motherhouse]. Some day the members of the Third Order of Mary will be very proud of their title.

Establish branches to communicate news quickly, should there be any to give. It would be very desirable that the members know one another. Father Lagniet will give you the list of all the members. You can complete them with the addresses. Mr. Carrel will give you his and Mr. Berger's; Mr. Gaudioz those of Mr. Bron and Bouru; Mr. Givemaud, a few others.

¹⁵ Adoration in spirit wherever the person may be, directed to the Blessed Sacrament.

¹⁶ literally: *Tout pour Dieu seul*. All for God alone. Tr.

I completed the council, and I know only too well the devotedness and good spirit of all the brothers who were named. [They will not] refuse their services to the Blessed Virgin.

And you, dear friend, consider yourself very fortunate to serve this good Mother. She will repay you a hundredfold even in this life, I am confident. I rejoice that I named you Master of novices. It will oblige you to do even more for those whom the Blessed Virgin entrusts to you and to tell her: Give, and I will give. - It will be a pleasure if you write to me. Please offer my respects and regards to your dear wife. I like to pray for your family.

Goodbye dear friend, may our Lord keep you always in his holy love.

All yours,
Eymard, S.M.

Mr. Creuset
rue Bellecour 13
Lyons

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CO 288

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 83/145 VI 10)

*T.P.D.S.*¹⁷

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), November 7, 1851

Very dear sisters,

You must be complaining about me, and why I haven't written to you, and you are right. I really don't know how time passes. Every day I tell myself: see here! at the first free moment today, I will write to my sisters; and that desired moment never comes. It's true that I've been over my head with work until now. I had to organize one and almost two houses at the same time. One house consists of more than a hundred people. However, things are beginning to function now.

My departure from Lyons may have caused you some sorrow, especially because of the Third Order, but what could I do? Submit to the holy Will of God which settled everything.

I didn't want to come to the South, but since the Good Lord willed it, I find myself very well here. It's such beautiful country and the climate is so mild!

At this time you may already have snow and biting cold; while here, we haven't needed any fire yet. But as the saying goes, stones are hard everywhere, the world is but one large Calvary. Happy the person who knows how to suffer for Jesus and with Jesus.

I received news from Lyons. The Third Order is still functioning. That is what makes me happy, because after all, what we need to look at is God's work, not man's action.

The good Miles Guillot continue to have their little crosses, but they bear them so well!

And as for you, my dear sisters, you also have yours which are quite heavy. Bear them well with our Lord.

I have just read your kind letter. I really deserve your reproaches which I am also receiving from all sides, because I didn't have time to answer.

But don't worry about me, I am well. The climate is excellent, since sick people come here to spend the winter. Then, I will be quieter here than at Lyons. I will be praying very much for La Mure, for the success of the Jubilee, since we always love our own village dearly. The Murois are good people. I think they will send good Fr. Ducourneau and he will do some good there.

¹⁷ *Tout Pour Dieu Seul.* (All for God alone.)

Take courage. Always stay close to our Lord and may he watch over you with his holy grace.
I am in his love,
Dear sisters,

Your brother,
Eymard, p.m.

P.S. I will write to Lyons for the Reymond boy; my respects to this good family, as well as to the Fayolle family.
Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

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CO 289

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON
(V 3/9)

La Seyne, Nov. 11, 1851

Mademoiselle,

Thank you for your kind letter. I always laugh about that providential encounter. We needed that to realize that we were still alive, because, when we were neighbors, we scarcely saw one another once every six months.

So then, I will have news from you from time to time because it isn't long to write a word on the run or while standing in front of the chimney. I thank God for that whole adventure. I was searching, then rejecting. Now I can rest in peace and trust.¹⁸ I found the person Heaven wanted. It's a sure thing; it seems as if it all happened for that alone. Briefly! That is your mission, you must fulfill it. It may be the most beautiful flower you can offer to the glory of God.

Some Navy officers read my notes and made their observations. At this time Father Marin, Mr. Marceau's director, is reading them, and as soon as he finishes, I will send them to you via the coach.

I will surely be happy if you would inform Mme. Jourdan if you wish. It will be a good thing for her. Then, she has such good judgment, and you would also be giving her something to do.

This good lady and fellow countryman has written to me twice already. She is surely the Lady I would miss most, if God didn't comfort me, because of her piety and her fidelity in serving him.

I am still praying for Miss B... Her illness is a grace from God. God wants her to be entirely his. May she give herself fully to his love; that is my prayer, and perhaps God will restore her completely.

So you are poor also, Mademoiselle! Oh! May the Good Lord be praised for it, a thousand times! Be very poor! Always serve our good Master with poverty of heart and spirit. Spiritual poverty is the strength and wealth of the spouse of our Lord. It is her dowry.

Goodbye, Mademoiselle. I am going to say holy Mass and pray for you, for your children and for your work.

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

¹⁸He was looking for someone to help him work on the biography of the saintly Navy Captain, Mr. Marceau.

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 3/24)

All for God Alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), November 13, 1851

Very dear friend and brother,

I can give you my full attention now. Until this time my head was bursting, so I waited a little to answer you more calmly. Alas! Dear friend, life is only a passage, blessed are we if we can pass while doing good as our Lord did; or rather, life is only a daily farewell. At least in Heaven, there will be eternal life with God and in God. But the Good Lord is so good to give us his Heart and his love as the center of our affection for our brothers, and to be the bond of union and life for our hearts! That is what does away with the distances between us, dear brother.

And my poor Third Order? Yes, it would have been very difficult for me, if God had not first blessed it through his Vicar on earth, if I had not had the happiness of seeing it established canonically. Now it has been founded by the hand which founds for eternity. And you, dear brother, were its first stone, its first apostle. The Blessed Virgin knows it and has written it in her heart. That ought to give you comfort. Now, uphold your work well: it is no longer a personal question. It's a question of God's work.

Now I refer to the details of your letter:

1. St. Therese has excellent counsels for perfection; but, without forbidding Madame, I would advise her [to look at] the works of Lombez, for the time being his *Treatise on Interior Peace*, the *Treatise* of Rodriguez, on *Conformity to the Will of God*, the *Practice of the Love of our Lord* by St. Liguori. Your wife needs to go to God by means of recollection, quiet, and the silence of divine love. The scruples you have noticed in her are a preparation of grace, a purification of the soul. I thank our Lord for what he is doing in her. She owes these precious graces to her life of suffering. Oh, blessed sufferings which unite us so divinely to Jesus! However, you do well to ask for her healing; it's often a proof that God wants to grant a grace when he inspires us with the confidence to ask for it fervently.

2. Dear brother, Communion is as necessary for you as breathing is for the lungs. Receive Communion in order to love, - receive Communion while loving, - receive Communion in order to love ever more. "Ask and you shall receive."... Since you expend so much of your life every day, you need to refresh it, and to increase it constantly at its divine source.

3. Pray a great deal for your Director, so that the Good Lord may enlighten him for your direction. However, dear friend, use a director and don't be a slave of one. That is, let him help you to know yourself, to understand and perfect the grace of God in you.

You speak to me about death and Heaven. Not yet, dear brother! We must put to death what is not yet spiritual within ourselves; we must establish the kingdom of God here on earth. It's better to be a conquering apostle than a disciple on Tabor.

Read carefully the little *Treatise on Prayer*, by St. Liguori: it is a delightful banquet. Read little, pray a great deal, love always.

Goodbye, dear friend. My respects to your wife, to your whole family and to Mr. Geoffray.
Believe me ever in our Lord,

Your ever devoted and loving,
Eymard, P.M.

P.S. When you go to Tarare, to Amplepuis, give my regards to the sisters.¹⁹ I will send you your crucifixes.

¹⁹ of the Third Order.

**TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 1/17 VIII 26)**

La-Seyne, November 13, 1851

Mademoiselle,²⁰

Are you in Heaven or close to it, or ill? No news. Well! I am taking the initiative, mostly to get rid of the thought of you which follows me everywhere, and which I redirect to God with a prayer for you and your needs.

How good the Good Lord is! When there was nothing left for me to do in Lyons, he sent me to the seaside in an unknown and semi-barbaric land - I dare not say, because of its morals.

A person suffers here after having lived in educated Lyons. So I don't visit anyone, or any acquaintance and when someone comes along, I say to myself: the Lyonese are so much better.

To tell you the truth, I praise God for my situation. Every day, it speaks to me of my exile, my journey, and that God is our one and only good. I don't forget the Third Order and especially yours. Oh! no. It has never been so helpful to me, obtained so many graces for me! So then, you also should love it dearly, and keep it pure. Sometimes, I fear that they may introduce a thousand and one things which are not the Third Order and its spirit. If the Blessed Virgin had wanted it otherwise, she would have made it so before the approval of the Sovereign Pontiff and its canonical establishment. I waited five years for it and there may be some who think everything is lost because of a few casual remarks or because it is without a person.²¹ Oh goodness! What is a grain of sand worth? We must build on God and his grace. Didn't the Blessed Virgin go to Egypt? I love the Third Order of the interior life with a simple hidden life in the God of Nazareth, because it is the better part in the divine service.

I know that you also love it. What are you doing? What is your state of health and what is happening to your poor soul? This is what I am waiting to hear from you. Otherwise I will believe you are in Heaven.

Goodbye, dear Sister, I am going to say Holy Mass and really pray for you.

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

All for God Alone

La Seyne, November 17, 1851

Dear Sir and friend,

I was very sorry I missed you. God wanted that sacrifice along with so many others. My first thought, on arriving, was to go see you in Toulon. You had just left. Toulon misses you. Your young people would like to have you among them. I saw a few of them. I gave them a short two-day retreat at La Seyne for All Saints' Day. It's a beginning, and I promised them, God willing, to give them an 8-day retreat during the holidays. They are fine young men, but they are left too much on their own and the clergy of Toulon has neither the spirit, nor the practice of zeal. It's too bad, because there is fine potential there.

²⁰ The first of 26 letters to Countess Adele de Revel de Nesc, Secretary of the Third Order of Mary in Lyons.

²¹ A Director.

The work of adoration continues as usual. How sad to feel that the original fire is not and will not be stirred up. That project needs to be independent and all-embracing.

Mr. Liotard is somewhat discouraged. You know the reason. Mr. Galon does what he can, but he is a layman. In all my words to them, I limited myself to recommending that they should protect the spark carefully, at least maintain the status quo, until more attention can be given to this admirable Work.

God has his plans, his means. He wants to be implored. Ask many people to pray for your poor Toulon.

From time to time I see Mr. de la Suchette and he is always kind and dedicated. I met Mr. d'Angeville and Mr. Lacroix. I praised and thanked God for this blessing. It makes me so happy to find souls that go directly to God.

I'm expecting a visit from Mr. Siccard, Mr. Marceau's associate on board the *Arche d'Alliance*. He spoke to me about a Society called "Catholic Marines", begun in Paris under the auspices of the Archbishop and of several bishops. He would like to join them. Are you familiar with that project? Does it seem worthwhile to you? From the heavenly heights our dear friend Marceau may be continuing his vast plan to extend and help Catholic Missions with "apostolic supplies" as he called them.

What are you doing at Brest? I hope you will do something fine there for the glory of our Lord.

Pray very much for me also. I am now in charge of a large household which is spiritually poor.

I like to recommend you to our good Master and to pray to him for you.

In his divine love, I am happy to be,

Dear Sir and friend,

All yours,

Eymard, S.M.

Mr. de Cuers
Frigate Captain at Brest

PLEASE HOLD

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CO 294

TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)
(VII 3/7)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-mer (Var), November 17, 1851

Madame,

I am truly sorry that I didn't answer your letter sooner. However, it did me so much good! I so love to have news about the Nazareth of Bramefaim! Your charity has already forgiven me; it's true, I need it.

I won't say anything about my situation, my occupations, my condition. You can guess, it calls for continual immolation of the will. Since God doesn't want me [to be] in a calm and peaceful situation may he be praised a thousand times! How great a virtue it requires to know how to give oneself equally to one and all! to crucify oneself and to let oneself be crucified graciously. Oh! How far I am from [doing] this. Ask [God] to give it to me, dear Sister!

All the news you have and will give me about yourself and your loved ones will always please me. Well! At 46 years of age we begin to serve God better and we need to tell ourselves to do so every day. Life begins in the morning and ends in the evening. Night is our Lord's tomb.

For your spiritual reading, you would benefit a great deal to read and meditate on the treatise of *Conformity to the Will of God* by Rodriguez. By itself it replaces everything.

Work hard to acquire this divine conformity and it will give you peace, evenness of disposition and especially, great confidence in God.

And then, our Third Order! Continue to love it. Alas! I am nothing; God is everything and does everything. How happy I would be to see it prosper and become strong in the spirit of Mary, in her love for the simple and hidden life.

My respectful regards to your good husband, our dear beloved brother. The Good Lord is leading him to Heaven by the cross; to your good little Marie, may she always love God very much, the Blessed Virgin and her parents -- to all your dear children whom God is blessing!

For the amount in question, if you can do it, it should be in the month of January or February, but don't put yourself in difficulty.

Goodbye, dear Sister.

All yours in Jesus and Mary
Eymard

P.S. Friday, it was my pleasure to see and embrace dear Tonny and our good Fr. Mayet.²² They had a good trip. Father is fine. I would have liked to have him near me, you can understand that. However, it takes only two hours from here to Hyeres. We will go to visit our dear Father, and he will come to see us. In one sense, it is better that he should be in Hyeres than here. The weather is harsh at La Seyne. Then Fr. Viennot was telling me that they were killing him here and that he was preaching too much. That is because he is so good!

Be assured, Madame, that I will keep my eye on him and that I will always be informed of everything. You may count on my brotherly and long-standing friendship.

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CO 293

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 3/17)

All for God alone

La Seyne S. Mer (Var), Nov. 17, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I am really late in replying to your kind letters. Your charity has already excused me a little. I have been so busy until now, that I hardly have had time to pray to God. I was about to reply to your first letter when Mr. Tonny asked for me in the parlor. Imagine my surprise, my pleasure, my joy to see and hug this dear, gentle friend. What brotherly dedication and generosity! He is a hundred times dearer to me, and God will repay him a hundredfold. "The Mayets love one another," Father Mayet would often tell me. I can observe and admire it.

We left together for Toulon immediately to see and hug your dear priest brother, to scold him for not coming to La Seyne immediately, to make him promise to come often, and to promise to visit him, to recommend him to our acquaintances so that he might be welcomed, well treated, well cared for

Mr. Tonny must have told you about the beautiful day we spent together with Mr. de la Suchette, visiting two establishments: the arsenal and the prison....

Father Mayet is fine. His trip didn't tire him. I really miss having him with me. That's easy to understand.... On the other hand, he will be better at Hyeres, the climate is not as changeable as at

²² her brothers.

La Seyne, where it alternates suddenly between extreme heat and cold. Then Father Viennot told me that if Father Mayet had stayed another year at La Seyne he would have died from fatigue, because he was called on to speak so much: a little word to each one becomes very long in the end.

Believe me, Mademoiselle, Father Superior's refusal isn't a personal matter, but a general decision not to place Fathers who are ill in our Colleges, because such a stay harms rather than helps them.

Similarly, at the holidays, I had requested one of our Fathers as a substitute, and Father Superior didn't want to give him to me, because he was weak, and he also withdrew Father Maitre-Pierre from here for the same reason.

Let us see, rather, let us admire the wonderful care of divine Providence which does everything for our greater good.

Ever continue to be the daughter of our Lord and his divine Mother. Approach his love through the mystery of his Holy Childhood. It's the shortest and most pleasant way.

Avoid anything that could disturb and upset you. Consider it as a temptation. True love is peaceful and active, silent and eloquent, long-suffering and full of joy. It proves itself at every trial. It sees everywhere the object of its love, Jesus the divine spouse of its heart.

Yes, pray a great deal for me. I need it. Now, I really regret that I was too lazy to go see you and your dear sister. She must be upset with me, and yet I do esteem her so much!

Continue to have a great love for your dear Third Order. It's the Nazareth of the devout soul. The Blessed Virgin will not forsake it. She will protect it even more.

Goodbye, Mademoiselle. I leave you in the hands of our Lord.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

P.S. I am reopening my letter to assure you that no one reads my letters.

Miss Mayet Elizabeth
Place St. Claire #1, 4th floor
Lyons (Rhone)

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CO 295

TO COLOMB OF THE FIVE WOUNDS,²³ DOM GEA
(VI 1/1)

All for God Alone

La-Seyne S-M (Var), November 19, 1851

Good and esteemed Colleague,

I had been wanting to write to thank you with all my heart for some time for what your charity inspired you to do for me, for your good letter, for everything that your kindness led you to send me. The certificate which associates me to so many good souls who are entirely devoted to our Lord; the Heart, seal and sacred bond between us, and then, the promise you kindly make to pray for me, to put me in your Memento.²⁴

How good you are to remember a poor sinner! who did not deserve so many favors!

Yes, I greatly love the devotion to the Five Wounds of our Lord. It is my joy to have them honored. They are our strength, our hope, the open door to love.

²³ Canon regular of the Immaculate Conception (Dom Grea)

²⁴Remembrance at Mass

You are fortunate, dear Colleague, to have received such a beautiful mission and even more fortunate to bear its apostolic stigmata. I am told that you have had great trials: may God be praised!

That is how all great works of a crucified God begin.

I have been wanting to make your acquaintance for a long time, especially since your cousin, the curate of Neuville, spoke to me about you; but the Good Lord has not willed it so. I am making up for it by the bond which now unites us in our Lord.

I am wearing the blessed Heart which you sent me. May it be the sign of an increased love for God! Thank you also for your Manual which you were kind enough to send me. I haven't yet read it all, but what I have read I have enjoyed very much.

I am glad that my three good Sisters of the Third Order are with you, and that in your charity you are able to do them some good. You know them, and they deserve it; the Good Lord visits them often with the cross of his Love. I don't forget them, and I offer them frequently to our Lord. Please remember me to them.

Miss Marie, who is, as it were, the mother of the family; Miss Pierrette, with her divine poverty; and Miss Annette, with her sufferings.

Goodbye, dear brother, ever in God, we have a common center in the divine Heart of Jesus.

All yours,
Eymard S.M.

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CO 296

TO THE CHILDREN OF MARY
(VII 1/1)

La Seyne SM (Var), Feast of the Presentation, 1851

Mademoiselle and dear Children in Mary,

Your beautiful and touching feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin in the Temple has finally come and I won't have the pleasure of sharing it with all of you, of seeing you in the Blessed Chapel, of hearing your devout and lovely hymns, and of speaking to you about our dear Mother; but I am pleased to think that someone else will replace me and that you will celebrate your patronal feast, and that our Lord will bless you. Poor little Association of the Children of Mary! It is struggling so! And yet, [it is] ever faithful; it is in the desert and thinks it has been forsaken. No, no, I hope not. It's only a short stay in Egypt, one of those trials which root a shrub more deeply. However, my dear daughters, don't let yourself be dejected by the sound of storms. Pray and always have a childlike trust in God. I offer you to God every morning at 7 o'clock, in the Holy Sacrifice. That is where I like to pray for you, to bless you. What I ask most particularly for you is that you may be like a young Mary in your home, in the midst of your family, at your duties. That is, keeping the Blessed Virgin ever before you, as your model, you may ever have a simple soul, which sees only the truth and will of God; a simple heart which goes directly to God and its duties, with gentleness and purity, a simple and generous will, simple in desiring what God wants and as he wants it, generous by striving each day to immolate your will graciously to the will of God and for God to that of your Superiors. I mean, your Parents and teachers.

What I also like to ask for you, my dear daughters, is a true and solid piety, founded on a gentle and strong virtue, especially on divine love which is its principle and life. Devotion is only its beautiful, sweet smelling flower, the beautiful fruit of a daughter's love.

Oh, my dear daughters, love our Lord very much! You will never love him enough. Begin on earth what must become your eternal happiness in Heaven; and begin it even here below, on this land of pilgrimage and penance.

Have a great love for Jesus and his divine Sacrament of love; that is the divine oasis of the desert. It is the heavenly manna of the traveller. It is the Holy Ark. It is the life and Paradise of love on earth.

Have a great love for our dear divine Mary, Mother of Jesus and ours. Love her as a dear daughter loves her mother. You are her little family still in the cradle; you need her care and maternal love. Young and weak in life, you need her hand to guide you and sustain you. Living in an earthly and evil world, you need her powerful arm to defend you and strengthen you in battle.

Dear daughters, these are my daily wishes and prayers. Could I forget you? No... Also, pray for me so that I may truly accomplish the Holy Will of God, in God.

Goodbye, dear daughters. I leave you in the keeping and grace of Jesus and Mary.

Eymard, P.M.

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CO 297

TO MISS CLAUDIA MOULY
(VII 1/1)²⁵

Miss Claudia,

Thank you for your kind letter in the name of all your friends.²⁶ It touched me deeply. I was going to write to them when I received yours. Encourage them, together with Miss Camus.

Present my respectful regards to your dear mother, to your dear sisters, and believe me ever devoted to our dear little association.

Eymard

P.S. A thousand and one wishes from me to your dear and devout aunts whom I bless wholeheartedly.

Miss Dumond, eldest
Former Quai of Orleans, #11 4th floor
Lyons (Rhone)
For Miss Claudia Mouly

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CO 298

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 2/17 VIII 26)²⁷

La-Seyne, November 21, 1851

Oh! The cross is always the cross! That is your glorious and blessed lot from the love of our Lord. Accept it with love also [as he did], because this is the only currency which God accepts and your crosses are and will be crosses of the heart. It is the crown of thorns which guards and defends

²⁵ This note was attached to the previous letter.

²⁶ The members of the Third Order for girls.

²⁷ Fragment.

it. The world is not worthy of your heart. Oh! How good the Good Lord has been to you and how magnificently loving He will be in heaven for the one who never desired any other spouse than Jesus Crucified! You are too afraid of death. Let that thought lie. Love is eternal!

I surely shared in your sufferings and I would like to see you freed from them. And so I am praying and I will continue to pray. However, be prudent. At your age and with your ill-health, you must take care of yourself. In this case, generosity would be imprudent. The Good Lord is with you. He reigns in your soul. Find your devotion at home.²⁸

In the political world people argue cheaply. It is history, and past history is the field of discussion. They listen to an opinion which is contrary to theirs with charity, and as it is so easy to give a neutral answer, they leave the question unchanged. So, leave the dead alone. You did not do anything wrong. Let your politics be like divine Providence. It is ever calm, happy, sure and especially, sanctifying. That is mine. Have you read the *Universal History* by Bossuet? You must read it.

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CO 299

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

All for God alone

November 23, 1851

Madame,

I received your letter which was both sad and good. I find pleasure in rereading it, because I can see your soul in it. Oh! May the Good Lord bless and always fill your dear soul! You have been so tested, crushed, crucified! Our good Master has done it and will do it again to purify, simplify and unite it fully to himself.

Oh! Madame, isn't it so that when we have God we have everything? He infinitely replaces everything else. He is father, mother, friend, protector, consoler. My God is my all! as St. Francis of Assisi often repeated.

The immense emptiness shaping and saddening your soul is the wind which precedes grace. In the past, people would say that nature is afraid of a vacuum. But God loves an empty heart. He creates it when it doesn't exist. His love is so immense that he needs to establish his kingdom within us with the same immensity. He wants to surround our soul with his infinity, fill it with his divine love; that is why he is creating a void in you: it is both a lesson and a grace. Be on your guard against sadness and inner irritability which ordinarily accompany and follow this spiritual desolation. Some is needed for God's work to be done, but don't cultivate or feed it nor let it be an inner state. Oh! Keep away from it, like death. Better yet, endure it as you would the pain of an operation.

What are you doing now that you are in Lyons? Are you afraid? No, we have a God in heaven who is Father and Savior!

Are you calm, peaceful and following your ordinary routine? I want to think so. When we are happy with the Good Lord, we are happy with ourselves. Dear Madame, find your peace in God alone, and it will never be shaken or troubled.

As for your confessor, do what is easiest and closest. You need the Good Lord more than people, love more than advice, peace more than action, trust more than fear. So, when you've done all that, I will say: have courage, good sister, Heaven is bowing down toward the earth.

Do I need to tell you about myself? No, you are praying for me; I pray for you. I wish you all the good that God wills for you. Isn't that enough?

²⁸ literally: have a domestic devotion.

Oh! If you knew what I am doing here, you would come to see it if it weren't so far. Should I tell you? Yes, as a secret, except for Miss Agarithe. I am gathering up the life of our dear Mr. Marceau. What beautiful things there are to write! Yesterday, I spoke with his lieutenant on board the "*Arche d'Alliance*". He told me wonderful things about this good friend. That is better for me than all the sermons in the world.

Goodbye, I'm leaving you quickly to take care of a thousand and one things. My regards to your fine daughter, and to good Miss Agarithe.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I was forgetting the Third Order. I charge you with it. Help it function well. If you can, collect the old Minutes. It might be well if a copybook were always used. Mme. Franchet had made one for that purpose.

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CO 300

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 71/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, November 26, 1851

Dear daughter,

Kindly forgive me if I haven't answered your letter of October 12th, and haven't given you news about myself. I kept waiting for quiet time to study carefully the questions you are asking me about our dear Third Order. Then, perhaps also, the devil kept making me put it off. In short, I'm a bit negligent. So now, let's turn to your letter.

1. I am constantly thinking about our dear Third Order and offer it to God daily, during the Holy Sacrifice [of the Mass]. The good spirit among the sisters, the blessing of God and Holy Church, the generous and evident protection of the Blessed Virgin on the Third Order comfort me. They give me joy and confident hope that the Third Order can survive. I see that it will bear precious fruits of salvation some day; that many people will even owe their salvation to it; that our Lord and his divine Mother will be truly glorified by it. The Third Order comes from God. Yes! How many tangible proofs have been seen by the one who directed it from the beginning! How many difficulties from which it has emerged successfully! How fruitful it has already been in holiness! As for me, I owe very much to it and I consider myself fortunate for having been chosen to serve it. And I confess that I was always happy to work for it. For the Third Order, nothing costs me, nothing is distasteful to me. I love everything that refers to it, and I love it with a special love.

So, I believe that any sister who doesn't have some of this attraction for the Third Order, either hasn't truly cooperated with the grace of her vocation, or is still a stranger to it and not a daughter. Any sister who doesn't hold to the Third Order in its special spirit will never taste how good and sweet it is! Oh! If our sisters appreciated how beautiful and sublime is the title: the Third Order of Mary of the interior life! How much perfection is contained in the single rule of the Third Order: "To love the simple and hidden life of Mary with Jesus!" How powerful this is as a way to perfection! Oh! I say, our sisters should consider themselves very fortunate to be chosen by the Blessed Virgin to form her family at Nazareth and at the foot of the Cenacle! When a person is well, exercise and tiring work make her stronger. When a tree is well rooted, winds and storms only deepen its roots; but then, woe to the fruit which isn't firmly attached to the tree! which carries destructive insects! It will fall and be rejected by passerby But those which withstand the storm will reach full maturity.

The works of God are the same as souls whom God calls to high perfection. A work of God passes through several phases, several hands, to reach its pure and perfect state, so that God may be its only center and life. When a work reaches that point, it is secure against storms, against every change. Oh! Please God that the Third Order of Mary may reach that point! That is my hope.

If our sisters truly have the spirit of God, they themselves will be the strength and witness of the Third Order. The Church had its catacombs, its times of exile, its divestment of everything! And the Church was ever growing, becoming stronger. That is due to its grace of victory and immortality. And the Third Order of Mary is the blessed fruit of Holy Church.

In union with the sister Directress, you need to really encourage your sisters toward the holiness contained in their initial call. Don't make any essential changes to the Third Order: to destroy a work of God the devil often pushes it outside of its grace and spirit. Then, it can no longer progress. It is no longer on the right path. An individual person can search out what might be good. A work of God, however, must wait patiently, faithfully, for God's moments, for the signs of his holy will. Mature reflection is necessary before changing what was established at the outset of a spiritual work. What I am saying here isn't a reproach. May God keep me from that! But it's in view of the future.

What I greatly desire to always see in evidence among the sisters is a spirit of fraternal charity which makes you one in heart and soul in God. A charity which makes no distinctions between the sisters, except humility, which always speaks well of others, desires only their spiritual well-being, rejoices in their graces and good works. This is good and perfect charity. This is what can be called the simplicity of charity. It is what I wish for everyone. Pray for me also, and consider as done for the Blessed Virgin all that you do for the Third Order.

Now, Mademoiselle, I come to your personal questions.

1. The secretary: Since Miss Brison doesn't have time, she must be replaced. This fine sister has been very dedicated to the Third Order, and she is overburdened with family duties. "Replace her with whom?" You need a secretary who knows the spirit of the Third Order well, because it's easy to slip one's personal spirit into a text. And a secretary should analyze only according to the spirit of the Third Order. That is, if something should ever be said in opposition to the initial spirit, it should be passed over in silence. It's a stray flower, that's all; but it would not belong in the bouquet of the garden of Nazareth.

A secretary also needs some capacity for analysis, and especially for precision. - Miss Laval is perhaps too new in the Third Order. - If Miss Mayet were brave enough, I believe she would perhaps do well. But you could do well, if you dare. Substitute occasionally. Could Miss Tournu not also be named assistant-secretary? She wouldn't belong to the council. She would be capable. She has been in the Third Order for quite some time. As for Miss de Fevel, I don't think she could fulfill this role. However, I'm not against it.

2. I'm not in favor of private meetings. They would go well for a time, but would not last. In Lyons, more than elsewhere, strictly lay meetings are not thought of well. The idea of reading the minutes is a good one, also on the spirit of unity. But women are so sensitive among themselves! Postpone that for a while.

3. About the wax (candle), the Third Order was providing it, as you know. For the wine, it's not worth it; besides, that was unheard of at Puylata. For the small hosts, same thing. I believe there was a misunderstanding, as it's such a slight matter. The question of the wine and hosts should not even have been raised. Would the Third Order members then be of lower station than the strangers who come to Communion in the main chapel? The priest will always say his Mass, whether there are people or not.

For the Mass stipends: since each member has one celebrated yearly, it's better to give it to the one who presides over the meeting. Then, he says it for the deceased members of the Third Order and everything is settled. That is how I did it. The stipend could be set at 2 francs, as a suggestion, not as a rule. "But when and how should this Mass be paid for?" Let several get together and give about ten at a time... (ask Miss David to suggest this procedure to the Directress of the married Women's Group.)

5. I'll write occasionally, if it's possible to do so and if it is helpful. However, you can sense how delicate that would be, for the moment. It would seem that I want to be directing the Third Order from here.

6. As for direction: it will come of itself. It's one of the essential practices of the Third Order, not a precept for each member, but available for those who need it. Don't press too much for that. We must wait for God's moments and for the man of his right hand. That is why we must pray a great deal.

7. I would be useful to give Miss Olive a helper. I say a helper, for it is best that only one be in charge. I agree that you not take the responsibility for that, because of your health problem. You couldn't do it, and it's difficult to be asking others all the time.

These are my answers. I am hurrying to send them to you. Please tell our sisters, especially the sisters of the council, and our kind Directress in particular, my respect and dedication to the Third Order; and how pleased I am to see that they are all so dedicated. I am happy to pray for them.

I leave you in our Lord. Please do not forget me in your prayers.

Eymard, S.M.

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CO 301

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 72/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

November 28, 1851

I received your letter yesterday, my daughter. I read and reread your writings, I can say, with pleasure. Your soul is dear to me and even more so here than in Lyons. However, I can only help you slightly from a distance. So, when you tell me that you are continuing to go forward in spite of storms, in spite of the frustrations of this exile and the inconsistencies of those you meet, I am happy, and I bless God for having entrusted your soul to me, as I see it becoming more perfect in obedience. Yes, find your life in obedience; you really need it. It's your strength and the condition for your progress and perseverance in God's service. So, continue to work at making obedience the rule for your judgements, the motive for your actions, the cause of your external deeds, and you will then be more like Jesus who was obedient unto death on the cross.

Let me begin with your last letter about the Third Order.

1. Don't try to know who wrote you that anonymous letter. Leave the secret of it to divine Providence which does everything for our good. Don't answer it; the Good Lord doesn't will it. See, my dear daughter, the Good Lord knows your need for appreciation and confidence in order to glorify him by serving your neighbor. So, if you should glorify him more through humiliation, you should rejoice in it. I would never have accepted your request to be replaced on the council. I saw in it a good means for you to die to yourself and glorify God by these little difficulties. It's a gold mine, and that's why I didn't change you. It's only your own interest that I am looking after. One day, our Lord appeared to St. John of the Cross and told him how happy he was for everything that he had done for him saying to him: "Ask me whatever reward you will, my son!" – "Lord", the saint responded, "the happiness of suffering and being despised for your love." You know how his prayer was heard! So, my opinion is that you should take no steps to free yourself; that you should remain Mistress of Novices until you are replaced. When a crucifying person comes to tell you something difficult, try to direct it immediately to your crucified Spouse as a token of love. Don't think about it. Quickly redirect the arrow.

I understand that it's too much to wait three or four hours for Fr. Colin.²⁹ It would be better to go closer, for example, to Fr. Burillot at La Charit; go in my name. If you need a letter for him, I will write it willingly. I don't know the gentlemen at St. Francois. But find one for your good mother. She has good cause. She was living in the country and doesn't have a confessor. So, your dear mother is weaker, I am sorry to hear it. I would love to visit and comfort her. Tell her that I am still praying for her and that I continue to love her dear family.

Try to have an Assitant-Rectress named so that the council may be complete; I don't see who it should be. If Miss de Revel were willing to accept, I would prefer her to many others. She has good judgement, and wouldn't do anything without consulting. You will say: "She might be feared?" - That may not be so bad for those who have strange ideas. She would be entirely on your side. There might also be Miss Crouette, but I would prefer Miss de Revel.

2. For Miss Jenny, she would be well at Notre Dame du Laus. She would be well there. I would entrust her to the Superior and to a few individuals. Let's think about it between now and then.

3. It isn't up to you to go visit the sick sisters of the Third Order, you are in pain and not well. It's just a matter of sending a member of the council. Or even, two sister nurses could be given this duty.

4. You will ruin yourself with Masses, a novena is too much. I'll say one Mass for you, and that's enough. You've just had some said for your parents. I have to watch out for your wallet. I will say those for Miss J., but don't be jealous, because it's for you as well.

5. For your ordinary confession, follow the guidelines I've given you; about negligence of, and sins against, your exercises of piety, it's enough to say: "Father, I accuse myself of any willful negligence in my duties of piety, of any infidelity to grace." As for pride, always accuse yourself of it; "Father, I accuse myself of all the sins of self-pride which I have committed in thought, word and deed, as the Good Lord sees them." For your temptations: "I accuse myself of anything which may have offended God in my temptations, especially against my neighbor, or against chastity. I don't believe I have consented willingly; I accuse myself of them to the extent that the Good Lord judges me to be guilty." If you are questioned about these temptations in detail, say that your confessor forbade you to examine them or to reflect on your doubts and fears, and that he wanted you to pass over it. Accuse yourself with simplicity for your acts of impatience. About your neighbor: when you have had the misfortune to commit some positive and certain sin, simply say: I have failed in charity in thought, or in words, against my neighbor. No need to relate the story or the circumstances. If you are asked for an explanation about a sin, answer as simply as you can at the time.

If you confess yourself this way, you will be following the principle St. Vincent de Paul gave his religious: "Accuse yourself," he said, "of four or five sins and everything is said." I am telling you the same. All your other faults will be forgiven at the same time. They are all included in this general accusation. Only, your mind won't be satisfied. So, make it submit to obedience in faith and to the grace of humility. The Good Lord sees your heart; humility and trust are what he wants to find in your confession. Always consider absolution as a Baptism which erases everything, and mark it as the beginning of a new life. You may perhaps tell me: "I'm deceiving my confessor. I'm telling him things which aren't true. I don't know what I'm telling him." - Suppose all that were true, then what? You didn't have full freedom or presence of mind, that's all. Consequently you shouldn't be troubled about it. The Good Lord will set everything right. - "Then what should I do?" - Nothing, continue as if you had confessed yourself well. It was a temptation, a trial.

My dear daughter, you try too hard to be known in depth by an ordinary and passing confessor. That is, you would want him to read your soul, to understand your condition, in a word, that he should be a director. That's not necessary. It's often dangerous for your peace of soul. You have my decisions and direction in writing. Until the Good Lord should determine otherwise, that should be sufficient for you. So you already learned a few hard lessons. I often told you: the Good Lord gives a director.

Concerning your temptation to despair and its consequences, be at peace, it is nothing. I am sorry about it though, and it hurts me to see you reduced to this pitiful state. However, you can see

²⁹ Perhaps for confession.

that the Good Lord hasn't forsaken you. Oh! How wicked the devil is and how much he resents you! If these temptations should ever return, write them to me immediately. I will pray for you and you will be relieved of them.

I reread your article about union in God. What a child you are! You are like a little child thinking about its mother...! The thought that came to me about all that, is that it would have to be our Lord himself. Nevertheless, you can at least let my insufficiency be a door to our Lord. You are linked to a poor ragged wretch, whom you suppose to be rich and holy, if you please. Let me tell you that I chuckled, and I'm still chuckling about it.

Please! Keep courage. Have patience in the midst of all your household crosses; those are the best; they don't breed pride and self-love. It's like dew for the garden of Nazareth; continue to float over all those little waves. Don't let all the little pin pricks make you sad or upset. Consider yourself as an anvil on which all have the right to come to hammer their iron; the more the anvil is struck upon, the better it becomes.

Courage! Goodbye in our Lord. I bless you in his holy grace.

Eymard

P.S. Yes, when appropriate, answer that my departure from Lyons was due only to necessity, and that is quite true.

Miss de Revel is fine.

Concerning the Third Order Annual, feel entirely free.

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CO 302

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 9/76)

All for God alone

[La Seyne], November 28, 1851

Madame,

You pleased me very much when you sent me news about yourself and your dear patient through Miss Stephanie. Strangely enough, I was expecting some, not knowing where to find you! I can picture you around your patient and I bless the care you are giving and especially your holy confinement. Our Lord wants to reign in you through this continual bondage of self-denial. He wants your piety, virtues and love to have this universal aspect. Praise him for this path. It is a very precious one. It shortens the desert road and has fewer dangers. The Good Lord is and must be your sun each day. Every day it rises for you, but not in the same way. You must always love this divine Sun of justice and love, whether it comes up radiant, or veiled in the midst of summer heat, or changed by the winter frosts. It's always the same sun.

You certainly have your difficulties, and I sympathize totally. It's difficult for me that you are so far away, but God wants it. May he be blessed for it and you too.

Yet, how good the Good Lord is! He is the vigilant center of every union in him and for him. Oh, beautiful Heaven! I am beginning to hope for you, not to eliminate suffering, but to love God perfectly. My God! Madame, I am wrong. Suffering is such a beautiful thing, especially a mysterious, hidden suffering, veiled under the appearance of happiness! A fine suffering, which frees you from yourself, which sacrifices you to the pure love of Jesus. Oh! How I thank him for having sent me here! This good Master wants to force me to live only in him, to find my only consolation, strength, and rest in him. Sometimes I think, either the Good Lord will call me to himself soon, or when I have truly died to my selfishness, he will use my nothingness for his glory.

Oh! What am I saying? Forgive me, I let my pen flow too quickly...Don't think that I am ill or unhappy here. In general, I am fine. I have good colleagues. However, when God wants to immolate a soul, he has a secret way of doing so.

I learned through Miss G. that your dear patient is improving. Thank God for that! Now take care of yourself; take care to make up for your lost sleep.

Here is news about Fr. Mayet at Hyeres. I went to see him last Thursday. I hope that the climate at Hyeres will be good for him. The weather there is magnificent as it is here. It is like spring in our villages. The Jubilee begins Sunday. The Pastor told us that there is much apathy in his parish.

Goodbye, dear Lady, pray for me, and have someone send me news about you.

All yours in our Lord,
+ Eymard

P.S. My regards and best wishes to Miss Stephanie. Thank her for her kind letter. Tell her to keep on following the same path, going directly to God's heart, passing beyond everything without stopping or turning back.

Madame
Madame Gourd,
in Lyons

303

CO 303

TO MR. CLAUDE GAUDIOZ³⁰
(VII 1/1 III 3)

All for God alone

La-Seyne, December 1, 1851

Dear friend and Brother in Mary,

Your letter made me very happy because your family is like my own and I love you like a dear and loving brother. From here, I often go to see you,³¹ to bless your store, your difficulties and your work. I do thank the Good Lord for the graces he is granting you and will grant you still in his kindness, because he loves you like a good Father. So, if he sends you a few little crosses, receive them well. They come from Heaven and from the love of our Lord. Unfortunate is the one who has no crosses in this world! It is a proof that Jesus our Savior doesn't find him worthy of himself.

But there is a secret about crosses; I mean to look at them, not from the point of view of suffering and sacrifice, that would frighten us, - but look at them in the will and grace of God. Then their nature changes; they become light and comforting.

The most painful crosses are interior temptations. All the Saints have had some. Do not be too saddened over yours. The Good Lord allows them to humiliate you, to oblige you to pray a bit more and to draw your strength from the Sacraments.

Don't be too afraid of them. Rather, reject them and do not examine them when your heart is troubled. You must be very careful about a temptation which the devil has in store for you. It is the temptation of turmoil and discouragement after the painful temptations which you mentioned to me. - Keep careful watch against it all and when there is no clear, definite sin, believe there is none, and reject your doubts and fears.

³⁰ The broche-in-law of Marguerite Guillot.

³¹ in spirit.

The Good Lord also allows these little clouds at home with your dear wife, in order that the most perfect one might be the most generous one. At heart these are only little weaknesses. So, a brief word, a little overture, a small sign of friendship suffice to clear the air.

You are both very fine people, but the devil is jealous of the beautiful harmony of your piety. Oh! It was easy for the Justice of the Peace to put peace between two hearts that are so Christian!³²

Dear friend, continue your little meditation regularly. We need to reflect on the great topic of our salvation.

Then the sacraments; - by a single Communion you strengthen yourself for several days and the Good Lord is kind; he requires so little from a heart which desires to act rightly.

You please me when you speak to me about the Third Order. Yes, it is a grace to belong to it. I hope that the Good Lord will bless it always. It pleases me to pray for my good brothers.

Goodbye, dear friend and brother. Give me some news about yourself from time to time. It will always please me.

Eymard

304

CO 304

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(III 1/21 VIII 1)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, December 2, 1851

My daughter, your kind letter touched me deeply. Don't be afraid to write similar ones to me from time to time; they will always please me, for you know that your sorrows are my sorrows, your joys my joy, and that I love your family as my own.

I am sad to know that you are ill, you the Martha, the mother of the house. Do take care of yourself for the love of God and your sisters. If homeopathy helps you, so much the better; some people are helped by it. Mr. Rapou is a good Christian; they say he is a good doctor. You could try Mr. de Fayette; I think he would be better. However, if you could do without any of them, that would be the best. You need peace, rest, and sedatives. In the end, everything adds up.

You tell me that your soul is ill. But, who is not infirm and suffering? Who loves and serves the Good Lord perfectly?

You've found the right remedy: wanting to do what is right, humbling yourself for your faults and spiritual failings, - and I add, love for the holy Will of God. Yes, have trust in God, surrender yourself into the hands of this good Father, entrust to him the paternal care of your future...*[three lines erased]* consider the future as the Good Lord hiding his goodness to make you long for and ask for it. The Good Lord will never abandon a soul which his love has placed on Calvary.

As for your Communions, yes, you can make them and replace them on another day of your choice. That is a rule for you. Don't leave them aside willingly; you need them too much. Go forward with humility and confidence, with a desire to do better and to love our Lord truly, and you will fulfill them very well. - See, my dear daughter, serve the Good Lord in fidelity, because it is his will, not because it is sweet and pleasant to serve him.

Do things because of duty, without turning in on yourself personally. The more we find that our heart is cold, arid, and suffering, the greater and more pleasing our sacrifice is to God. Have courage then, my daughter. In heaven you will have time for enjoyment and rest. But that heaven must be seen as the glorification of Calvary. Consequently, love the cross which leads to it, which is its door, its scepter and its throne.

³² Civil marriages are obligatory in France in addition to the Church wedding.

Goodbye, good daughter, may our Lord help and heal you.

Eymard

Miss Mariette Guillot
Lyons

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CO 305

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESCE
(VII 3/17 VIII 26)

All for God alone

La-Seyne, December 3, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to answer your last letter, and I do so with pleasure. Everything which interests you interests me. First of all, I wish to thank you for kindly remembering me. It is very precious to me, and I return it with a lot of interest. Prayer and Heaven are such benefits to friendship! We always meet on this path with the sweet hope of meeting again on heaven's day.

I will be very happy to say the novena for your brother and my dear son in Jesus Christ. I will begin it on the 11th of this month. I keep thinking about him. I feel like I can still see him. What a great grace God has given him. I believe he is saved!..

Goodbye, dear daughter in Jesus. Do not think about death, but about life in God. Our daily dying only proves and feeds it. Do not separate [the thought of] death from God our Father who wants it to consummate the union of his love.

Dec. 2, 1851 - There was a coup d'etat. For an account of the events which followed on Dec. 4, 6 and 7, see Doc. 315, letter to Mr. Bethfort, Jan. 11, 1852 and Doc. 334, letter to Countess Adele de Revel, Feb. 24, 1852.

306

CO 306

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 73/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

December 6, 1851

I've just received your letter, my daughter. I read it with great interest. Your family's happiness is my happiness. You are on the cross, but with our Lord. Don't worry so much about me. My health is the same as at Lyons. You could say that I have everything [I need] here to be happy. When they say that I am lonely, they are wrong. That there should be sacrifices to make: yes, there are some. I need more graces here than elsewhere; so I count on the prayers of my good daughters.

1. Should my letter be given to each one to read personally? - If it can do some good, I would agree. I don't remember its content; all I know is that I was thinking of everyone when I wrote it.

2. As for Fr. Lagniet, he knew that I had promised you all a few words. I had begun it in Lyons, but I don't see much use in having Fr. Lagniet read it. It would mean giving it too much importance. Let wisdom guide you.

Yes, let the council be as you indicated. I would really like it that way. Miss de Revel would restrain some. That was my thought, and you guessed it.

4. The nurses also, but Mme. Gal won't accept, inquire. -

- God loves and protects France. - Mary is its Queen. - St. Michael its protector. - Have confidence and pray.

All yours in Christ,
Eymard

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

Dec. 7 - The College of La Seyne was threatened by rebels, who then decided to retreat.

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CO 308

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 84/145 VI 10)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), December 12, 1851

My dear sisters,

I thank you for your welcome letter. It made me very happy, as everything does that comes from you. I'm so sorry to learn that you have been tired, dear sister; don't be negligent about the pain in your side. A minor remedy applied promptly often forestalls a major illness, such as a few applications of mallow or flax flour, perhaps a few leaches. You would do well to keep some arnica water handy; it is excellent for cases like that. It can be purchased in Grenoble.

I hope that the Marist Fathers of La Mure may have the consolation of seeing their ministry blessed. The Murois must be very pleased with Fr. Ducourneau. He is very good. Fr. Dominget is a man of faith, Fr. Codina, a little saint.

I really pray for La Mure so that the Good Lord may make it holy and happy. The Jubilee is occurring during all these critical events, it will make our villages more peaceful. It is truly fortunate that the President was victorious over all those blind and guilty rogues. The Good Lord has preserved us from great dangers, for these evil men all had terrible plans. The Good Lord loves France and is not abandoning it. We must really pray for the President: that the Lord may direct and protect him. Yet, we must be prudent. Things are very quiet here, nothing has happened to us; so, don't worry about us. I decided to write to you right away to set your minds at ease.

Do what is right and let others say what they will. Keep this motto and don't worry about anything that might be said. You are the only persons whom I love in this world.

Goodbye, dear sisters, may Jesus and Mary keep you.

Your very loving brother,
Eymard, p.m.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 13/33)

All for God alone
(*Personal*)

December 16, 1851

Madame,

So you are still suffering and broken on the cross! Alas! It is also a great source of suffering for me to know that you feel so crucified! I know that you suffer more than others, and the misfortune is that you often suffer alone, turned in on yourself and your poor [human] nature breaks under the weight of so much pain. When temptations return like frightening storms, and when God's love is no longer tangible, when devotion itself becomes only a sacrifice of constant virtue, then I can understand how you must suffer, my dear daughter in our Lord. Your courage withdraws in fear, looking at a future which appears to be so dark and destructive.

What is comforting about you is that the Good Lord is always your good Father, and that, in spite of everything, you want to serve him and you will serve him always. In a word, it's just that your heart is better than your head, and your will for good is stronger than the movement toward evil. That is a grace from God. Oh no! my dear daughter, do not give up the service of our Lord, because you can find it only in the garden of Olives and on his Calvary of rejection. What, would you be less generous toward this good Savior than you were for your friends, I would even say, for those who have hurt you! No, no, that's impossible for a soul who has loved God above all and wants only him, which suffers only because it believes itself forsaken by God. No, my dear Sister, the Good Lord is not forsaking you. If you were in your original situation of wealth and good fortune, I would say, yes, you should fear, because you would not bear the seal of the elect and of great souls. You would be treated like a useless or idle member, but when I count your sacrifices, when I analyze your suffering, oh! then I bless you a thousand times more. I thank God for wanting to keep you so close to him on the path toward the Calvary of love. And if I were not so weak, I would envy your crosses.

See! My dear daughter, your sorrows are only sorrows of the heart! You will say: isn't that enough? Yes, that's true; but then the sacrifice is simpler, the remedy is swifter, the love of God is purer. To love God more than oneself, to love God by the loving sacrifice of oneself, to hope against hope, to love by means of the cross, to live by the cross, to unite oneself to Jesus only by the cross of the heart, makes the rest seem very insignificant, doesn't it? But you know very well that our Lord finds rest only in the heart. He wants to reign only in the heart, as on his throne. – "But I am suffering too much and [I am] too alone! I no longer feel the strength to continue my first style of life and it is becoming impossible!!"... No, it is not impossible. On the contrary, it is the best means for you to find peace, in holy freedom, even to be strong in the midst of your sacrifices. Besides, you have experienced it yourself. To be at peace, you need to be obedient against yourself, to do things first of all through virtue in the midst of every sort of trial. Peace will follow... As for inner freedom, it is bound to the purity of your divine love. For you, strength lies in patience and in trust; and to tell you my whole thought, you need to suffer to be fully one with God. But, my dear daughter, you are still too enslaved by external helps. You live too much with your crosses as crosses. You live too much with yourself alone, or perhaps you desire too much to live alone with God. To live with God alone is perfect, but that is for heaven. We must live with God and with everything that God wants in his love. I do pray to our good Father to help his beloved daughter understand the full perfection of this thought. Everything is contained in that for the moment. Now let me tell you very simply: choose a director. Stabilize yourself; you need it.

I am not abandoning you, but you need someone close by. Then, be faithful to your spiritual exercises, according to your strength, but no more. Be a good nurse for the Third Order. I expect that from you. Goodbye, good daughter!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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CO 310

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 14/33)

All for God alone, and for you alone

La-Seyne, December 31, 1851

My dear daughter,

I read and reread your letter, and I am hurrying to answer it. Your condition awakened my compassion and made me double my prayers for your dear soul. I don't need to ask you to keep it a secret. I am so far behind to answer old letters.

You tell me that my letter did you some good. Oh! May the Good Lord be praised! I would like to help you so much! I won't say, to make you happy, you will be so only in heaven, but to make you more pleasing to the heart of God, then you will find peace in your heart and everywhere. Yes, your soul is very dear to me. The Good Lord had entrusted it to me, and so believe that I am now and will always be devoted to it and that you are among the first. Now, I will answer your questions:

1. To have a clear conscience, you don't have to review the past. I don't believe that such a review would be very helpful to you at this time. I will have you do it later, if God wills. "But if my confessions are bad?" No. "What if they are doubtful?" If they were so, the surest thing for you [to do] is to entrust them to divine mercy and to be at peace. They have been stormy, troubled, that is all that you would need to say. Strictly speaking, you could accuse yourself in this general way at the end of an ordinary confession. – "I accuse myself of all the failings, of the lack of preparation I may have brought to the sacraments of penance and the eucharist." That's enough.

2. It isn't necessary to speak about one's temptations in confession. It isn't a matter for the sacrament. It is only matter for direction; and direction is optional. "But I consent?" Then it would be a sin, and would need to be accused. Then also, if a confessor inquires, we must simply tell him the truth. But your temptations to remain troubled, anxious are only difficulties, and when you don't see clearly, it evidently comes from your freedom and will. This is nothing but ample matter for suffering and reward - flee this burning terrain. Don't look back as you flee, and turmoil cannot become permanent. Don't worry about your temptations, my dear daughter. Perhaps you worry about them too much. - You will say, "What should I do?" Say, oh my God! I prefer to die than to offend you. My Jesus, you know that I love you. Oh my Father, when will you deliver me from this body of sin. Oh, Jesus, let me suffer. Oh, Mary, comfort me. That is all that our dear Lord wants from you. Notice that these temptations often come only after having forgotten God, or are precursors of some danger. It is God saying, be on your guard.

3. I heard that they were going to give the Third Order a director. Try him. You torture yourself too much over your confessions. Here is a model:

1) I accuse myself for any willful negligence of my exercises of piety. I omitted them through negligence (so many times).

2) For all infidelities to grace, for my lack of mortification.

3) I... for whatever may have offended God in my temptations against faith, against trust in God, or against the Holy Virtue. I accuse myself of them insofar as the Good Lord knows me to be guilty. (I was forbidden to examine myself on it.) This should be the answer to any questions about these temptations.

Against charity, a few unkind words... Not sufficiently gentle with my family... I accuse myself of sins of self-pride. That is all, and is perfectly sufficient.

4. "Is it necessary to obey in conscience matters?" Yes, in order to put yourself under the particular direction of obedience. Do not rush. One must find one's Ananias from our Lord. Something is needed to open the heart, an attraction is needed, a grace from God. You have what you need in an ordinary way. What you need are the decisions you are given, your rule, the cross of our divine Savior. For extraordinary things, I don't dare say. You have me to help you, I am very far. But you always have our Lord and your cure is in his hands.

5. "What can be done to overcome this state?" Nothing, my daughter, wait patiently for God's time. Suffer for his love, whatever his love wants you to suffer, as much as he wills, for his greater glory.

That is what is called pure love. It is the most perfect, the most purifying, the most crucifying.

Courage, dear daughter, have pure and perfect love. That is what I wish for you in this New Year. I see that God is jealous of your heart, he wants it entirely, in solitude while belonging to all. The means he is using is interior suffering, especially isolation, the powerlessness of human beings to comfort you. Oh! Dear daughter, love which goes directly to God grows in readiness and purity. Ask our Lord for the science of the love of the cross. Let yourself be wounded by the divine arrows more peacefully, and avoid turmoil and anxiety as you would avoid death.

Goodbye then in our Lord. May his holy grace sustain you, and his love make you stronger than any storm or death itself.

Eymard

310

CO 532

TO FR. MAYET, S.M.
(VI 1/4)³³

[La Seyne, End of 1851]

Very Dear Father,

Thank you for your kind letter. It came like a friendly voice to console me a little in my cell where with God alone I spend my days and my nights. - I am happy here, since the Good Lord wants me here. I surrender myself to his holy and gracious will since he only wants my greater good. These little strokes of Providence do good to the soul; they free it and make it strengthen more intimately the bonds which bind it to God alone. I need all that to be happy here.

311

CO 311

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 3/14)

How kind you are, dear brother, to keep such good memories of me! Be sure that I am happy to do the same for you; and if I should go to Paris, you would hear about it first. Our acquaintance was so providential! Always be Mary's St. John, a good Third Order member. You will be so by continuing your meditation every day, poor but faithful. "Meditation," says St. Augustine, "is our position as a beggar with God." Well, how does a poor person behave and what are his qualities?

³³ A simple extract drawn from the notes of Fr. Mayet

First, it is humility. That is why he stays at the door; he uses only humble words.

The second is patience: He knows how to wait and he knows how to hope. He is not put off by anything. He uses humiliation and rejection to become more eloquent.

The third is gratitude: It opens every door to him and finally makes him loved and respected.

So, be a good beggar of God. Use your distractions, your dryness, even your sins, as claims to God's infinite goodness.

Are you familiar with the *Meditations of St. Thomas* by Very Rev. Fr. Antonin Massouille, printed in Paris, at Sagnier rue-des Saints-Peres, 64? - I advise you to get it. It is an excellent work.

I really thanked God and his holy Mother for that beautiful conversion. Yes, God is good and Mary all-powerful! I will also pray for the other person.

For your part, dear friend and brother, I place you on the paten³⁴ with myself every morning at 7:00. Your soul is as dear to me as my own.

Write to me from time to time. Your letters really please me.

Believe me ever, in Jesus and Mary,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Superior of the Boarding School
at La Seyne-sur-Mer
via Toulon, (Var)

312

CO 312

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 74/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, January 1, 1852

Now my dear daughter, I am writing to give you and your dear family the beginning of this, God's beautiful day. I want to tell you that this morning, I offered all of you to God in our Lord at the Holy Sacrifice. It was a comfort for me to name you at the Holy Altar, as my daughters in his divine love. My wishes for all of you are always and everyday the same: that you would love our divine Savior perfectly, as the only God of your heart. That, in his love, you would learn how to suffer the sorrows and crosses he sends. And that for love of this good Master, you would love suffering, especially what you have not chosen, but which the Good Lord sends you from his kindly hand. There is no virtue without love, and no love without suffering.

However, I see that the Good Lord has given you a great share in his love, that the fire of sacrifice is like the perpetual and holy fire which burned on the altar before the holy Ark. May God be praised!

However, your household, which is so beautiful to the eyes of faith, is sad to the eyes of friendship. It appears to be a painful Calvary, and my heart suffers. I would like to see more quietness and better health.... But oh! let us adore the holy will of God and look to heaven for courage and blessings.

Now I continue my letter. During these days, we are interrupted by a thousand and one things. I received your welcome letter with the one from Mr. and Mme. Gaudioz. It's a real pleasure for me to receive news from a family that I love as my own.

I praise God for the help given to the Reparatrix Ladies. They need someone to be assigned there. I believe it will be Fr. Barjot from Paris, the former director of the Third Order at St. Etienne. I believe he is quite spiritual. He is simple and prudent.

³⁴ I offer you to God at Holy Mass.

If someone asks you about the merger of the Third Order with the work of Reparation, I don't know how to tell you to proceed... Here is my feeling: I wouldn't like to see the Third Order merge with the work of Reparation. It would mean obscuring and destroying its primitive spirit. I would accept letting the Third Order members join the work of the Reparatrix Ladies freely; but each one according to her attraction. I wouldn't like to see the Third Order under the direction of the Reparation, but only linked by fraternal charity, if these women formed a section or branch of the Third Order. Let each one have her own attraction, her own vocation.

On the other hand, I love the Work of Reparatrix Adoration: and Lyons is not sufficiently grateful toward these dear religious. I'm not the one who spoke to the Bishop first about those Ladies. It was a woman who knew them and who had given the Bishop the outline of their Work. I only carried out his will, and I am happy to have done so, because it's a good and beautiful Work.

Don't worry. Everything will settle down about the Third Order. We only want the holy will of God. Until the matter is clear and evident, the Third Order should prefer what is sure to what is doubtful, what is certain to what is still under study.

Don't give any importance to whatever might be said for or against. They are only human beings. As for me, I accept whatever God may want for the Third Order, both as to its form and nature, provided it be the expression of his loving will.

I join with you in prayer for your sister Jenny. Oh, what a cross! Yes, promise her Le Laus. Her health may improve there, and then we will manage the rest...

I leave you for now. - I want to send my letter quickly; my health is good. As for your difficult temptations, consider them as your Purgatory.

Goodbye, I will write to you about that again. Only, pass beyond it. - And my gifts?³⁵

Eymard

A mold of the Blessed virgin will be sent to you from Paris. Receive it and pay for it with the Third Order money: thirteen francs for cost and postage, I believe. Mr. Perret is sending it.

Thank you for the receipt.

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

313

CO 313

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 85/145 VI 10)

All for God alone

La Seyne, January 1, 1852

My dear sisters,

As a good godson I owe you at least a New Year's letter, with my wishes; but, what shall I wish for you? Heaven one day, in this world, greater love for God; and especially a great love for God in suffering. That is the sure way, the quick and perfect way, the one by which all the saints have passed, all the souls favored by God. This daily martyrdom prepares us for heaven. But we know that the cross will always be heavy and painful for [human] nature to bear. We never become used to suffering. The Good Lord allows it to increase our merits, by giving us new sacrifices. My

³⁵ New Year's wishes.

dear sisters, please have courage! We will soon reach the city of heavenly peace and happiness. Let others crucify us, but let us keep looking toward heaven, its end.

I prayed a lot for you on the holy day of Christmas. At Midnight I said Mass for you as usual. On New Year's Day, I went at four o'clock in the morning, to wish you a happy New Year before the Blessed Sacrament, repeating the prayer that you had taught me in my childhood: "My God, I adore the first day of the year, grant me the gift of a heart burning with your love."

I was sorry to learn that you had been ill. I praise God that you are better. Take care of yourselves on these cold and icy days. Take care of yourselves in order to serve the Good Lord even better.

I received news from the Milles Guillot. They have their crosses. Write to them from time to time, it pleases them.

As for me, I am well. We have very nice weather. It is as warm here as at La Mure during the month of May.

We have been very quiet, nothing has happened to us. So don't believe all the bad news you might hear.³⁶

Continue to pray for me; I offer you at the Holy Altar every day and I am in our Lord,

Dear sisters,
your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

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

cf. footnote³⁷

314

CO 314

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 75/395 VI 2)

All for God alone.

La Seyne, January 10, 1852

Dear daughter,

I need someone to do me a favor, and I couldn't ask anyone better.

I would like to have two statues of the Blessed Virgin to put in our children's playground, so that this good Mother may protect them, and that these little children may honor her as their Mother. The first statue would be like the one at the Cathedral. I would like it to be in stone-plaster. You will find it at Gaspari's, No. 11 rue St. Dominique. It is the same as the one at our boarding school at St. Chamond. The man wants 75 francs for it. See whether you can get it for less. The other statue would be in oil-treated plaster. I would like one of the Immaculate Conception with open arms. That gentleman wants 50 francs. If it could be had in stone-plaster for 60 francs, I would prefer that. In any case, take the first one for 75 francs, if he doesn't want to lower the price, and the second one for 50 francs. He will crate it and bring it to Mr. Perret. Please give him my regards. Kindly pay with the money you have on hand for me and we will keep an account of the surplus. Ask Mr. Perret to send it to us quickly, so that we can have it by the end of January.

³⁶ Reference to the social uprisings.

³⁷ French edition: Letter to Stephanie Gourd, published as Jan. 3, 1852, corrected to Feb. 13, 1852 (Troussier).

I am hoping to receive good news from Notre Dame du Laus.

I haven't answered Miss David yet. Thank you for your letter about the Third Order, it made me happy. In fact I would love to see Miss de Revel on the council, for the reason you give: the weak-minded who are easily influenced need to be kept aware of their duties, sometimes a bit through fear. Nothing new here. I am well. Miss du Rousset is in Toulon, I saw her. However, she came at a bad time, as I was very busy. She is a good person. Goodbye, I bless you. The mail is leaving.

All yours and your dear ones in our Lord,

Eymard

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

315

CO 315

TO MR. BETHFORT³⁸
(VII 2/3)

La Seyne sur Mer, January 11, 1852

Dear Sir,

How kind you are to remember me once more. I was and I am deeply touched by your feelings of friendship for me. Yes, may God bless and protect your dear little daughter. She is a child of prayer and trust. She is a miracle child. I often thought about her and I will pray even more, that she may one day be your consolation and glory. Madame must be happy, God loves her dearly and you make her twice as happy. A double bond unites you. May God keep it so: Religion alone can make two hearts happy by making them holy.

Things are peaceful here now, but it is impossible to imagine the lack of morals into which ignorant and indifferent people had fallen. One must be on the scene. I was nearly massacred and burned with the whole boarding school which I direct. These monsters wanted to play ball with our children's heads. Two thousand men were coming toward our school on Dec. 6th at 1:00 a.m. They were only a half hour away. Because a leader missed the call, they decided to put it off until the next day - and on the next day we were saved.

The prisons of Toulon, the forts, are bursting with prisoners. Three days ago they brought 40 women who were in jeopardy. It was horrible to see. Dear Sir, how we must bless and thank divine Providence for having protected us!

Please offer my fond respects to the kind pastor of St. Peter's. When you have a moment to spare give me the great pleasure of receiving news about you and your dear family.

Please receive and offer to Madame my ever devoted respects with which I am, Dear Sir,

Your ever humble servant,
Eymard

³⁸ Lawyer Chalons-sur-Saone

316

CO 316

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 76/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, January 13, 1852

Dear daughter, I have time only to send you your direction. I must leave for three or four days. I'm going to see the Bishop of Frejus. When I return I'll write to you about your spiritual life. I am well, since I am getting up at 4:00 and getting to bed at 9:30 or 9:00. With God's help, I'm working a lot. Besides, my life here is only a continuous act of the virtue of self-denial. May the Good Lord be blessed and glorified by it! Dear Third Order! So much agitation! Nonetheless it is loved by the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin!

Eymard

317

CO 318

TO BR. FRANCOIS³⁹, S.M.
(VIII 1/1)

La Seyne-sur-mer, Jan. 22, 1852⁴⁰

Very dear Brother,

I have a mission full of consolation to fulfill with you. The Mayor of our city came today to ask me to write to you, requesting four brothers for the city. The Pastor wishes for nothing better. All decent people here are longing for such a grace of salvation for abandoned youth. Up to now we had no success, as the municipal council would not hear of it, but now we have some excellent Councillors in office, and we must make the most of this. Before speaking of it to his municipal council our excellent Mayor would like to know if he can count on four brothers for the holidays this year - that is, at the beginning of the school year [blank] - the conditions for the foundation.

If I might join my prayers to his, I would beg you, very dear Brother, to do the impossible and grant this favor to this city, which needs it all so badly. It will do immense good; they are nearly all sailors. Also, being close to you would do us much good, and we would endeavor to be grateful and take good care of your brothers. This foundation would open the whole region to you - I await your reply as soon as possible: may it be positive and reassuring, even if it must take precedence over another.

All is well here - we are very quiet.⁴¹ I ask for your prayers, and ask you to convey my affectionate good wishes to all our good Fathers and the dear Brothers Louis-Marie and Jean-Baptiste.

I am, in our Lord, very dear brother,

Your very devoted,
Eymard, Sup. of the College

Urgent to
Rev. Brother Francois
Director-General of the Marist Brothers
at the Hermitage, near St. Chamond, Loire

³⁹ Second Superior-General of the Marist Brothers.

⁴⁰ Date taken from Postmark.

⁴¹ Reference to the uprisings.

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 6/75)

T.P.D.S.

La Seyne, January 22, 1852

Madame,

I wished you a happy New Year on New Year's day. I wish it for you every day at the holy Altar, and I will do so until I die as I promised because your soul and your salvation are as dear to me as my own soul and salvation.

You wrote to me and your letter is always before me, waiting for an answer. I know your charity and you know very well that I don't forget you. What I would like to ask God for you is unchanging fidelity in the love of his ever holy and gracious Will, especially upon you. Whether it be consolation or desolation, joy or sorrow, the presence or absence of human beings, let these not change your interior life. Place your soul above the realm of storms and atmospheric changes; on the contrary, may events only produce outward changes, leaving your will always united to the holy Will of God. Oh blessed, a thousand times blessed is the soul that lives in this divine life! Then, it understands the burning words of St. Paul: "Who will separate me from the love of Jesus Christ? Nothing." The fruit of this divine conformity is first of all patience, an even tempered disposition, and inner peace, followed by strong and generous action. A soul that wants to live in God begins by consulting his holy Will; it hesitates to begin by consulting its own heart or its own judgment. It mistrusts them. For this soul the known will of God is its supreme law, its unchangeable rule and its first science. Madame, ask the Good Lord to give me this queen of virtues. It would be the greatest grace you could give me.

You want me to speak about myself; my life passes and flows like running streams, hurriedly, noisily, and tumultuously. A house of education has so many events, changes, visits! May the Good Lord be praised for it! There is certainly enough material for a constant abnegation of my own will.

On the other hand, the climate here is very pleasant, the sky is very beautiful, nature is very lush, always green. We might think it was a perpetual springtime. I won't say anything about the customs of the South; I don't know them well. The Good Lord has beautiful and very generous souls here. We can admire the power of grace here, more than in our region because these Southerners, with their fiery minds, their light spirit, their sensitive hearts, become saints and great saints. However, for us Northerners, it's hard for us to adjust to them, but when the Good Lord sends us here, we have a grace of state.

I have hardly been able to give any attention to the Biography of our good Mr. Marceau because I'm continually gathering notes about his life. I will share them with you. My ever devoted respects to your fine daughter. I bless you with my whole soul. I will write to Miss Agarithe.

Goodbye dear sister, pray for me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mme. Jordan
rue des Castries, 10 2nd
Lyons (Rhône)

TO MISS DAVID
(VII 2/2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, January 26, 1852

Finally, my dear sister, I am writing to answer your good wishes⁴² for me. Those you offer me are very precious and especially touching, because my dear family of the Third Order is very dear to me and will be so until death. I consider myself fortunate that I was able to consecrate a short span of my life to it. Besides, it wasn't difficult. When the heart loves, work and suffering are spiritual joys. I also thank God for having given you the same feeling for the Third Order, and greater dedication. That is the proof of your vocation. Always maintain the initial spirit of the Third Order. The original spirit is the first grace of a divine work. It is its element, its character, its strength and its glory. What could be more beautiful and more delightful than the spirit of the simple and hidden life of Mary in Nazareth living in her divine Son with St. Joseph! What is more perfect than the interior life! What is more necessary even to apostolic charity, than this interior life under the veil of simplicity and modesty! What is broader than the scope of the Third Order? It embraces all vocations, it identifies itself with all attractions, it sympathizes with all the works of charity, without binding itself to any. It is jealous of only one thing, its name and its spirit. So, maintain the spirit of charity among your Sisters. If each one tends to her own affairs, to her love for the Rule, everything will go well. - But take care that those who are not members of the Council should not interfere in the governance of the Fraternity or approach ecclesiastical Superiors. God does not bless such things because they do not follow the order of Divine Providence.

Surely they have good and holy intentions, but since they don't have the grace of state, they create a thousand difficulties and expose the life of the fraternity. So, I would not be in favor of uniting the Children of Mary with the Fraternity of Christian Virgins. - Let them be received separately, when they are twenty-three or twenty-four, and it seems likely that they will not marry, then it is fine. To act otherwise is to fall into childishness and to take away the true character of the Fraternity. And so, if someone brings it up to you, you know my thought. I was preparing the core of the Third Order by inculcating its spirit and its practices during their youth, and I believe that it is still the best means of forming good T.⁴³ The early lessons of childhood are never forgotten.

As for the Reparation, I love it very much as a Work. I regret that the Superior and I moved too quickly at first, about the question of the Third Order of Mary. I acted like someone who, seeing himself die, latches on to everything in order to live. However, the Good Lord allowed it all for the good of both parties. - As for me, until the Sisters of the Reparation become members of the Third Order of Mary, making profession in the Third Order of Mary, I would not want a merger, which would only become an absorption. For finally if the Blessed Virgin had wanted her Third Order thus, it would have been so since its beginning (and so your answer is clear: "when you become members of the Third Order of Mary, then we will see.")

Let each one have its life, its spirit, but for all, the love of God and his glory. Poor Third Order! Everyone argues over it! They are condemning it to death. If it comes from God, if it is Mary's Third Order, it will pass through showers and storms.

What I would like would be to give the Third Order sisters full freedom to follow their attraction. That would be helpful to such a beautiful work! One can belong to the Third Order of Mary and still be part of the Work of reparation.

For the Congregation of the Ladies, I hope that the Good Lord will bless it. But you know that discretion is the soul of great things, and so I think that the best means of uniting with these Ladies is to let them govern themselves, and to leave you independent as well. When you have some

⁴² New Year's wishes.

⁴³ Tertiaries: Members of the Third Order.

suggestions to offer Mme. David, let her use them as if they were her own. The Ladies must have the same spirit, but the application and the vocation are entirely different. What must unite the Third Order members is love for the simple and hidden life, the spirit of prayer - in a word, the interior life of Jesus and Mary. That is the banner and the motto.

Good Father Viennot received an offer from Mr. Perret for a beautiful mold of a statue of the Blessed Virgin and he allowed me to ask Mr. Perret to give it to the Third Order. Mr. Perret kindly sent it to us. I had them address it to Miss Guillot. This statue was given by St. Louis of France to some religious sisters.

You can have some made when you wish, but keep the ownership. Let it belong to the fraternity of Virgins.

As for the register of the Associates, I sent it to Father Preuvot via Father Viennot. He will inscribe all those you wish. The children are separate, in the same register. I had brought it here to complete it.

Encourage Father Preuvot by bringing him up to date, and may he do good in the midst of little difficulties. Provided that the boat sails toward the beloved port, it doesn't matter if it is tossed by the inconstant forward-flowing waves which accompany it.

Goodbye dear sister, pray for me. My loving regards to your dear family, to your dear Mother who promised me her prayers and for whom I love to pray, to Mademoiselle your sister, may she always love the Good Lord, to your fine father, to your dear sister-in-law, and believe me in Jesus and Mary,

You ever devoted,
Eymard, PM

320

CO 320

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON
(V 4/9)

All for God alone

La Seyne, Jan. 28, 1852

Mademoiselle,

It is still time to offer you my New Year's wishes. Well, these wishes are that you should go to heaven one day, with a very high place in the glory of love; that in this poor and sad life you should love the Good Lord dearly, and that you would make him loved even more by others. Finally, that you should fulfill what you promised to our mutual friend. Aesop would ask for materials for his city in the sky; and you are waiting for mine to prepare the heavenly life. You will have them soon; I am waiting for more [information] from a Sergeant who was converted by good Mr. Marceau and was his companion when they returned from the Marquises. Then, if you would get in touch with Mr. Marceau's good and holy mother at Tours, at the Presentation convent; or better, you might go to see her during the holidays.

Miss du Rousset gave me some news about Miss Brosset, Oh! How sad, it seems that the poor child has died! Oh! she was too frustrated; it would have been better to leave her a bit freer. But, unfortunately! she may already be delivered from the bondage of this exile. I was very interested in this dear soul because, Mademoiselle, you had entrusted her to me, and I could how great her needs were.

Miss Agathe wrote to me. I will answer her at my first free moment. I really agree with your opinion: she needs to get out of herself a little, and to expend externally the superabundance of her personality's activity and energy.

And you, Mademoiselle, what are you doing? How are you spending your few free moments? Suffering perhaps, or philosophizing on the instability and nothingness of human reality. What

incredible things in this century of revolutions! I think as you do: What has happened is only a warning, and perhaps one of the precursing signs of the great signs of the end times. Oh! If unbelievers don't recognize the finger of God, if indifferent people do not wake up in the midst of this upheaval, if the wealthy do not become practicing Christians, we must prepare for the blows of divine vengeance. The uprising was vanquished, but not destroyed. Arrests were made, but the source remains: the lack of religion, evil passions. In our Var, they stopped two thousand insurgents, I believe; and I have just learned from a prominent civil servant that secret societies have 30,000 affiliates in our department.⁴⁴ - Now we need to preach penance. What I have just learned makes me desolate. They say that Lyons is beginning anew with greater enthusiasm its balls and worldly feasts. Oh! Oh! And the ground is still burning...

You are sad, and that is all you tell me. What is the cause? Why? Is there a remedy? I wish I could have helped you in a more practical way. At least I will pray for you, and you will do so for me.

Goodbye, I leave you to the grace of our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, P.M.

P.S. I am waiting for the eve of the Greek Calends for news about you.

Mademoiselle,
Miss Agarithé Monavon
rue de Castries 10,
Lyons (Rhone)

321

CO 321

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 77/395 VI 2)

All for God alone.

La Seyne, February 1, 1852

Mademoiselle,

Yesterday the two crates of statues arrived on time. The registered delivery arrived the 30th, thanks to you and kind Mr. Perret. Please convey my sincere thanks to him. I'll do so in writing. Now, did they arrive safely?⁴⁵ There are some good and some bad, but all can be mended. The statue of Valbenoite is slightly damaged; a piece of her mantle is broken. Aside from that, the face, body and hands are fine. The statue of the Immaculate Conception was damaged. The whole head was broken in a hundred pieces, and some of the pedestal too. Judging by the rest, this statue must have been well made. Now don't worry too much about it; this is how it can all be taken care of, at low cost:

1. First, ask Gaspari who made it, for another head. Ask him to package it well, without putting threads on the face to hold it. Then have him send it to us by the general or national Messenger's coach.

2. Ask him how it can be fixed. We have a good plasterer and sculptor here. He told me that everything could be fixed with plaster. If plaster isn't enough and stone-plaster is needed, Mr. Gaspari could put some in the small crate with the head. But I don't want Mr. Gaspari to come here to fix it. That would cost too much.

⁴⁴Sector of France, like a county or a state.

⁴⁵ He expresses her question.

I only have time to thank you for all the trouble I have given you. Please offer my best wishes to your whole family, especially to good Mr. Gaudioz and to Mme. Gaudioz.

I am in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

You humble servant,
Eymard

P.S. I read your welcome letter with greatest interest. The Good Lord is the one who allows everything that might humiliate and oppose our poor human nature: let's forget poor human wickedness. Its words, intentions, and actions don't weigh as much as a single hair in the scale of divine Providence. Let's try to see in everything, only what the Good Lord wants from us, the acts of virtue which he brings forth with the help of human freedom and divine grace.

I will answer you shortly. I am fine. You will soon be receiving money for the painting; then please give the note to Mme. Perroud.

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

322

CO 322

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 86/145 VI 10)

T.P.D.S.

La Seyne, February 4, 1852

Dear sisters,

I was very sorry to learn about your illness and that you were very sick. Oh! My heart is really upset by it and the thought of you doesn't leave me. I pray for you constantly. I said holy Mass for your healing on the feast of the Purification. I unite myself with my whole soul to the novena which is being said for you at Notre Dame de la Salette, and I am having our community pray for this intention.

It would be a great consolation to go see you during this time, to leave right away; but I am alone at the head of such a large house. My assistant is absent and I cannot leave now, but I am always present to you, and my soul blesses you constantly, as well as Nanette, your guardian angel and consoler.

This is the day on which I was born and tomorrow [the day] when I had the joy of becoming a Christian, of having you as my godmother. May the Good Lord reward you a hundredfold for all the good you have done to me.

Profit well from your sufferings, dear sisters. Use them to unite yourselves more and more with Jesus our good Savior. Sufferings are the purgatory and perfection of divine love in our souls. It is the slow martyrdom of charity. It is by the cross that our good Master chose to save us, lead us to heaven, while leading the way.

In the midst of your sufferings, often tell the Good Lord: "Oh my God, I love you more than anything!"

I was also sorry to learn that Miss Guillot, Marguerite, was sick and bedridden with acute rheumatism. See how the Good Lord tries his children.

I am very grateful for Fr. Faure's kindness in writing to me. Let him know that I am deeply grateful.

And you, good Nanette, keep well in the midst of all your difficulties. How grateful I am for everything that your friendship leads you to do for us! The last letter reassured me a little.

Goodbye in our Lord,

Your very loving brother,
Eymard

323

CO 323

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 78/395 VI 2)

All for God alone.

La Seyne, February 6, 1852

I received what was close to being a farewell note from you, dear daughter. I felt terrible about it, and I still do, naturally speaking. Surely I would like you to be in heaven, happy in the joy of divine love, united forever with your heavenly Spouse, freed from this body of death, liberated from the slavery of exile. One day that happiness will be yours. However, I'm inclined to ask the Good Lord to let you suffer yet a while for his love and glory, if it should be according to his divine will. Oh! May his holy will be done! Still, if the Good Lord should call you to him, dear daughter, think of me, of the Third Order, and of your good sisters... However, if our Lord should leave you a little longer on earth, may he be blessed and thanked!

I won't write any spiritual direction to you here. Our Lord is directing you himself. He asks only one thing from you, one thought alone: to be united with his love by means of the cross and total surrender, with the lack of any external help. How fortunate and how beautiful it is to become one with him by such a total sacrifice of oneself.

I heard from my sister. She still is not well. She wants me to come, but the good Lord is tying me down to this place, since my substitute is away for three weeks, and the whole house rests on me: May God be praised!

You may always write to me here, no one sees my letters. They are left waiting for me. For greater assurance, you may write "Personal" on the address.

The statue of Valbenoite has been repaired. We will put it up on Monday, so don't worry about it.

Goodbye. The mail is leaving, and I want to send you this little note. I am the same as usual, with a migraine headache from time to time. Write to me, or rather, have someone send me news for the love of God, as I am worried. Tell Miss Claudine that I'll write to her shortly; in the meantime she should go to Communion with simplicity. She needs it immensely, and the Good Lord wills it.

May our Lord bless and sustain you, dear daughter.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

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

TO M^{LLE} CLAUDINE GUILLOT
(III 1/2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, February 8, 1852

Mademoiselle Claudine
My good Daughter,

I was going to send you my letter when I received yours with the little case. May the Good Lord repay you for it! everything arrived in good condition. Now you can have them pay the poor man; he had enough troubles. If you are the one who paid the postage, I absolutely want to repay you. It would really be up to Gaspari to pay for it, but don't have any problems over it. We will pay for it if he doesn't want to.

1. I share your opinion about Fr. Collomb's letter, concerning the biography of Miss Favre which I haven't received, except for a letter which was quite detailed at first, and which I haven't and will not answer. It should not be read. It is too soon to write an apologia about a sister; then, it isn't up to an outsider to do it; especially not in the spirit of another Work. I am quite surprised that they could have thought I had ever considered uniting the Society of the Five Wounds with the Third Order, or to unite their goals. Let each one have its own vocation and specialty. Fr. Collomb has excellent intentions, but we aren't obliged to follow them nor to endanger the future of our Third Order.

2. About going to Fr. Preuvost for direction, you don't need it. You might try him simply as a confessor first. Since he has the grace of the Third Order, he might help you, perhaps more than Fr. Colin. I advise you to try it.

3. I haven't received any news from my sister for a few days. The last gave a ray of hope.

4. To Miss Marguerite, all my blessings. Alas! How she must be suffering! May her suffering be in union with and for the love of our Lord. Suffering replaces all the other spiritual exercises, except that of offering. Let her offer herself often to our Lord, as a victim of love, for his greater glory and that of his holy Mother.

Goodbye, the mail is leaving; until later.

Eymard

Miss Claudine Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 8/52)

All for God alone

La Seyne, February 11, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am writing to thank you for your letter, your remembrance and your prayers. I was eager to have some news about you, for it is always very dear to me in our Lord. It's a comfort for me in the midst of my little troubles.

I was filled with joy to learn that the initial idea of home adoration to our eucharistic Lord had been welcomed by His Eminence who blessed and approved it. Now we must quickly get to work to save souls by the divine Eucharist, to awaken France and Europe numbed in dormant apathy because they don't know the gift of God, Jesus, the eucharistic Emmanuel. This is the torch of love which we must carry to tepid souls who think they are devout, and are not, because they haven't made Jesus in the holy Tabernacle their center and their life. Any devotion which doesn't set up one tent on Calvary, and one near the Tabernacle, is not a solid piety and will never do anything great. I fear that people are wandering too far from the holy Eucharist, that this mystery of love par excellence is not sufficiently proclaimed. So souls are suffering, becoming more sensual and materialistic in their devotional life and inordinately attached to human beings. It is because they don't know how to find their consolation and strength in our Lord.

Adoration is on the increase in Toulon. If you could send me a few leaflets, I would distribute them among our fervent sailors and even in the jail, where four thousand convicts could become good adorers, because there are some beautiful souls in chains.

One thought kept coming back to me about you during these past few days. It is this: since our Lord has inspired you with the idea of home adoration to Jesus Eucharistic, you would do well to compose a few meditations on eucharistic love for your friends in order to help them sanctify this holy hour, and sub-divide eucharistic love into specific virtues and special practices. I am suggesting this idea to you. Consequently, I really approve and bless what you've done for your friends. Remember that when we have put a eucharistic spark into a soul, we have planted a divine seed of life and all virtues in its heart which, so to speak, will be sufficient unto itself.

I've been comforted by your news about your dear sister. Oh! Her ardent heart has such a need for our Lord! How fortunate she is to be unknown by the world, that she didn't fall into worldly hands. Madame, I'm very happy to pray for your dear husband, your dear children, and especially for you. Don't forget me in your prayers. I have great duties to fulfill and I can feel the burden of my weakness and faults. You would do well to go see His Eminence; that is the way to spread the Work. I would almost advise you to write and thank him for his approbation. - I sympathize with the great cross suffered by Mr. Lagoutte and his children. Our Lord wants them all for himself.

Goodbye, Madame and dear sister, our eucharistic meeting-place is from 9:00 to 10:00.⁴⁶

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

⁴⁶ Probably an hour of home Adoration.

To MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 7/28)

All for God alone!

La Seyne, February 11, 1852

Miss Antonia,

I received your note with joy and thanksgiving, dear daughter. I thanked our Lord for receiving you and for drawing you more and more to his service and love, for putting in your soul a great desire to belong entirely to him.

Oh! Poor daughter, whom could you belong to, who would be more tender, more loving, more gentle than Jesus? How blessed you are to have chosen this divine Spouse, or rather, for having been chosen in preference to so many others! Yes! In Heaven, you will know all the wealth, the greatness of this grace!

A bride needs a dowry: the one which our Lord wants from you is interior poverty. To enrich a soul, our Lord creates a void. He wants to reign alone; it is toward this purpose that he directs all his arrows. Let yourself be wounded: life follows death, love enters through suffering.

But, notice what I say: let yourself be wounded. That is: let the Good Lord act, let him turn you this way and that, speak or be silent, visit you or hide from you, test you by means of his creatures or by himself. What does it matter to you! Provided that you love and are loved by this good Savior. Well, he loves you with infinite love.

Dear daughter, don't put aside holy Communion because your heart is cold or your weaknesses are great. Oh! That would hurt him. No, take your heart with both hands and cast it before your good Master. Oh! What a wonderful thought!

Love gives without counting.

Love gives itself without reasoning.

Love suffers without complaining.

Love finds joy and development through sacrifice.

My dear daughter, I hope that is your story. But remember that our natural feelings don't like suffering, they fear God's reign in us. If they cry out, if they are afraid, don't be surprised. Don't rebuke them too much, but say with the royal Prophet: "My soul, why are you sad? Why this distress? Hope in your God, he is so good."⁴⁷

I will stop now. You might say that I am always moralizing, but it comes from the heart and I'm so happy to see that you are serving God well!

I need to have my daughters serve the Good Lord for me because I hardly find the time, or rather, I'm a bit lazy.

I may not be in Lyons when you go with your dear sister, but you will find good sisters there.⁴⁸

Continue to pray for me and be sure that I don't forget you.

Goodbye dear daughter, until we meet in Heaven.

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

⁴⁷ Psalm 42:6.

⁴⁸ Third Order members.

TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)
(VII 4/7)

All for God alone

La Seyne, February 12, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Your letter awakened all the feelings of a heart which loves a family of friends - the joy of having news about all of you, and learning that you are all serving the Good Lord - even in sorrow! The cross is also planted in your Nazareth. Your motherly heart suffers with the pain of all the others. Its maternal suffering causes it to suffer even now over its fears for the future. A mother is a Calvary being crucified for the salvation of all her loved ones. Madame and dear sister, if your heart suffers, since it cannot do otherwise, don't let your spirit, your reasoned will anticipate crosses. They come one day at a time from Heaven, fresh and empurpled with the warm blood of our Lord. Crosses are only heavenly messengers, proofs of love.

My good sister, do not dwell on your crosses, but in divine Love and holy surrender.

So Miss Marie is still well-behaved. She really loves the Good Lord, the Blessed Virgin, her dear Parents. May God be praised for it, and keep this dear child for the consolation of your old age. I bless this dear daughter with my whole soul.

As for that small amount, I would be happy to leave it with you forever. If it is a problem for you at this time, we will wait. - Have Miss Elizabeth return it to Miss Marguerite Guillot on Bellecour Place, facing the Rhone, #9, third floor. Your sister and her friend know her well. It's for a painting for the Third Order which I am told is now complete.

From time to time I have the pleasure of seeing good Father Mayet. I go to see him and on the day of the Purification he came to spend three days with us. He is dearly loved and cherished at Hyeres - He is so kind, so agreeable, so devout!...

I think he is putting on weight and gets over his weakness more quickly⁴⁹ when he can talk a little - But in our affection, we would like to see him healed quickly. If we did not know that the Good Lord has his own mystery of love, we would complain to see this dear Father burn himself out serving in solitude.

My fond regards to dear Mr. Perroud. I would be so happy to see him at Bramefaim, as I keep promising myself to do. But now, I am on the shore, soon to embark for the next world.⁵⁰

Continue to pray for me, dear Sister, and believe me ever in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, SM

⁴⁹ over-eating?

⁵⁰ Ill enough to die.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 79/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, February 13, 1852

Today, my dear daughter, I received your thoughtful and touching letter. I bless the Good Lord and his holy Mother that you are feeling a little better. Stay with us a little longer to suffer for love of our divine Savior, to pray and suffer for the Third Order. Eternity, in Heaven, will be long enough to enjoy God. I really sympathize with your disappointments, they touch me deeply. I would be so happy to lighten them for you. However, the Good Lord still wants me here, far away from your Calvary. I'm praying for you. As a disciple of obedience, you will hold to my decision.

1. Don't pay any attention to this worry and fear over your feelings of guilt for the humiliating temptations. No, no, there is no mortal sin. The devil wants to trouble you, I am sure. When you confess yourself, say simply: "Temptations against C.; I was forbidden self-scrutiny on this point. I accuse myself to the extent that God knows me to be guilty." In the meantime, be at peace, you haven't lost God's grace.

Fr. Preuvost should go see you to comfort you. He may not know that you are ill. I'm sorry about that...

Concerning Fr. Collomb, Fr. Lagniet wrote to me from Puylata. I answered him that I had never advised uniting the Third Order with the Association of the Five Wounds, that I hadn't answered his last letter about Miss Fvre, that insofar as it would depend on me, I would never advise uniting the Third Order to any Work.

I believe that Miss David is speaking against Fr. Collomb, because of some past impressions from the Chancery. To some extent, the Archbishop has reversed himself on that now, but things are taken too literally.

For Miss C..., leave her alone, she is a troublemaker. I didn't answer her either. I dare think that hers is a devoted zeal, but a zeal which is neither enlightened nor prudent.

I had urged the Fvre Ladies to continue to be open with Fr. Collomb. He helps them, so he is good for them. No, Fr. Collomb isn't good for the Third Order, but I believe that he is a good priest, with fixed ideas.

Goodbye, good daughter, may our Lord comfort and strengthen you!

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. My thanks to the kind secretary, to your sisters, to your good mother. - And, news about you. - Thank you for the news from La Mure. My sister is better.

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

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 10/76)

[La Seyne], February 13, 1852

Madame,

I received your letter of January 6th three days ago. I was eager to receive news about you, but I knew the reason for the delay. You can write to me directly whenever you wish. I don't leave La Seyne, and even in case of absence, my letters are not opened, especially if the word personal is on the address. I forgive you a little, Madame, because I understand your situation, but I want you to know that your letters please me greatly in our Lord.

I really thanked our good Master for healing your husband. May he heal his soul, enlighten his mind, fill his heart with his love. That is my daily request. What happiness it would be for him, for you, dear daughter, and for everyone, if a single spirit and bond of holiness united us all! May God's infinite mercy grant you this joy one day.

Thank you for your wishes for me.⁵¹ Ask God for them on my behalf as I ask him for them everyday for you. The total and perpetual fulfillment of God's divine pleasure in us is what is the most perfect [gift] in heaven and on earth. Oh! my good daughter, if we didn't have that comfort in this land of exile, we would be most unhappy. Life would be a hopeless agony. But when we can say: I'm doing the holy Will of God, I'm sure of pleasing him, of glorifying him better in my present situation, -then we desire only one thing, that is to be very faithful to this grace. We make it our center, our rule, our consolation, our whole world.

I hope that my stay here will be very useful for me and help me to die to my selfishness. I really need it, and the Good Lord treated me like a beloved child. However, I continually need the virtue of self-denial. Sometimes my human feelings dislike this slow and hidden Calvary. Please request this grace for me. It is difficult to be gracious when we are immolated, free when bound, gentle in suffering and frustrations, patient in the midst of youngsters who want to do everything in one day. Once more, thank the Good Lord for me, my soul needs it. I see that my stay here is a great grace. In Lyons, people thought I was sent here for human motives. Oh! a thousand times no. My Superiors did everything to keep me there, but necessity forced them, and I say: the Good Lord willed it for the good of all.

You tell me that you don't like suffering. That's very natural, the saints didn't like it either. But have confidence: suffering which causes our selfishness to moan and struggle is often the most perfect. So we act like poor sick people, we gather up all our tears, our sobbing and sighs and throw them at the feet of our Lord to offer them again as a tribute and reparation. It is the pauper's love.

When you feel distant from God, make this act of poverty. There is nothing like it to touch the heart of our Lord. So let us remain at the door of his heart when he allows us to be there: he prefers this tribute to all others. Try to find time to rest a little at the feet of our Lord, especially in the holy Eucharist, because the soul needs it to maintain social interaction without falling into a state of inner weakness. We can't always consult only what pleases others, but also our own needs. There is a time for virtue which sacrifices itself, which controls itself, which is totally condescending; but there is also a time when virtue is prudent, and must yet be strong and decisive; God's spirit determines it. So pay attention to your inner direction, and I assure you that the divine Spirit will arrange everything for the best. You will find the necessary time to belong to God, to yourself and to others.

Goodbye, dear daughter in our Lord. Don't leave me too long without news.

Eymard

⁵¹ New Year's wishes.

Madame
Madame Gourd
at Thorins,
Romanche, (Saone and Loire)

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CO 330

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 8/52)

All for God alone

February 13, 1852⁵²

Miss Stephanie,

My dear daughter, I am writing to answer your letter briefly. Thank you very much for your spiritual wishes⁵³ for me. I do need to have my daughters pray for my needs; they are great, very great!

Pray that I may have a little more love for God and his beloved Cross.

My daughter, continue to serve God for God alone; may his service pass ahead of our preferences. May fidelity in fulfilling his holy Will be our primary virtue, the principal deed of our love for God. Never forget that the love shown in the Garden of Olives and on Calvary is greater than the glory of Tabor.

To remain faithful to Jesus who is sad, alone, forsaken is proper to perfect souls: the Blessed Virgin, St. John and Mary Magdalene.

Don't be surprised by your dryness and spiritual aridity.

It's the desert of the promised land. It's the furnace of purification.

Then, we love the Good Lord more than ourselves.

However, you are upset because your meditations are often dry and find you sleeping; your Communion are cold. You must still continue. The day will come when our Lord, who is pleased with your patient waiting for him, will change these clouds into a beneficial rain.

When you find yourself in these states of powerlessness, rather than trying to reflect and meditate on truths, produce acts of the virtues of faith, trust, humility and love, as if you were very content.

The more these acts seem cold and dry, the more perfect they will be, because at least they will be free from all considerations of pride.

In these periods of sterility you might do well to choose a chapter from the *Imitation* parallel to your current dispositions and read it quietly in order to let it gently penetrate your soul. Try this during your meditation.

For holy Communion, use the formulas when you cannot do better. My daughter, never strain your mind, or force your heart. That would only trouble and wear out your soul, draw it away from the state of peace and recollection which is more valuable than anything else.

Continue to be like a little child in a boat which God is navigating. Leave the care of the future to the Good Lord; yours is to be ready to fulfill his holy Will.

Goodbye, dear daughter; may our Lord always be your center, your joy, your Spouse.

All yours in his divine love,
Eymard

⁵² Published as January 3, 1852. Date rectified by Fr. Troussier.

⁵³ New Year's wishes.

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 4/14)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), Feb. 16, 1852

Dear Sir and brother in our Lord,

Your letter did me an immense amount of good! I wanted news about you and didn't dare ask for it. It reached me in the South, near Toulon, where I have been directing one of our colleges since the month of September. I praise God for this new position. A mission with youth is so beautiful! but I feel that it requires many qualities and virtues which I don't have.

I am happy to learn that you are well and I like to consider you among the most noble soldiers of the Blessed Virgin. Our good Mother will help you to grow in the spirit and life of her divine Son. However, always go to God, to Mary, with a great simplicity and with total surrender to his infinite goodness.

I thank you for the news about O... I was quite worried. May the Good Lord shield him with his divine protection! Oh! So many crosses and trials! It's the grain of wheat which is rotting in the ground to emerge full of life. Trust in God alone!

I inscribed the child of blessing on the register of the Aggregation. May it be Mary's child!

The other names are there, and I am listing them a second time, to be sure.

Dear Sir and brother, don't forget me in your prayers. It's a pleasure to do so for you.

God loves France; but unless wealthy people return to God, unless Heads of State work for God's service, oh! what a future!

Goodbye, dear brother, give me news about yourself from time to time, and believe me ever, in our Lord,

Your ever devoted and loving,
Eymard, Sup. of the Boarding School

Mr. E. de Leudeville
at Leudeville
via Marolles-en-Hurepoix

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 4/17)

All for God alone

La Seyne, February 17, 1852

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

It has been a long time now that I owe you a letter of thanks for your kind memento, prayers and wishes for me. My heart offers them for you daily, because the Mayet family is my beloved family.

Then, your soul and everything which concerns it is very dear to me. I was very happy that, for the love of the Blessed Virgin, you kindly accepted the charge of secretary.⁵⁴ That will double your merits and the love of the Blessed Virgin for you. Besides, you have every needed [quality] for it.

⁵⁴ For the Married Women's Branch of the Third Order.

From time to time, I see our good and beloved Fr. Mayet. He came to spend three days with us at the feast of the Purification. I find him a little better. However, his voice is slow in recovering. Alas! We are praying, we are doing everything to obtain his healing.

He is perfect at the Hospital of Iles d'or. Everyone esteems him at Hyeres. If he could be a missionary, he would bring back many souls, whom even now, he is edifying and touching profoundly.

You still have your crosses, dear sister! Since our Lord espoused the adorable cross, it has become more beautiful and endearing to the life of faith, it's true. However, when our nature is being sacrificed, suffers and cries out, we only half-surrender. We shouldn't be surprised, it is the overflow⁵⁵ of the sacrifice, its most beautiful side. Love this hidden cross, it's a wedding band with our Lord.

Pray very much for me. I am fine and the Good Lord is giving me much satisfaction in my new position. One of the greatest is to learn that the Third Order is doing well. I learned that a few tongues were saying too much and speaking imprudently, but the Good Lord will draw his glory from everything. It's true, it is out of zeal but without charity or with an ill-directed charity.

As for you, my dear Sister, listen to everything, but be slow to speak your thought. When you see a lack of charity, as true as it may be, - at that moment, it is premature.

So, discretion is needed. Remember that there is nothing like a little clique of devotees for gossip. I tell you that, not because I am hurt, oh! not a shadow! I love all my daughters, but so that you might know the ordinary way of the world, even of a certain pious world. Don't confide in anyone, unless you see that they have the virtue of discretion. On that point, I recommend to you Miss Marguerite Guillot.

My respectful and devoted regards to Miss Melanie, to your dear brother, to Mme. Clara. Believe me ever in our Lord, my dear Sister and daughter,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, p.m.

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TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 87/145 VI 10)

All for God alone

La Seyne, February 19, 1852

Very dear sisters,

How grateful I am for your kind letters! They bring me a great deal of comfort, especially at this time, when I cannot leave the house, since I am alone to direct it. Otherwise I would have done everything I can to come see you and comfort you. It's a sacrifice which costs my heart dearly that I am not able to go see you. I am praying and having others pray very much for you, so that the Good Lord may heal you. I thank him for the improvement he has sent you. Dear sister, be very obedient to Nanette. When we are sick we must practice religious obedience; and you, dear Nanette, take care of yourself, for you need it.

As for me, I am well, better than at Lyons. I received news from the Miles Guillot. They also seem to be improving. These good women are also on the cross.

Dear sister, may our Lord help you strengthen and console you.

Your very loving brother,
Eymard, p.m.

⁵⁵ literally: drippings.

P.S. My friend Fr. Baret has written to ask me to ask the Superior of Belley to receive his niece, Miss Marie Laval. I did write, and they answered me that she could not be received because she had some mental illness in the past. Is it true? Please let me know.

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

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CO 334

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESCE
(VII 4/17 VIII 26)

La-Seyne, February 24, 1852

They frightened you about our situation. Yes, we were in great danger: over a thousand rebels were fifteen minutes away from our house and the city. At 1:00 a.m. on the seventh, they were waiting for a leader who didn't come. They put the event off until the next day, but it was too late and the Blessed Virgin saved us.⁵⁶ The evening before, a frightened curate had come to speak to me about all these plots; the Good Lord gifted me with trust in his fatherly Providence. I remained peaceful. How good is the Good Lord to have saved our village, for these men were evil! I am their chaplain in a certain way, at least those who are on board the ship *Generous*. The captain is the father of one of our students. On Sundays I go there to say Mass, to preach and visit these poor wretches who number three hundred. We gave them medals. They became totally different. Many of them are repentant. I walk among them; they surround me and we talk. But, alas! How sad it is to think: there are assassins, perjurers, men of blood among them. Oh! The leaders and chiefs are quite guilty for having taken advantage of the ignorant and fiery people of the South, who are three centuries behind the men of the North, as they call us. Then, I go to the jail from time to time, but only to cry over these poor people, over these four thousand prisoners from every class of society, wearing that hideous uniform and dragging that long heavy chain.

How sad is Toulon! I always return crushed with sadness.

So let us speak a little about you, about your health. It seems that you are still weak and ill. Alas! That makes me very sad. May God relieve and heal you; that is my prayer.

Your soul is also suffering, but a kind of suffering which glorifies our Lord and purifies the spirit. Don't worry about your heart which is ice-cold toward God and his service, while it is on fire for its friends.

The purest and most perfect divine love is the one which becomes one with the love of Jesus who is sad, distressed, forsaken in the garden of Olives and on the cross. Then it becomes pure with faith and devotedness. We love God more than ourselves. When St. Bernard experienced this condition, he thought he was blind, hardened and forsaken by God, and this great saint was actually on the way of perfection. - That is my reply to you, my dear sister.

We work hard in the winter. So continue to work, do not put anything aside out of fear for your state [of soul]. Oh! Don't talk to me about your death, but about the love of Jesus Eucharistic, of his divine cross crucifying you to the world. Be on guard against a kind of humility which refuses to feed on the humiliation of its own limitations, even of our faults. It is not truly Christian. It would be angelic, which is not suitable for such poor creatures as ourselves who have a sinful origin.

What good news! Mary Anne is Catholic. Hers is such a beautiful soul! She must be pleasing to God.

My respectful regards to all the good people you mentioned to me.

⁵⁶ December 8th, feast of the Immaculate Conception.

TO MME. GAUDIOZ
(III 1/2)

La Seyne, February 29, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,⁵⁷

You were so kind to write to me on New Year's. Your letter, your wishes, and your good prayers for me brought me joy in the Lord. May our good Father repay you with all the good you wished upon me, and which I in turn wholeheartedly wish upon you.

I really thanked the Good Lord to see that you are faithful to your promise, whatever it costs. It must sometimes cost you a great deal, especially when your heart has been hurt and pained. Oh! Then, dear sister, how pleased the Good Lord is with you! How happy he is to show you to God his Father! How he loves you! Please, always be very generous, magnanimous in your sacrifices. God has given you a great heart and great strength of will.

Because you can't do things by halves, I am sure that, if you give yourself fully to the Good Lord, you will be flooded with his graces and favors. But remember that the Good Lord wants you to be always happy, gracious, in spite of the distress and sorrow in your heart. When the sun can break through the clouds covering the earth, the clouds are quickly penetrated and scattered. So, when peace and joy issuing from the soul and from grace enable us to carry our crosses and our sorrows, their nature quickly changes and they become beautiful and lovable. However, receive Communion often; you need it. Reject all those little impressions or temptations which would tend to keep you away from it.

I was happy to bless you all on New Year's Day. I said holy Mass for you, and I renew it each day. Goodbye, dear sister, and believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

My respects to your good sisters. Alas! Those good women have been crucified so! It makes me sad.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 15/33)

All for God alone

La-Seyne, February 29, 1852

Dear daughter,

Your letters are so sorrowful and depressing... Oh! It seems that you are always on a new calvary! And you are undergoing all the phases of divine and human trials. My God! I often pray that you may have more consolation and joy or even more strength and courage. And yet, you are still in the throes of death. Oh! Not only do you have my sympathy, but all my charity. If I don't write to you often it is because I am so involved. But I don't forget you in the presence of God, and

⁵⁷ First of 2 letters to Mme. Gaudioz, sister of Marguerite Guillot.

you know what I ask him for you: a bit more love - I mean love from the heart by which he becomes its center. The *Imitation* says: "That person is very greedy for whom God is not enough."

I mean a strong love, stronger than trials, than temptations, than ice coldness, stronger than death. We love God to the extent of our union with Jesus crucified. I mean a simple love which goes to God just as we are, with an abundant offering when we are rich, with the surrender and gracious poverty of a child when we have nothing.

See dear daughter, you do love the Good Lord, but you have an excessive desire to know and feel it.

Courage! The mystery of the life of love is better for us in this life of exile than to know and feel love as do the angels and Saints.

You are as our Lord wants you to be, but focus your life in his divine will. What you tell me about the Third Order saddens me. Love it nevertheless as a bond with the heart of Mary.

Goodby, dear daughter. May our Lord heal and possess you.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I am fine. Do not entrust your secret to anyone other than another self. There are some devotees who are so imprudent and so indiscreet. I have learned some good lessons on that point, so I want to apply them. They made you suffer. Forgive them, because they often do not know what they are saying, or what they are doing.

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TO MME. THEODELINDE DUBOUCHE (MOTHER MARIE THERESE) (REPARATRIX)
(VI 2/2)

La Seyne, March 1, 1852

Madame,

I am writing to thank you for your kind wishes and the news you give me about your dear community. They brought me joy in our Lord. My most sincere wishes are that your community may be firmly established, increase, and carry the divine fire to the four corners of the earth. It is upon the Cross that you were founded; it is by the Cross that the work of God can be known, is tested, and attains completely the will of God, that it frees itself from all alloy, all human perspective. And from this point of view, Madame, your family has the seal of grace, and you must thank the Good Lord.

We both wanted one thing⁵⁸ but our Lord wanted [to keep] his works simple. Be that as it may, please believe that my feelings for you and your community are ever the same.

I bless God for giving you Fr. Bertholon in Lyons. His presence, assuredly, will do much good.

I commend myself to your prayers, and to those of your community.

I have the honor to be, in our Lord, Madame,

Your most humble S.
Eymard, S.M.

⁵⁸ Cf. letter from Fr. Eymard to Miss David, Rectress of the T.O.M. dated Dec 19, 1850, and also that of January 26, 1852, addressed to the same person.

P.S. One thing in your letter disturbed me - the desertion and sorrows of Gethsemane. - I believe it is only a trial.

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CO 339

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 80/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, March 4, 1852

My dear daughter, I've just received your short note and Miss Claudine's. I was beginning to worry about you, and you about me. Oh! If only you could be as well as I am, in spite of the migraine headache I have, especially today! - I wrote to you yesterday.⁵⁹ I cannot let this one go unanswered. Your last word upsets my heart. I feel that you are so alone, so isolated. I'm writing to Fr. Champion today [to ask him] to go see you.

I understood your suffering very well. My dear daughter, bless God in the midst of this new crucifixion, in the midst of all these terrible temptations, in the midst of hell. The Good Lord will be glorified by it, and your love will become purer. For my part, while I really feel sorry for you and suffer with you, I consider this state as a great grace. Consider it in the same way, my dear daughter, because it is so.

Don't worry about your feelings of dislike and hatred, but don't examine them either. Let it be enough to humble yourself at the feet of our Lord and to say often: "May Jesus Christ, my Savior and my God, be forever loved, praised and blessed!"

Don't become tense about the temptation to suicide, nor about anything you may have done. The Good Lord is watching over you, as well as the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, I'm sure of it.

No, no, you will not be damned, but really saved by the infinite mercy of our good Savior. He wants to unite you to himself, to his glory, to his perfect love for all eternity. The despair which is plaguing you should incline you to a boundless trust which is as great as the infinite goodness of God.

Your dear neighbor also makes you suffer. Offer all your suffering to the Good Lord for (her). Then you will be imitating our Savior who offered his sufferings for the salvation of those who made him suffer.

But how upsetting those mortifying temptations are! It's a real purgatory for the virtue you love the most. In this matter, my daughter, make an act of pure obedience. Don't reason about your difficulties. Don't examine your turmoil. Let it be enough for you to say to the Good Lord: "Oh my Jesus, forgive me for everything that may have displeased you. I prefer death rather than sin." Then, rest peacefully on the bosom of divine mercy. Remember, my daughter, I take responsibility for your soul.

You will please God more if you don't look back to see Sodom and Gomorra on fire. Always look at the cross and the love of Jesus which goes before you, and heaven which is the goal of your journey. Oh! My God, save my dear daughter, give her the strength and grace needed to fight and conquer the infernal dragon. I ask this of you through the Holy and Immaculate Conception of Mary and through your love for St. Joseph.

Have someone give me news about you. I hope it will be good news.

Goodbye in Jesus Christ.

All yours,
Eymard P.M.

⁵⁹ We do not have that letter.

P.S. I will begin your novena on the 10th, and finish it on St. Joseph's day with Mass on the first and last days. - Mme. Perroud, Miss Mayet's sister, should be bringing you the thousand francs. Then give her her note. Kindly deliver this money, not to Miss David, nor to anyone else, but to Mme. Spazzier who did the painting. This lady is paying for the frame. She has already received fifty francs... give her only one hundred francs... instead of a hundred fifty. Kindly keep the remaining fifty in my account. No one needs to know about the money for the painting; it was a conscience vow. No one knows about the hundred gold francs, so keep them in deposit. I'm so upset by this inconvenience, and Miss David's lack of discretion, or rather by my naivete in having told her! I had forgotten. If they keep after you, cut off the back of this note, the p.s., and show it to them.

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CO 340

TO MR. CREUSET

(V 3/8)

All for God alone

La Seyne, March 4, 1852

Dear friend and brother in our Lord,

I don't know how I have reached [this date] without answering your dear letter. It was neither forgetfulness nor indifference. It's because a thousand and one things have kept me busy. I am making up for it by praying for you and your family.

Dear friend, I really regret the sad situation in which you are living. Alas! The cross is heavy to our natural way of looking at things, but you are a man of faith and trust in God. So, like the apostles, you glorify God in your sufferings. Dear friend, provided that we may soon go to Heaven, what does the rest, or the nature of the road, matter! ... What is more, this road must be very precious to us; it's the surest and the shortest [way] to reach the goal.

Don't let yourself be cast down, nor upset by your financial difficulties. God will enrich your children with [the lesson of] their father's trust and holy surrender.

I was very happy to learn that the Third Order is doing well, and that Fr. Lagniet is concentrating his great zeal on it at Puylata. May the Blessed Virgin always bless her work and her children! My faithful respects and greetings to your dear wife, to your dear friend Mr. Blanc. And believe me ever in our Lord,

Dear friend and brother,

All yours,

Eymard, P.M.

Mr. Creuset
place Bellecour, 13
Lyons

Mar. (date?) - Inaugurated "domestic adoration" among prisoners.

Mar. (date?) - Named to be chaplain of the Nocturnal Adoration of Toulon.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 81/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, March 8, 1852

I'm writing to reply to your excellent letter, my dear daughter. I am really grateful to our good Master for the peace and calm he has given you. Oh! May he be blessed a thousand times over! See what results and success come with holy obedience. Now you know the tactics of the wicked serpent who wants only to disturb and worry you. So you will be stronger than this enemy of God, and you will overcome him through our Lord and the Blessed Virgin. We are now in the month of St. Joseph, your good and dear patron saint. Let us have a great love for him and pray to this kind Protector, asking for his gift of surrender to divine Providence, his faithfulness in carrying out God's commands, his love for Jesus and Mary. Then you may ask him for whatever you wish for me.

How happy I am to be here! I had never been so aware of my deficiencies and limits. Now that I am faced with such a variety of duties, I feel keenly what I lack and that also keeps me humble. I'm not orderly enough, disciplined enough to carry out my initial plans. I'm negligent and lazy about many things. See my poor daughter, how many needs I have, without counting all the frustrations of life! Oh! If I didn't have so much self pride, if God were my only thought and desire, I would be more faithful. So then, please ask for this grace of fidelity for me, through St. Joseph.

The more I think about it, the more I see that my stay here is a grace. Here, I can work peacefully on the Biography of good Mr. Marceau, and I can obtain all the information on location. This poor house had many spiritual needs, and I am working at it. Toulon wants me for a beautiful Work, which began nearly a year ago. It is day and night adoration by twenty-four men. It's very edifying. This adoration takes place once and sometimes twice a week. The Bishop and the Superior General put me in charge of it. It is just for one night. However, I don't mention the Third Order here. The Good Lord isn't inspiring me with that desire nor that attraction.

I'm happy with my position. There is so much good to be done from morning to night, especially by self-denial. Now let's talk about you.

1. See whether Fr. Preuvost would come. But no, on second thought, this might be better; I will write to Fr. Champion at La Favorite. I feel safer and more at ease with him. He does not need permission and he will go to see you. I am enclosing the letter to be given to him personally.

2. Fr. Lagniet has mellowed a little in regard to Fr. Collomb. My letter enlightened him. He is leaving things as they are and tells me, in his letter of March 2nd, that the Cardinal doesn't want the merger of the two Third Orders, but that each should maintain its own life. My letter was such that they would know my esteem for Fr. Collomb as a priest, but that there was no reason to merge. However, I had seen from Fr. Collomb's letter that he was over-committing himself and would willingly have moved into it... Like you, I think he is a bit over-zealous.

3. I wrote to dear Mr. Gaudioz.

4. About Gaspari's bill, it's fine. We are quite satisfied with the statues. They are well made. However, I absolutely do not want you to advance the ten francs. Oh! I wish I had some for you, but I trust completely in the care of divine Providence for you. Your sister Jenny mentioned to me that you had paid the postage in Lyons for the little case containing the head.⁶⁰ I don't think it was true, because I was asked to pay for it here.

5. Let time and divine Providence determine the advice Fr. Preuvost should be given. I'll try through Fr. Champion. I don't know enough yet about Fr. Preuvost's discretion and prudence to deal directly in Lyons. I mustn't offend people's sensibilities. I didn't write to Miss Camus yet. Oh! How prudent Miss... ought to be, what a narrow mind!

Montluzin is leaving you! So much the better, let them come to you.

⁶⁰ of the statue.

For Notre Dame du Laus, no problems after Easter.⁶¹ Expect to pay about 15 to 20 sous each day... at the most... some people spend very little... It's possible to live there quite inexpensively. They have milk products.

You have nineteen more Masses from good Marie. I will say them as soon as possible. Please keep the thirty-three francs you have in reserve. If I should die first, you would give them to La Favorite or here, as Masses already offered for the house of La Seyne.

May our Lord comfort and strengthen you, my dear daughter. Your union with him is a painful one at this time, as he shares his crown of thorns with you. Oh! In heaven you will praise God for these sufferings, for this crucified love! Stay closely united to our good Savior: that is [the fruit] you will reap from it.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Don't worry about me, I am fine. My migraine headaches are mild and don't bother me. I haven't received anything from La Mure for several days.

All yours in J. and M.,
Eymard P.M.

You did well to pay Miss David for the mold. I hope that they will stop bothering the Fvre ladies now. Miss Richard will enter at the Reparation. I encouraged her to do so, she will be settled. The Third Order Members who would like to join the Reparation should be treated in the same way as before, without giving it any particular attention, as an independent matter.

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CO 341

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 88/145 VI 10)

All for God alone

La Seyne, March 13, 1852

Very dear sisters,

I was so anxious to receive your letter. I was really worried, especially since I couldn't go see you because my assistant was preaching a Jubilee retreat and I was alone to direct such a large house, a hundred and forty people. What consoled me a little was to think that the Good Lord would hear my poor prayers and restore you to health. Then, given the impossibility I was in, I was led to say: God wants this sacrifice from me, may his holy Will be done! So your letter really consoled me. Please write me often, even if it were only a few words, to have news about you. If you knew how worried one is at a distance! Now, my dear sister, take care of yourself, for it is very bad to have a relapse during convalescence. Your heavenly crown was not finished yet, there were still a few little flowerets missing.

Well, life is precious to the eyes of faith and love for God. A moment of suffering in this world, suffered for the love of God, gives him more glory than a thousand years in Purgatory.

And you, my dear Nanette, you must also be sick; so many sleepless nights and days spent in pain! May God sustain you and render you the hundredfold. The one who suffers, prays; and charity is first among the virtues, it is the perfection of piety. So, don't be worried if you can't be recollected and pray as you would like. The Good Lord knows your desires.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of seeing your cousin, Mr. Bernard. We spoke a lot about his sister, about you, about La Mure. He is delightful.

Please thank his fine wife on my part, for having reminded him that I was at La Seyne.

⁶¹ A meeting is arranged to discuss the Work of the Blessed Sacrament.

Goodbye, good and dear sisters. Send me news about yourselves, please.

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard, p.m.

P.S. I am well.

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CO 342

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 9/52)

All for God alone

March 16, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I received your dear letter today. To prove my good will, I am answering you right away.

First of all I join with you to thank our good Master for the precious graces he is granting you. Dear sister, let your life be a life of thanksgiving, as heaven and eternity will be.

You are on the right path by walking in the footsteps of love, the immolated love in our Lord's life. Let yourself be led as was little Isaac by Abraham, or better, as our divine Savior was himself.

You would do well to write down your thoughts when you feel inclined to do so. Do it first for your own edification, imitating the Blessed Virgin who pondered in her heart what she had seen and heard about Jesus, her love and her All. My opinion would be that you should accept the grace which that fine woman is offering you, provided it doesn't take you away from your simple and obscure life.

Then, pray a great deal for me. I hardly have time to do so.

You could read the book "*Le Chretien Interieur*", selecting only what suits the path mapped out for you.

I bless you twice over for beginning to train your children in Latin. The first lessons are easy; emphasize the declensions and verbs, that is the principal thing and you know it well enough. - Later on, I will send you a small book which is very helpful to progress in that language.

It will always please me to hear about your family. Everything which concerns you is very dear to me in our Lord.

Goodbye, dear sister. I am, in the love of God,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I hope I will soon receive the leaflets you so kindly left at Puylata. Thank you so much.

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Tarare (Rhone)

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 82/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, March 28, 1852

I'm sorry, my dear daughter, for this delay in answering you. I was waiting for a letter from the Superior at Notre Dame du Laus. It seems that he has been absent, I will write again. There is always space there and it won't cost you any more than at St. Francis Regis, even less, because the food is inexpensive there. As for us, we have some complications that keep us very busy: we have measles here, ten have it already... Then everyone comes, mothers, relatives. Add to that that I have had the flu for a few days. That's what makes me lazy. However, I'm not laid up. It's only right that I should also have a small share of our Lord's cross. Superiors don't need to be pitied, though, everyone rushes to take care of them. So, don't worry.

Now, I turn to your answers:

1. Silence. - Maintain it until the end of March. If the cause persists, you would do well to mention it.

2. Your letters console me, but I wouldn't want them at the expense of your health. Be prudent.

3. Yes, do as you say about the two confessors. However, Fr. Champion is a well-informed director, you can be open with him. I spoke to him about Fr. Surin's book which I had loaned you, regarding your spiritual trials. Speak to him simply. As soon as a director is informed about the inner state and its extraordinary trials, he knows all that. Speak to him about the temptation to suicide, this temptation is even ordinary in this state, as Fr. Surin says. Say ... "I accuse myself of anything I may have done which could have offended God. I was forbidden to examine it too closely", and that will suffice.

4. You may speak about the vow of chastity, it is ordinary. The rest is not necessary for the moment.

5. Your serious sins are well confessed in the way I explained to you, especially if the confessor, like Fr. Champion, knows your state. Poor daughter, all these enormous temptations are your purgatory, and make you more pleasing to God. Only don't analyze them, and don't accuse yourself about them in detail.

6. Your vocal prayers. - If it isn't tiring for you, you may continue the Stations of the Cross, and a few decades of the rosary. However, not too many vocal prayers. It would be too much, mentally.

7. Alms for the Jubilee. - This is optional. One franc is enough, even ten sous. The poor give...

Goodbye, dear daughter. Thank you for your note of a hundred francs. I will acquit the Masses for our dear Marie. Tell her that I'm not forgetting her.

I will really give thanks to St. Joseph, if he heals you and comes to your sisters' aid.

My sister's health is continuing to improve.

I leave you in the love of our Lord.

Eymard P.M.

P.S. I am reopening my letter to tell you that I received yours today. Oh! I wasn't expecting such sad news! This good father will be very indebted to the Third Order! The Blessed Virgin will not forget him.⁶²

Don't worry about the letter. I had asked him to burn it. Besides there was nothing compromising in it. They were simple counsels. Oh! I will say your Mass tomorrow. Offer the month of April and May for him.

⁶² The death of Fr. Preuvost, the new director of the Third Order.

La Seyne-sur-Mer Part I 1851 - 1852

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

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CO 279

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(III 3/21 VIII 1)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, March 1852⁶³

Mademoiselle Mariette,

Your letter, my dear daughter, made me both happy and sad. Happy to receive news from you, and sad to see that you are suffering so much and so upset. Alas! The Good Lord wills it, that is the whole of Christian consolation, and God wills it for our greater good. Our life might not be pleasing to him without these crosses.

So thank our good Father, even while he seems to crucify you a little together with his divine Son, who, however, was always pleasing to him and most dearly loved. Suffering replaces meditation, but do take care, my daughter, to make the offering of this cross together with the cross of Jesus. Offer everything that you are suffering and will suffer. This offering will be your meditation and the most excellent one of all. Try also, my dear daughter, not to dwell on your sorrows, you would be increasing them. It's difficult enough just to bear them patiently.

Be sure to receive Communion, you need it. And the Good Lord knows what you are like. Stop saying: I am not able to be interior, nor recollected. See, you can do God's holy will in everything, and consequently, be all that God wills you to be.

I think as you do about Chasselay and I ask the Good Lord to show you his holy Will.

You may perhaps try Fr. Preuvost. Tell him that I know you.

Goodbye, my dear daughter. Yes! May our Lord comfort, sustain and strengthen you.

Eymard

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CO 344

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 83/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, April 7, 1852

My dear daughter, I want to satisfy your wishes for news about me. The flu is over, our patients are almost all well again. We have only four or five convalescents left. Our little crisis is passing. You worry too much about me; in the springtime, there are always some minor problems.

I give you permission to make St. Joseph's vow and I pray that this great saint will kindly obtain for you what you are asking from him. Therefore: 1. Add St. Joseph's name to the *confiteor*. No problem. 2. the grace...3. A quarter of an hour each Wednesday. 4. A novena of

⁶³ Because of the content, Fr. Troussier determined the date to be March 1852, not 1854 as shown in the French Volume.

hours and Communion, when you are completely well; Communion, to thank our Lord for the glory and virtues shown forth in St. Joseph; the hours, to honor his spirituality and humility and to ask him for the gift of prayer.

I'm pleased about the graces which St. Joseph has kindly obtained for you already. Be strong and have trust! It's only the beginning. All your difficulties. . . keep you humble, and enable you to glorify God more in poverty than in peace.... Now please, my daughter! Remember that when the body isn't well, our human nature moans and groans. We mustn't be too harsh on it for that reason. It's so natural! Only we must always lead it back to God.

Goodbye, dear daughter. May our Lord heal you and fill you with his grace and love, you and all your dear sisters. Please give them my love. I share in all your suffering. You may write again ... that you hesitate to tie up his note, but that you will be forced to do so (Then you would reinvest this note in commerce or give it to someone else.) Miss de Revel gave me news about you. She told me that, realizing that visitors tire you, she hadn't dared to go see you, through delicacy.... The house of Fourviere is a very small loss, and perhaps a gain.

About the money for the painting, don't say who held the deposit for it. The person who gave it doesn't want to be known. You could give it to Miss de Revel so that she may pass it on to Miss Spazzier who has already received 50 francs. That way, it's no more than eleven hundred francs, including the frame which cost 150 francs and the painting one thousand. When everything will be finished, it would be well to have it brought to the Third Order Chapel. However, wait for a day when the Fr. Superior General will be away.

Goodbye, my daughter. I'll write to Miss Jenny. I received the answer from Laus. It is favorable.

All yours,
Eymard P.M.

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

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CO 345

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 89/145 VI 10)

All for God alone

Good Friday, 1852⁶⁴

Very dear sisters,

I am writing to wish you a happy Feast of Easter and Resurrection, for your health and for the increase of Jesus' life in you. It is only right that you should share in our Lord's happiness, since you have shared in his cross. That is the sign of his chosen ones, of the true spouses of the spotless Lamb who was immolated for our salvation. My dear sisters, let us take advantage of all these small crosses that God's love sends us! They will give us confidence at the moment of death, and glory in Heaven. The real value of our present life is in the opportunity it gives us to suffer something for God's love. And then, the Good Lord is giving you a great grace by detaching you from the world. The world is so insignificant! The Good Lord is yours, the holy Eucharist is your consolation and strength. If these Gentlemen⁶⁵ neglect you a little... it is often for a greater good. Jesus will be your whole consolation.

⁶⁴ April 9, from La Seyne.

⁶⁵ the priests.

May the Good Lord heal you, for your illness made me very sad. I am very happy to know that you are better. However, be prudent during your convalescence.

I am well. We are having magnificent weather. It is an excellent place.
Goodbye, good and dear sisters.

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard

P.S. Alas! Our fine Mme. Fayolle died! I said Mass for this good mother whom I love very much. She was so kind!

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

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CO 346

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 5/17 VIII 26)

La-Seyne, April 17, 1852

Mademoiselle,

I received your letter dated March 19th with joy and gratitude, as always. I was doing as you were. I was hopeful and anxious. How is it that I did not answer you right away? Your charity had already forgiven me, I'm sure. It's just that your letter found me in the midst of a thousand and one problems.

Measles were devastating our community. The flu was plaguing our professors and to tell you the whole of it, I have it myself. Then we had to replace the absentees, take care of the sick, and for over a month I haven't had a moment to take care of my friends on the outside.

Now our children are better, and only two or three professors are still ill. God sends these little painful trials for our good. I had one great regret: the captain of the *Genereux*, where eight hundred rebels are locked up, came recently to ask me for a confessor for his prisoners, saying that many of them were in a good frame of mind, and I couldn't go! Oh! that was so hard for me!

I spoke about it to some priests from Toulon, but they all have much to do. So, good Father Preuvost has died. Alas! This news saddened me because I felt he would be a good director for the Third Order. I hope that the Blessed Virgin will not forget her Work. God's works are fulfilled in spite of human weakness and in the midst of the thousand and one imperfections of his creatures.

This letter will be too late for Father Gelias. It is regrettable if I am responsible for some spiritual loss to your soul. But my great principle is that we should benefit from God's passing graces as much as possible and draw upon the virtue of a saint. Obviously we must feel an attraction in our heart, an indication of God's will, because that is the only way the heart can open. You speak about coming to La Seyne. I am willing, I would be very happy to be God's intermediary.

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CO 347

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 84/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, April 24, 1852

It seems that you must be very ill, my dear daughter, since I haven't received any news from you in a long time, and that makes me sad. Please have someone give me news. I am worried. Oh! May our divine Savior's cross be blessed! It's truly your lot and your crown. Faith and hope love the cross, and love crucifies us there. But our poor human nature is subject to suffering. May our Lord's grace sustain and strengthen you, and may your love be greater than your sufferings! Now, please! My dear daughter, be a bit more patient toward our Lord, and he will come for his spouse who is crucified for him. All of hell was present on Calvary to torment our Good Master. But hell was vanquished there and the cross became a scepter of love and power.

As for me, I'm fine. Pray only that I may truly fulfill God's holy will. The sick children are better now, but three of our Fathers are ill with the flu.

Goodbye, my dear daughter. Give me news. I heard from my sister, she went to Mass on Easter.

Eymard

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

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CO 348

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 85/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, April 28, 1852

My dear daughter, I hope Miss Jenny received my letter last week. There was a little note in it for you. I was worried about your health, your letter brought me some relief. To come back to Miss Jenny, I hope she won't pass through La Mure without stopping a few days, I would even like to say, a few weeks. It would do her good, my sister would tell her about Laus. I'll write again to one of my friends at Gap, the Bishop's secretary. He goes to Laus often and he could help your sister, if she should need something. Please tell your sisters that I am still united and dedicated to them and that Miss Claudine's letter made me very happy. If I didn't answer, it's because I was overburdened with work until now, to the point that I hardly had time for my prayers.

As for you, it would have made me happy if you had gone to the country with Miss de Revel, I've wanted that for a long time. Your sisters find it hard to be separated from you, though it wouldn't be a separation. I assure you that all those reasons given about the Third Order, and about self-love don't impress me at all. In Miss de Revel's place, I would bring you and I would be deeply hurt by the jealousy of the Third Order. I would ignore it totally. There is only one thing I would see could delay Miss Jenny's departure for Le Laus, either your health, or if the trip were still too much for her.

I understand your embarrassment toward Miss That's our poor human condition. You do well to act as you do. However, you need to keep certain limits on your freedom.

La Seyne-sur-Mer Part I 1851 - 1852

I have time only to bless you.

Eymard

The letter here enclosed is to be shared.

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CO 349

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 86/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, April 28, 1852

Mademoiselle,

I received your letter. Thank you for your kind regards. Your love for the Third Order pleases me. Love it well and be ever dedicated to it. Please don't say who gave you money for the painting; it's a gift, and no one knows but me. Inquiries about it would be very indiscreet and would upset me. They should be grateful for a gift to the Third Order and be discreet about it, under pain of losing it.

I will be happy to see you go to the countryside with Miss de Revel, but I'm afraid it is too soon. You would do better to wait a little longer.

I recommend myself to your prayers and am in our Lord,

Entirely at your service,
Eymard

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

May 1 - Bishop of Grenoble recognizes authenticity of events at La Salette.

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CO 350

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 10/52)

All for God alone

May 2, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am sending you my reply to Miss Antonia. I ask our Lord to take full possession of her heart, and be sufficient for her. Sadly, she is suffering, but if she knew all the happiness, peace, strength, richness, and gentleness of divine love, she would be overjoyed by this jealous love. Pray.... As for me, I believe this is a great grace which our good Master is giving her. Right now her anguished heart is crying out, it is a moment of death... life will return later. Your dear sister is made for Jesus alone. Thank you for her kind regards; give me news about her from time to time.

May the Good Lord bless your efforts to train your children. You may be able to meet their needs for several years. If I am able during the holidays, I will share my limited experience with you.

Goodbye, dear sister, from 9:00 to 10:00, at the feet of Jesus. Adoration is spreading here; what a joy it is to be able to spread the knowledge and love of Jesus! But I feel sad; I'm doing nothing, my mind is too busy with this external life and its burdens. Make up for it a little.

Goodbye in his divine love,
Eymard

P.S. My respects and regards to your family.

Mme. Tholin-Bost, Ng⁶⁶
at Tarare (Rhone)

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CO 351

TO FR. BARET
(V 3/6)

T.P.D.S.

La-Seyne-sur-mer, May 2, 1852

Very dear friend,

Your silence makes me fear that I may have hurt you. I would really be very grieved to have saddened you, because neither distance, separation, the world, or death can separate two hearts which God has joined. So, you should have written to me.

However, I didn't let your niece's vocation lie dormant, and I am happy to let you know that they will receive her. The Superior General [fem.] writes: "I can relate perfectly to what you tell me about Mademoiselle. You can therefore write to tell her to come when she wishes."

So, dear friend, my negotiations are over. You can write with confidence to Belley, to the Motherhouse of the Marist Sisters.

What are you doing? Did you have a good Easter? Is your health better? - If the Good Lord allows me to go to La Mure this year, I promise I will go see you.

Goodbye, dear friend, think a little about me in prayer, and believe me, *ad annos aeternos*.⁶⁷

All yours in Christo,
Eymard, P.M.

Fr. Baret
Pastor at La Motte d'Aveillans
via La Mure (Isere)

⁶⁶ Merchant.

⁶⁷Eternally.

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 7/75)

All for God alone

May 3, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

So you are now at St. Romans in your delightful and silent countryside, enjoying the pure air of Isere, the love of your good people, the distractions of a whole new little world! I imagine that I can see you no longer sad and suffering as in the religious storms of Lyons,⁶⁸ but happy and joyful. I wish you more joy than last year. How sad! You can see, Madame, that the world is passing by, as well as its pleasures and sorrows, and that eternity, the great rendezvous of the human race, is rising before us. We shall also soon go to see and dwell in that great divine center. What thoughts I've just written! But you love them and so do I; it's my dominant thought. To pass through this world, to glorify God and to die: this describes the human being, the Christian, and the elect. The rest is nothing, only child's games or adult foolishness.

Your last letter made me sad at first. Oh, so many crosses and turmoil! You will suffer, Madame, because you are created for the Heaven of Jesus crucified. Suffering is the seed of glory. Well, since Jesus wants to glorify us divinely and eternally, we must suffer. However, let us always suffer with love, suffer alone with God alone. Let others think we are happy and pleased when our heart is crucified and our soul desolate. Oh! How pleased God is with a soul which can say so heroically: My God, I love you above all things!

Out in the country one can make provision for the whole year, of thoughts for the mind, and for recollection. What joy! I would envy you a little except that the Good Lord wants me to be in the midst of the noise of bustling children. How good the Good Lord is! I needed this experience; I've discovered so many imperfections in myself! So many latent faults have been stirred up in this activity! I thank the Good Lord for it and ask you to do the same for me.

As for the Biography of Mr. Marceau, I haven't touched it for two months. We had cases of measles and the flu, and I needed to be everywhere at the same time. I am happy to think that you will work with Miss Agarithe. I believe you will be very edified; besides, you are interested in the subject.

Goodbye, dear sister. Don't be angry with me if I delay so much. My soul doesn't. Nor should you allow such long periods to give me news about yourself and all your dear family. Please present my respectful regards to them.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

P.S. Thank you kindly for your efforts to help that poor father of a family. I was forgetting to tell you that my health is adequate.

Mme. Jordan, at the countryside,
at St. Romans by St. Marcellin
(Isere)

⁶⁸Struggles related to the Third Order? Ed.

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 1/19)

All for God alone

La-Seyne, May 6, 1852

Madame,

I have been wanting to write you a few words for such a long time:

1. To thank you for the painting for the Third Order which gave you so much trouble! May the Blessed Virgin reward you for it!

2. To thank you for the watercolor which you painted for me. I am sorry that you put so much work into it, especially for a poor religious. Therefore, it does cost me a lot to accept it as it is! You understand my idea. May God grant me the grace to repay you somehow, some day.

3. I saw Mr. Martel, and he told me that you might perhaps be coming to Hyeres. I hope I will be more fortunate than last time. They told me that you are still ill. Alas, Madame, naturally speaking we have the right to complain; but may the love of God, the love of Jesus crucified let you experience how good it is to suffer and die little by little for him. Let us find courage on the way of the cross, it is the surest and shortest path to heaven. An hour of suffering is worth more than a thousand years of heavenly consolations. I may be wrong, when I pray for you, one thought keeps recurring to me, that you are in spiritual desolation and dryness. I feel inclined to pray that your love may be wholly pure, a complete holocaust, sacrificing one's whole self to the pure glory of God. Let us never forget that we come from God out of nothingness and that we are returning to God by human nothingness.

Goodbye, dear sister in our Lord. Continue to pray for me. It is my duty and joy to do so for you.

Madame, I am in our Lord, your ever devoted S.

Eymard, SM

P.S. I had asked a young woman to give you the money for the painting. I hope it has been done. I'm sorry that it is so little. Your painting is worth much more! For me, it is worth your admission to the Third Order.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 16/33)

All for God alone

[La-Seyne], May 11, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I do deserve your reproaches somewhat, but I have been so over-worked for the last two months, by [caring for] the sick and by business matters.

Now, things are going better. I am still late with everything and you know through experience, that I have never won the prize for promptness; I am always in debt. Alas! However, in God's presense, I pay you every day.

Until later then. Goodbye. It is time to leave.

Eymard

P.S. I wanted to give you this letter which may not contain much, because I finished it when I was about to leave. I wanted to give it to you myself. That is why it traveled with me to St. ... The Good Lord didn't will it. Don't judge me rashly. I was not guilty, either before or after. Please pray for me.

Eymard

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CO 355

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 87/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, May 14, 1852

My dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm writing to answer your welcome letters which always please me very much, and give me good news about you. This letter and my replies are for you alone. I cannot trust Miss D's discretion. Fr. Viennot, in his excessive zeal, could put me in a difficult position. Letters of direction from me to the Third Order would not be seen well at Puylata. Father Lagniet has already reproached me about it once and I understand the legitimate reasons for it all. That's why I don't want to answer Miss D. in detail. Everything is fine with these touchy people when things are going according to their views. However, when they become upset, they jeopardize everything. I know that Miss D. has good intentions, that she loves the Third Order very much and is entirely dedicated to it. As for her external actions, I have to be reserved. In your case, you know that I speak to you with an open heart and with all simplicity, and that is a grace. I love your reciprocity.

So in the first place, I should tell you:

1. That I burn your papers after having answered. If I should die, nothing of yours will be found among my things. I owe you that. I would be worried otherwise. Therefore, your conscience is clear.

2. The young men wrote to me today that they find the painting magnificent. What should be looked for in a painting is the inspiration. A bit more simplicity would be preferable. There are so many paintings in our churches that are less modest than that one! How many worldly Magdalens!

So be it. Mme. Spazzier will settle everything. Now that the painting is done, I would prefer a painting on the spiritual life. I wanted it then, but the difficulty of representing the spiritual life made me accept the Mother of Beautiful Love and Holy Hope. Because, after all, Mother of Beautiful Love certainly includes the spiritual life! The sinners and the just represent the successes of the Third Order.

3. For Miss My opinion is that she be courteously dismissed.

4. For a director, prayer and trust in Jesus and Mary will obtain one according to God's heart. Too much importance is given to such and such a Father's merits. Sometimes, if God heard our anxious wishes, it would be a punishment.

Let us keep in mind that good takes place in the midst of struggle and difficulties, by means which seem to destroy everything. Then, when human strength or weakness have reached their limit, God manifests himself and acts by his grace, for his glory.

You say there is a hope that I would be returning to Lyons for the Third Order. I would almost like to ask you on what you base that. For you must understand that naturally speaking I can hardly desire to go there. In spite of that, I don't worry about it. I leave it to the Good Lord to direct my

little vessel toward this or that shore. My only duty is to row following his divine orders. I love the Third Order! Yes, but in God. I beg you not to take up my defense and not to be troubled when I am on the carpet for discussion. It's only a light passing breeze and renews our desire to belong to God alone and to work only for him.

I'll say the sixty Masses for Marie, that dear daughter, as soon as possible. Remember me to her and tell her that I don't forget her. Keep the money until I tell you otherwise. How much do you have to send me?

On Ascension Day, we will have our First Communion here. I will say your Mother's Mass the day before.

My respects to Mme. Gou...; I'll write to her tomorrow.

Fr. Ch. could go to see you in the country. I would like Miss de Revel to meet him. What do you think?

I empathize with all the trials in your household, what misfortune! Sometimes I complain to God. I admit ... that is a great sacrifice for me ... as to that matter, I had thought about it before you did, and my plan was and is determined ... however, I still need to receive an answer which I expect will be favorable.

I am making the novena from Mme. G. for you and the Third Order. As for the Third Order money, keep it. If I should die first, you would use it for the Third Order as would seem appropriate to you, without rendering an account to anyone. For the fifty francs left over for the frame, ten francs have been put aside for Masses. Please include them among those you had indicated to me. If I should die, send it to the house of La Seyne, by Fr. Champion or someone else.

I have nothing to say on the subject of the funeral cross for Fr. Preuvost's casket.

Fr. Lagniet wrote to me that the Collomb affair is settled, and that the Cardinal has dropped his bias. He says, however, that we should be discreet about using this direction. I wish there would be great respect and deference for Fr. Lagniet and his feelings, for he is protecting the Third Order as much as he can. So, if he wants a reception for a few of the children of Mary, wouldn't it be good to keep this hope alive? Yes, I agree with you about those who are thinking of marriage. Then also, Miss Mouly, the eldest, doesn't want it that way. I understand that it's difficult, try to put it off.

May 15 - Now to return to the big question. I'll say Mass on May 16th and June 24th for your intentions. My opinion is that you should stay as you are.

It's true. Calvary stands in your home as if suffering is your lot; well! yes, I share your feeling.

Go to Fr. Champion with full confidence, he is the one that I asked from God for you, he understands your state, he is devout and learned. Be like a daughter to him, with all simplicity. It makes me happy to know that you are under his direction. You can be sure that it doesn't diminish my interest for you in any way nor my heartfelt dedication. On the contrary, because I want what is best for you, it comforts me to know that you are not left to yourself.

Goodbye, dear daughter, in our Lord I bless you and your dear family as well.

Eymard

P.S. I must tell you that Miss ... is supported by her brother who earns a lot. In fact, I believe that a short time ago ... very discretely offered them something to pay for a painting. . . .

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

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 6/17 VIII 26)

La-Seyne, May 15, 1852

My dear sister in our Lord,

Today is your brother's feast day. My wish for him was to attain the eternal feast. He is a dear son in our Lord. I was happy to say Mass for him today. The thought of him is ever present to me. He pursues me, I will never forget him. Yes, I hope that he was received in the bosom of the mercy of God. It pleases me to pray for him. He is dear to me; he is my son and your relative, my dear sister. He is very dear to me under both titles.

Your letters are good for me and I say to myself: I did nothing to deserve so much gratitude.

God is the one who did everything. It's true, my soul is ever dedicated to your salvation. I wish you all God's graces and his perfect love. Yes, the Good Lord loves you very much, dear sister.

He lead you by a path of thorns and sacrifices. Praise the Good Lord for his favors, how great they are! They were the means by which you won his heart and they set you on a path of greater detachment, consequently, of a purer and more magnanimous love. May God be blessed a thousand times for it. But let this good Master lead you. He wants you to die to all created things; to have no other consolation than his love and the cross of his love. Now that the nature of your sufferings has changed, since it is physical suffering and often heartache, prepare yourself for the coming of the heavenly Spouse. Rest at the feet of our divine Savior; however, let the lamp of charity always be lit. You need God more than God's creatures. It seems that the knowledge of God alone can be perceived through your needs. Death is perhaps still too sad in your eyes. I feel it very much, when you speak to me about it. No, your mission is not over, the mission of suffering, immolated through love for Jesus crucified. - If you were not the spouse of the Immolated Jesus, if Heaven were not the outcome and the eternal fruit of the cross, I would cry over you, and shall I tell you? The thought of your sorrows often leaves me sad, and then I pray for you.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 17/33)

All for God alone

May 16,

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I have one moment and it is yours. The other day I was sorry to let Father Marcel leave without a long letter. I didn't have enough time, but you know that if I am silent on paper, I make up for it in God's presence.

Your last letter made me very happy. It's one of the best that you have written to me. So I also want mine to bring you what I wish. - What was there about your last letter? It accurately describes your struggling and suffering soul, its desires and its needs. Then also, the work of grace in you. Well, that is what I felt.

God wants to liberate you, not from the world, you are liberated; but from yourself, from spiritual sensuality which devours your good intentions and sterilizes your immeasurable graces.

Remember that our Lord paralyzes people in your regard in order to force you to go to him alone. Don't get upset with these poor ones, but with God who wants to replace everything for you. - See, my good Sister, how dear your soul must be to me that I would dare tell you this. Oh! Yes, it is dear to me! It is at the foot of the cross; but not burdened or crushed, I hope, rather standing with the Blessed Virgin, in order to get closer to her divine son.

I do pray and I will pray for your good Charles. He is a child of blessing. I pray and I will pray for his good father, for his loving mother. I thank you for remembering me. The ship is moving under a favorable wind.

Goodbye, dear Sister,

Your ever devoted in our Lord,
Eymard

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CO 358

TO MR. CREUSET
(V 4/8)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), May 24, 1852

Very dear friend and brother in Jesus and Mary,

Thank you for your kind letters. They are very precious to me and very touching to my heart. I am sorry that I didn't answer you right away, and yet my heart does so every day and several times a day before God and the Blessed Virgin. How often I ask the Good Lord to be your support and Providence! I can see that responsibilities are very heavy, and that the cross is deeply rooted in your house. A friend always hurts to see a friend on Calvary, even were he a saint, even were he God like our good Savior. How many times I regretted my powerlessness. It would be so good to relieve a friend!

Your letter consoles me.... Yes, dear friend, praised be the cross in this world! The cross that comes from God, the one which always comes to us from his Fatherly heart. It's hard for our poor human nature to depend on divine Providence from day to day; but since this maternal Providence will be there tomorrow and until death, let us surrender to it; the goodness of God is infinite. See the value of this world's possessions! God prefers an act of poverty, and he honors his saints with it. We will always be rich enough, if hope and love are our possessions.

Dear friend, continue to apply yourself to [acquire] the love of Jesus crucified, and you will find treasures and delights which are unknown to souls who do not dare to climb to Calvary. Job was great on his dunghill. He was a king there more than on his throne of shining gold. And Jesus was greater on Calvary than on Tabor; when he wants to help a Christian grow, he draws him to himself. He said: "When I shall be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all things to myself." And when you belong entirely to Jesus, he will perform miracles for you, if necessary. The angels served him when he was hungry after forty days of fasting and struggle.

Alas! Don't look at the natural side of the cross of your wife's suffering or your dear little child; your father's heart would be too upset. Look at this cross in our Lord, and its nature will change. I pray to the Blessed Virgin to heal your dear wife, and to come to your help.

The death of Fr. Prevost really grieved me. But I continue to trust that our good Mother will not forsake her family, and that if it has difficulty finding a director, that will be its last [trial]. That's all that was missing, it had had all the others! [trials]

Be ever devoted to our dear Third Order, and be convinced that you will receive a hundredfold.

Goodbye, dear friend and brother, my humble respects to Madame, tell her from me: Trust and pray.

All yours in *Christo*,
Eymard, S, P.M.⁶⁹

Mr. Creuset
Place et rue Bellecour, 13
Lyons (Rhone)

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CO 359

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 88/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, June 2, 1852

I will always consider you as my dear daughter in our Lord. So, don't be troubled if I tell you to have great confidence in Fr. Champion and to open your soul to him. He is spiritual and learned, discreet and prudent. He will be a very good director.

I admired the trust you showed by telling me how badly you feel However, I expected it, because I know and value your simplicity of heart, so you pleased me very much. However, sometimes I chuckle at your fears of annoying me, of saddening me, etc., etc. The Good Lord has given me the heart of a father and a mother for you and your family.

I haven't received my answer yet from ... besides, if I don't succeed this way, I will try another ... I would really like that little sunlit house if possible.

I will write to Mr. ... but it shouldn't be put in writing; you would be fined by law. He must be bound by confidence in his word.

Miss B. should be dismissed courteously without any unpleasantness. It's useless.

So the painting has been corrected, so much the better! Fr. Lagniet wrote to me that it was he, not Miss David, who noticed the need for correction, that he is the one who asked M.D. to request a correction on the painting. May God be blessed and praised for everything!

It is good that Fr. Champion had seen your writings, there is no problem in his regard. I believe as he does that you should decrease your vocal prayers, especially in your present state.

Stay with Miss de Revel all the time you need to recuperate. Your dear sisters need to manage without you a little longer, in order to have you in better health, that would be a bit too childish.

I am the same as usual, thank you.

I've just received a letter from La Mure. Nanette was at La Salette on the 25th. The Bishop of Grenoble was there as well as the one from Valence, many people, everything was quite impressive!

Goodbye, dear daughter, may our Lord make you totally his!

Eyd.

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

⁶⁹ Superior, Marist Priest.

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CO 360

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 5/17)

All for God alone

La Seyne, June 2, 1852

Dear sister in Jesus and Mary,

I'm inserting a little word for you, in your dear brother's letter. I was very happy to see good Mr. Thonny, Mme. Clara, and the whole family. When we are far from a village that we love with our whole heart, we are so happy to meet someone from there, especially a friend. But it was too short. See what the joys of life are like; they pass you by with a quick hello. You had your trials in the Third Order, alas! So, it is always true to say that good can take place only with the cross, and that saints make saints suffer.

Yes, you do well to be reserved and discreet. I never would have believed there could be so much indiscretion, even in the pious world, if I didn't see it everyday. This shows how few are the solid and pure friendships based on virtue.

So you are still on the cross! Oh! How much the Good Lord loves the dear Mayet family! But then, it's so generous.

As a spouse of our Lord you ought to be where your divine Spouse is, be united to him. The pain of his crucifixion must find an echo in you. That is the perfect possession of divine love-- the cross -- love it well -- love it as Jesus has loved it.

I hope that the present trial of the Third Order will be its last. It hadn't experienced that one...

Continue to be devoted to it. I am happy to know that you are there. Don't become discouraged with all the human limitations which are stirred up in connection with the Third Order. It is like a flame which is purifying it. Goodbye, dear sister. My respects to your whole family and to Miss Guillot when you see her.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

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CO 361

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 11/75)

T.P.D.S.

La Seyne-sur-Mer, June 29, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I thank you very much for your two letters. However, I always find them too short. See what joy they give me. I praise our Lord for having given you his holy love and a great desire to do great things for his love and his glory! Oh! How blessed you are to have understood that God is everything and human beings nothing, that God alone deserves the sovereign tribute of your heart, your life, and all your possessions. Earth, life, and every talent are good only as a means to glorify God as we pass through this land of exile... Isn't it true, dear sister, that when we have experienced both the world and God, we can understand how right are the words: All is vanity, except to love and serve God?

Personally, I am afraid of death; I am asking the Good Lord to put it off for a while. When I think about the cost of this present life, what it cost our Lord, the glory we can bring to God, the

value and love in suffering, I cannot resign my soul to death, to go toward the God of eternity like a day-old child. It's a great and divine thing to suffer for the love of God and to sacrifice for him everything that we have and everything that we are.

To pass [through this world] to glorify God and to die: that is a beautiful motto. What symbol can we use to express it?

I know none other than Jesus crucified, or the soul on the Cross with Jesus.

You ask me to name your dominant fault. I don't know. However, I know the virtue which ought to dominate in you: with you it isn't humility or penance, but gentleness toward yourself, your neighbor and God, whether he treats you harshly or kindly. This is what I call childlike love, perfect charity. This is the virtue which I desire for you with all my soul. This divine virtue is difficult to acquire. It is the beautiful virtue of our Lord himself: "Learn from me that I am gentle," work especially to be gentle and kind in the midst of aridity, trials from your neighbor, a seeming harshness from God. I really pity your scrupulous friend, especially if she is still young. The best way would be to have her make a retreat with a skilled director who would treat her as a sick person, and during the retreat, would have her sacrifice her own thinking and judgment.

It's very easy to receive your friend into the Third Order: I will give to whatever priest you name all the necessary faculties to receive your friend's profession. Then tell me her name, and I will inscribe her in the special Register. She can be dispensed from doing the novitiate and in the same private ceremony profess her consecration both as novice and as professed.

I saw Miss Monavon. She spent two days at La Seyne and we have spoken a great deal, but especially about my good Dauphinoise.⁷⁰ She brought all my papers and I hope you will both be very edified by what you learn about Mr. Marceau. Then, you can work to complete everything and finish it soon. I advise you to read a small biography of a Marist Priest entitled: *Notice on the Life and Death of Jean-Marie-Anthelme Buyat, of the Society of Mary*. You can get it at Pelagaud.

Goodbye, dear sister. Pray for me and ask your dear daughter also to pray for me. I do not forget her.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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CO 363

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 89/395 VI 2)

T.P.D.S.

La Seyne, June 30, 1852

My dear daughter, I am a little behind in answering your last letter. It's because of a trip I made to Digne, where I visited our house. Then also, a thousand and one things come up at the end of the year. We expect school to be out July 29th; but don't let that prevent you from writing to me, even long letters, because your letters please me in the Lord.

I thank the Good Lord that you found a quiet house which was so favorable to your health. Then, also, you will be close to the chapel of the Incarnate Word. Fr. Champion knows the chaplain very well, he could easily go to hear your confession in the chapel, if it were possible. My dear daughter, please entrust yourself to our Lord and his paternal care. You will not lack anything, especially in the spiritual life, if you are closely united to your divine Spouse. A spouse must nourish, care for, defend, perfect his spouse. It seems to me that our Lord is now replacing many things for you, and that you no longer need so many external helps. As I see your state of inner freedom and peace in the midst of trials and difficulties, I am led to thank God for his goodness to

⁷⁰ Mme. Jordan herself.

you. Don't attach yourself to means for going to God, but to God alone and to his divine will of the moment. Let yourself be turned this way and that, taken or left, consoled or forsaken by our divine Master, as he wishes. Put your consolation in one thing only, in the love of his divine will.

It gives me peace to know that you are in Fr. Champion's care. Follow his advice as you would my own. When Miss de Revel asks you to pray with her, you would do well to do so, if your health allows. For then, charity requires it, and in that case charity passes ahead of your interior devotion. Confess yourself "foolishly", forgive me if I use your own word: humility is the measure of grace. What you seek in confession is the grace of absolution. What is important, dear daughter, is that you shouldn't try too hard to plumb the mystery of God's grace within you. Go to the Good Lord like a child who is surrounded by his parents' blessings, seeks to please them, and seeks every opportunity to prove his love to them....

I feel sorry for that poor brother! It's too bad that he is leaving La Favorite: Southerners find it difficult to get along with Northerners.

I am pleased that you told me about that unpleasant conversation. You did well to maintain a cool silence; if you had been in charge, it would have been good to change the conversation. I'm glad you shared your disappointment with me; unfortunately my daughter, that is what happens even to pious people when they frequent the world often. Don't try to know more about it and ask our Lord to be able to forget everything that you heard.

If the Good Lord should will that we meet at La Mure or at Le Laus I would praise him for it, I still don't have permission to go. I will write to you about it sometime in advance. You would come to the house as if you were at home, and if I should go to Lyons and have a quarter of an hour, it will be for you and for your conscience.

I've just received your letter dated June 28th. Thank you for your wishes for my feast day. May our dear St. Peter obtain for me a share in his love for our Lord and his cross. I had also received the note from Miss Vadoux.

I wrote to Mr. Gaudioz.

I'm sorry that ... hasn't received my letter, I'll write to her again ... there was perhaps a misunderstanding. But then, may God be blessed in everything!

Thank you for having spared me some visitors; I don't have enough time at the moment.

How good the Good Lord is to have let you find someone for your funds!...

A thousand wishes to your dear mother, and your dear sisters. You know my devotion to you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. Excuse my pen. The mail will be leaving and I want to answer you promptly.

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC⁷¹
(VIII 1/26 VII 17)

All For God alone

La Seyne, July 5, 1852

Mademoiselle and dear sister in Mary,

I have been very slow in writing to you. In your charity please forgive me. You know that I am not slow to keep you in my prayers. I was traveling - and then a thousand and one things came up.

Thank you very much for your kind letter, and for all that you are doing for me. I was very pleased to learn that Miss Guillot is at your home in the country; she will bring God's blessings upon it, and our Lord will reward you spiritually for what you are doing for his spouse upon the cross. What troubles that family has had, and for such a long time! Miss Guillot wrote to me some time ago; she is at a loss for words to express her gratitude to you. She gave me news about you and the hope that you will visit the South. However, don't come during the hot months - July and August - a person who is not used to this climate finds the heat very oppressive.

I shall try to get to know Mr. d'Averton. It will be easy for me, as I know many naval officers through the parents of our students; also through the perpetual adoration in Toulon, of which I have just been made Director. It is a truly inspiring Association. The men spend the night at the feet of the Most Blessed Sacrament Exposed, and the ladies by day. There can be seen some most edifying men who belong to the upper classes, and a certain number of naval officers. There are from 300 to 400 people in this Work - a fine mission. I go there once a week, on Fridays.

As for yourself, dear sister, what are you doing in Lyons? You really ought to take better care of yourself. Let me know how you are. Our holidays will begin at the end of the month, and I am looking forward to them. My soul is dried up and is in need of rest. I understand now that a busy exterior life is a burden that overwhelms a person of weak virtue. I am like poor day laborers who live from day to day, but who are reduced to poverty as soon as they stop working. That is exactly the state I am in - so pray for me, and believe me, always in our Lord,

Very dear sister,

Your devoted servant,
Eymard PRM⁷²

Miss de Revel
Rue Ste Helene
Lyons

⁷¹ Secretary of the Third Order

⁷² Perhaps: Pretre, Religieux, Mariste; Priest, Religious, Marist.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 18/33)

All for Jesus Crucified

July 7, 1852

The promptness of my reply, my dear daughter, proves my desire to help you, and how pleased I was by your last letter.

In fact, my greatest pleasure is to learn that my daughters in our Lord are faithful to grace and follow their divine Master unconditionally, whenever he calls them. Well, my dear daughter, Jesus is surely calling you to his holy love by the sacrifice of human help, by the daily sacrifice of feeling his consolations. Remember that every human being, no matter how holy, can only help you to the extent that she will lead you purely toward this good Savior.

So then, consider yourself very fortunate that you are called to the grace of perfection, and consider the stripping of yourself, the isolation, the human paralysis to be a necessary cure, an absolute condition. It's the Calvary of Resurrection.

I often told you, and I am convinced of it: our Lord is calling you to a great perfection, but by means of the Cross. Your heart is such that if the interior cross, especially, were not keeping it on Calvary, people would take it away from you or you would give it away. But our Lord alone will reign there.

There is another grace that I would really wish for you: that of seeing your crosses, sacrifices, rejection, as a great grace from God and to see them then from the precious side of love. - Yes, often meditate on the nothingness of human beings, of Allness in God. Surrender to interior silence, to detachment from your senses at the feet of our Lord. [Besides,] there is no illusion there, but a stronger, gentler life for your meditation.

It is quite possible that one day, when the world notices that you are managing without it, it will try to surround you. You will then continue to be charitable, generous, but you will guard your heart. Oh, praise be to God alone and to his cross!

As for meditation on our Lord, meditate especially on his spirit, his interior life, more than on the external aspects of his divine and human actions. You will draw more benefit from it. If divine Childhood suits you, that is fine. These are the wrappings of love, stronger than all other bonds.

For a confessor, go humbly and simply to confess your faults and to recover your purity by the grace of absolution and so be able to present yourself more purely to the Communion Table. Confession for Holy Communion and that is all. However, to find the advice you need, present them [your faults] such as you think they are. You would do well to prepare your subject before, in order to be more precise when you present them. Speak of everything, if you need to, but ask specific questions. For example, what must I do or answer in such a circumstance? - It takes a little skill to know how to draw a good reply from a director who would only offer generalities.

Have courage! I will no longer call you Madame, but my dear daughter in our Lord and you know well that you are. Thank you for your good prayers! I love them. They call you back to sacrifice, and I am its Minister. Sometimes I am a bit harsh on you; but I would be so happy to see you given entirely to God's Glory.

Goodbye, dear daughter. My respectful regards to your husband, to your dear Charles.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Do not worry about your letters. I burn all letters of [spiritual] direction immediately. It is a duty. As for delicate matters, do not be the first to bring them up. You mustn't worry about it. You have your primary decision.

TO MISS JOSÉPHINE GOURD
(V 51/52)

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I received the news about you with great thanksgiving to God. May God confirm and increase this improvement!

Surely, may the holy Will of God be done! But, since he allows us to ask and pray for it, we are asking him to give you life and health, so that you may work a little more for his glory, the welfare of your dear daughter, and the spiritual welfare of your husband.

I would be grateful to receive a little note with news about you. I am in favor of the reception....

Remain peacefully united to our Lord in your state of weakness and suffering. Keep saying some vocal invocations such as the following to our good Master:

My God, I am all yours!

Lord Jesus, my good Master, I love you in your kindness and holy Will.

Life or death, my only pleasure is your good pleasure.

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

All yours,
Eymard

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 9/52)

All for God alone

July 18, 1852

Miss Stephanie,

I have just read your letter, my dear daughter. It made up for such a long silence.

I was thinking: "Either my daughters are forgetting me or they have some great sorrow," and I could only pray. Therefore it is so comforting for me to learn that they love God and serve him with their whole heart, especially you, my dear daughter! It is said that the chaste lover of our Savior had chosen the better part. You also, you have the better part, the most noble, most perfect and most gracious Spouse. Do keep him and always be faithful to him. It is the most beautiful tribute you can offer him, the greatest proof of love you can give him. The wealthier you are according to the world, the more attractive partners you could have, the more you can say to our Lord: I love you more than all that, my heart will never have another Master, another Spouse, another King than you.

Think of the heroic struggles of the Virgins of the first centuries of the Church, of the magnanimous Roman Virgins who let themselves be stripped of all their possessions, of their titles, and of life itself rather than lose the halo of virginity.

⁷³ There is no indication of a date for this excerpt from a letter. This is a tentative placement. This letter is obviously to Mme. Gourd even though the French edition lists it under Stephanie Gourd.

Don't let yourself be moved, dear daughter, by tenderness and tears. No one can ask such a sacrifice from you, and no position in life can oblige you to take that step.

Don't let yourself be disturbed by the apparent or real good you could accomplish in such a situation. The greatest good you can do is to follow Jesus, and you are blessed that you have been called to follow the Lamb without stain and one day to sing the mysterious canticle.

You are a little like St. Catherine of Siena. Make a sanctuary in your heart and Jesus will let you find the delights of his love there ever more graciously.

You are so poor! Praise God for it: the poor person who wants to give and give from his own need has both rewards.

However, when divine Providence gifts you, receive with gratitude, fidelity and meekness. These are your two beautiful gracious virtues.

Fidelity to God, to his divine inspiration, readiness to say with Samuel: "Here I am Lord;" with St. Paul: "Lord, what do you want me to do?" With our Lord: "My heart is ready, oh my God, to fulfill your Will."

Fidelity in accepting interior sacrifices promptly, then begin by accepting frustrations, and do so for the love of God.

Fidelity to your spiritual practices. Prefer to do them together with your mother, it is even better.

However, keep your heart in continual thanksgiving. This way of praising God will make you respond more spontaneously and graciously to sacrifice, because you will consider it as a brilliant opportunity to show God your love.

Meekness, but not weakness, a daughter's meekness. You have full power over their hearts. You are loved. But when the question comes up, give a decisive answer, and say it hurts you. For the rest, be kind, thoughtful, gracious. One day you will need to use the power your love gives you to speak about God and salvation.⁷⁴ If the Good Lord is making you wait for this miracle, it is because he wants it to be a great one, and to make you earn it generously.

Goodbye my dear daughter, remember me in your prayers. You know how much good I desire for you in our Lord.

In his divine love I bless you. +

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CO 367

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS) (II 90/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, July 20, 1852, St. Marguerite's Day

It's your feast day today, my dear daughter, and a great feast it is in heaven, as I hope it is also on earth. I want to associate myself to all those who are wishing you a happy day in the divine love of our Lord. Your holy Patroness is a virgin and martyr, be both of these in the love of our Lord. Always be a virgin in your divine love, a virgin in your life, may our Lord alone reign in your mind, in your heart, in your will, in the crucifixion of your senses. Be a martyr in total self-denial, in order to do the will of your divine Spouse in all things; be a martyr by loving the crosses that our Lord is sending you, in a word, a martyr of obedience! So these are my feast day wishes. May we also celebrate it one day in heaven.

I still don't have permission to go to see my sister. So I am waiting for a yes or a no and I will let you know

May obedience to your confessors always be your rule and your peace. As for decisions of direction, follow those of the former director rather than those of a passing confessor who doesn't

⁷⁴ Her father's conversion.

know you. However, if what he tells you recollects you, gives you peace, unites you with our Lord, that is fine. Feed upon it. If on the contrary, it troubles you, draws you out of recollection, out of inner peace, leave it, while being grateful for the good will of the person who wanted to help your soul.

Ask Fr. Galtier, through Fr. Champion, for permission to use the chapel, or if you prefer, I will write to him.

I will say the five Masses for Keep the receipt ... until the next opportunity.

Goodbye, good daughter, don't worry about my health. God is sustaining me. Pray very much for the one who is in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. My love to your whole family: to your dear mother, to Miss Mariette, I wish persevering courage; to Miss Claudine, trust; to Miss Jenny, the joy of our Lord.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
33 Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhone)

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CO 369

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 2/26 VII 17)

All For God Alone

La Seyne, July 21, 1852

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in our Lord,

I have had no news from you for a very long time. This must mean you are ill: why hide it from me! You surely know that I am interested in everything which concerns you. Our holidays will begin at the end of this month, and I still don't know how I shall spend them. If I may, I shall pay a short visit to my sister. If you were as close as Grenoble, I would be happy to go to Grenoble. - As for Lyons, I shall go there only if I am told to go, as I have so much to do here.

I have not yet met Mr. d'Averton. I await your advice.

Fr. Lagniet writes that he would like to visit you. I'm very glad to hear this, as it indicates a renewed desire for the good of the Third Order. You will make him welcome, I know, for the love of God and the Third Order. Fr. Lagniet is a good man. So as to have an excuse, I shall give him a letter (unimportant) for you. Then send me news about yourself sometime before the month of August, and I shall bless you for it.

Goodbye, my good, dear sister. Believe me always, in our Lord,

Your devoted servant,⁷⁵
Eymard, P.M.

Miss de Revel
Rue Ste Helene
Lyons

⁷⁵ illegible mark.

TO CANON PIERRE ROUSSELOT
(VI 5/7)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, July 21, 1852

Dear and Revered Father in our Lord,

I find it difficult to express how pleased I was to receive the Pastoral Letter and the plan for La Salette. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude. How kind you are to think of me, Father, you who have so many children! The Approbation of the supernatural happenings at La Salette has had a phenomenal effect in Toulon and throughout the South. The statement of approval has become well-known. Glory to God, and thanks to you, Respected Father, La Salette will become the great pilgrimage of France. What a fine, consoling idea of the Bishop, to set up a body of missionaries of Notre Dame de la Salette! If I were not a Marist, I would immediately beg the honor of belonging to it. There is concern in Provence: a strange disease is attacking the vineyards, the grapes and the shoots, and it is impossible to save them. The olive groves are affected already, and everyone is saying, "this is the fulfillment of La Salette." Alas, dear Father! the dreadful warnings of Providence have not converted the guilty. The Voltairian bourgeoisie of Louis-Philippe is still the same; the leaders of the Navy and the Army are anti-religious, as well as the leaders of the University and the special Schools of Paris. How we need the Blessed Virgin to save us!

I was very sad to hear about the death of good Fr. Albertin - it's a very great loss! Would you please, as a dear Father, express my thanks to Father Superior, who was kind enough to send me the death notice.

I hope to make a pilgrimage to La Salette during the holidays. Would you kindly give me the faculties for confession during my stay in the diocese? I have often been sorry not to have it for some suffering consciences.

If you need me in Toulon or for the Navy, I would be happy to be of service.

Please accept my respects, gratitude and filial affection, dear Father,

Your son in our Lord,
Eymard
Superior of the College and
a Marist priest

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 8/75)

Madame,

I cannot go to Fourviere tomorrow. It would have been necessary to reserve a place ahead of time.

I'll be happy to go on Monday for that intention, between 7 or 8 o'clock. I will be happy to help Mr. Jordan's healing and participate in the joy of a family which is foremost in my respect and affection!

I am in our Lord,

Madame,
All yours,
Eymard

P.S. You are not well, convalescing; is it possible!...

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CO 370

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 90/145 VI 10)

*J.M.J.*⁷⁶

La Seyne, August 9, 1852

Very dear sisters,

I am a bit freer now. We had so many concerns, so much business, that I wasn't able to write to you. We had the ordeal of losing one of the Fathers of the house. It made us very sad and it delayed me.

I will be leaving for La Mure this week. I may be with you by next Saturday, but most surely by Monday afternoon or Tuesday. I'm not giving you a rendezvous for Notre Dame de la Salette, because I don't know precisely the day of my arrival. I can't stay long at La Mure, because I'm expected in Lyons. Do nothing exceptional: the more simply you receive me, the happier I will be.

Goodbye, my good sisters.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

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

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CO 371

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 91/395 VI 2)

T.P.D.S.

Marseilles, August 10, 1852

I am sending you a note from Marseilles, dear daughter. I'm finally on my way; I leave tomorrow morning for Gap. From there I'll spend three or four days at Notre Dame du Laus. I'll arrive at La Mure Monday or Tuesday after the Assumption. I'll spend five or six days there, and from there I'll go to Lyons, where I'll have the joy of seeing you, you and all your family. This shouldn't stop your pilgrimage to Notre Dame de la Salette. You know how pleased everyone will be, if we have you at La Mure.

Goodbye, dear daughter. It's getting late. I must hurry to take a few hours of rest. My health isn't strong. We lost one of our fathers last week. He died of cholera, and that is all a little trying on the body.

A thousand and one wishes to your mother, your dear sisters, and Mr. and Mme. Gaudioz.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
33 Rue du Juge de Paix
% the Religious of the Incarnate Word
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

⁷⁶ Abbrev. for Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

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CO 372

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESCE
(VII 7/17 VIII 26)

Marseilles, August 10, 1852

Mademoiselle,

I have arrived here in Marseilles; I am leaving tomorrow for Gap. From there I will go spend a few days of retreat at Notre Dame du Laus, if possible. Then, a few days at La Mure, and from there, to Lyons, where I will have the consolation of seeing you and sparing you a long trip. We have been grieving. We lost one of our Fathers. He died from cholera after being sick four days. Alas! This death really surprised me. - No need to tell you that I will pray for you at Notre Dame du Laus. - I don't feel the courage to go up to La Salette, I feel a little weak. News! Just now, I met the sister... in the streets of Marseilles on her return from Rome and right there in the middle of the street, she told us about a thousand things. I believe that you will see her.

Pray for me. My soul is suffering more than my body.

Goodbye, dear sister, it's late. I leave you to God, and I am in Jesus and Mary,

All yours

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CO 373

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 11/76)

Notre Dame du Laus, August 15, 1852

Madame and dear Sister in Mary,

It is from Notre Dame du Laus that I am answering your good letters. I wasn't able to do so sooner. The tasks involved in the closing of a [school] year, the difficulties and fatigue I felt after the death of one of our Fathers, etc... But now, I have a free moment, it is yours.

Needless to say that I do pray for you, for your husband and for Mademoiselle. Tomorrow on the 16th, I will say Mass for you and yours so that they may all belong to our Lord and that the Blessed Virgin may obtain a holy and happy death for them. I'm leaving Laus tomorrow. I'll spend a few days at La Mure, from there I'll go to Lyons around the middle of next week. If the Good Lord allows me to see you there, it would make me very happy; otherwise, I will bless you always and everywhere.

Don't let yourself worry too much about your dear husband's future. He is a man who has received so many prayers that Mary will protect him and give him to you as a good Christian. Pray, give alms, offer your daily mortifications to God for him, and heaven will perform a miracle.

I inscribed your dear nephew in the Third Order... And so, continue his Hail Mary. Poor young man, oh, how you need to pray! He would need to have a few devout young people around him, if some from the Third Order could have influence over his heart. I will mention it to them when I go to Lyons. I would need to have his address. The Blessed Virgin is so good, that she will give him to you in return for prayer.

My good daughter, I am so sorry to be so late in answering your second letter! About that poor mother and daughter. Yes, you did well to advise the mother to keep her daughter with her, to keep

her always near. Contrary advice comes from a lack of reflection, it can only come from an outward impression. It's better for her to be without confession, rather than to be away from her mother. She would be very well with the G. Ladies.⁷⁷ You could mention it to them, or else I will do so myself.

You really need a little retreat. Make it interiorly; the more we use up our strength, the more we need to feed ourselves. The presence of God, the regular offering of your actions, a spirit of mortification, attention to the sacrifices of self-denial which God is asking from you at every moment, the wise use of your time: this, dear sister, is your rule. Do everything for God and everything will be to your own benefit.

My regards in our Lord to Miss Stephanie whom I offered to Mary.
Goodbye, dear sister.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Miss G.⁷⁸ just arrived at Notre Dame du Laus. She gave me news about you, I spoke to her about the little child. They will answer you from Lyons. It may perhaps be arranged.

Aug. 18 - First pilgrimage to La Salette. (He was to return ten times.)

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Nil

DOCUMENTS OF LA SALETTE⁷⁹ **(VIII 1/4)**

August 18, 1852

“If I did not have the happiness of being a Marist, I would ask my Bishop, as a special favor, to let me consecrate myself body and soul to the service of Our Lady of la Salette. I had the joy of being the first person, in Lyons, to proclaim the miraculous event of the Apparition, and I am happy today to kiss, with love and gratitude, this blessed earth, this mountain of salvation.”

Eymard, Marist Pr.

⁷⁷ The Guillot sisters.

⁷⁸ Marguerite Guillot.

⁷⁹ Text-Manuscript of St. P.-J. Eymard in the Album of the Sanctuary

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CO 375

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

Wednesday, September 1, 1852

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I have been here in Lyons for a few days, and will be for a few more days. - I would really have liked to go as far as Tarare, but I don't have time. Yet, it would be a great consolation for me to see you. If your business affairs should call you to Lyons this week, I would thank God for it and you could have them tell me the day and the time.

I am leaving you to have the meeting for the Ladies of the Third Order, and I will really pray for you and your loved ones. My respectful regards to Mademoiselle [Antonia].

All yours,
Eymard

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Tarare

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CO 376

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 91/145 VI 10)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, September 18, 1852

My dear sisters,

Here I am back to work and in good health. Our retreat has just begun but I don't want to wait until it is over to give you news about myself, lest you worry. - I believe the weather has changed up there, and that you are no longer having the continual rains which were devastating the countryside. Here, we had very little rain. The weather is magnificent and it's as hot as the month of July at La Mure. - I stayed about ten days at Lyons, and what I feared happened. I was overwhelmed with visitors. However, I was able to see the Guillot and Gaudioz families several times. They are always a dear family.

You will soon be receiving a beautiful gift from your brother, a magnificent picture of the Third Order, given to me as a gift, and estimated at 200 francs. It represents the Virgin of Love and Holy Hope, the Virgin of the Apocalypse. The group on the left with two priests kneeling, represents the Third Order members whose salvation the Blessed Virgin has requested from the Child Jesus, and which the heavenly Father is graciously granting. An angel holds a sword to defend and protect them... In the middle is seen a group of frightened and fearful people which the devil is seeking to swallow up: these are the sinners affiliated with the Third Order who are seeking refuge at Mary's feet. - The dragon with open jaws and fire in his mouth represents the devil who was chased from heaven by St. Michael the Archangel, casting balls of fire after the woman of the desert, who represents Mary.

I like to think that this souvenir will please you. It is a faithful reproduction of a large painting I had done.

I am going to give you great news. Fr. Cat asked me for the faculties to be able to receive members into the Third Order of Mary. So, he is completely converted, and that pleased me very much. I will write to him shortly, as I haven't had time yet.

Goodbye, dear sisters, may our Lord bless you and keep you in his holy love.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

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

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CO 377

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 92/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, September 19, 1852

My dear daughter, I just received your letter and I am answering immediately. It was only right that the first letter I received from Lyons be yours. We are on retreat, pray for us. I had a good trip all the way to Toulon. My health is fine; the climate is perfect here, there is no rain, the sky is always clear ... and it is still quite hot.

Holy obedience still wants me to be here, may it be blessed! Pray that I may be faithful to it. Everything that was reported about me at Lyons is but a small frustration, to be heard and forgotten. It's true, I was sorry I couldn't go to see Miss Chollet, but I had such a headache, and so many obstacles, that I wasn't expecting the trip, and to tell the truth, I thought they would leave me alone and forget me when they saw it was impossible to see me.

I understand the difficulties that follow contacts with Mme. Franchet. I would really like to be freed from that poor woman, I will try to drop her. As it is, she mustn't have been very satisfied with my visits. Oh, she deserves pity more than blame.

I willingly excuse Miss David. It is her great love for the Third Order which led her to make so many little complaints, her heart is suffering. Poor Third Order! it really needs support. As for you, you are working for the Blessed Virgin ... [*five lines erased*].

Here enclosed is the letter for Miss Jaricot. Go with simplicity to Fr. C.⁸⁰

Goodbye dear daughter, my regards in the Lord to your dear sisters, your kind mother, to Mr. and Mme. Gaudioz.

Why tire yourself out on that notebook? it's too much. Come on now! the desire to please makes you imprudent. So be more sensible.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. - Read and seal the letter to Miss Jaricot. I'll say the two Masses for Marie. In another letter kindly tell me how much money you've given me for Masses. Isn't it 44?

Miss Marguerite Guillot
31 Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

⁸⁰ Fr. Champion?

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 92/145 VI 10)

La Seyne, September 20, 1852

Dear sisters,

I obtained the admission of the fine young man from St. Peter's into the Society. We are helping him to have a good and safe situation. Send him my letter, and put the address on it, because I have forgotten it. It's thanks to you that he has been received over many others who applied.

In your next letter, give me news about dear Mme. Cros and Miss Victorine.

Goodbye.

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard

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

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 93/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, October 4, 1852

My dear Daughter, I am really late in answering you. I couldn't do so because of our retreat and the arrival of the students. The days weren't long enough, then I was numbed with pain from a toothache. (It's healed). So you must have done for the best.

Yes, I wanted to speak to you about Fr. Favre, he is very fine.

Miss David goes too quickly and too often to the major Superiors. With them, moments must be well chosen, because once a word is said, it's said. Besides, Miss David isn't highly regarded by Fr. Lagniet and doesn't understand his personality at all, so they hurt one another ... to all that I say: patience! The Third Order's time will come.

Fr. Favre will help her. On the cross and in the tomb our Lord was victorious over his enemies and his holy religion also rose with him, so have confidence.

About the Pastor of St. Nizier. - I gave him permission to affiliate a few persons secretly⁸¹ to the graces of the Third Order. However, it isn't true that he is receiving them publicly for the Third Order. He spoke to me about a few people to be presented to the Single Women and to the Ladies, because I had explained very clearly to him that they should be presented by a member; that if he received them beforehand, it would harm their admission in the congregation. You are right, the rest is only the gossip of a few devotees. I would prefer it if they were more prudent and more charitable, but what can we do? Do what is right and let others say what they will.

⁸¹ Alternate translation: privately.

It's taking so long to have those statues installed! You should have them sent to the men, - if they are in your way - or to the affiliates of Vienne and Amplepuis.

I wish you a good retreat. Yes, benefit by God's passing graces and return to the calm which is so necessary for a soul of prayer, the calm and peace which activity needs in order to be done well. Be attentive to God, and he will do everything within you.

Goodbye, dear daughter. My respects and greetings to all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Don't include "via Toulon" in the address but simply: "to La Seyne-sur-mer, Var."

I forgot your number...

Miss Marguerite Guillot
33 Rue du Juge de Paix
Garcin House
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

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CO 380

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 94/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, October 19, 1852

I have only a minute, dear daughter, and it is yours. I'll send your direction only later, I have too much to do at the moment:

1. About the cloistered sister's decision, I think that she didn't recognize you, or didn't know about the permission that had been given. It would be better to explain what happened to Fr. Galtier, because he is very good. I think it's only a misunderstanding.

2. Don't give up Fr. Ch. to go to Fr. Galtier. Not only would it be unchristian, but ridiculous, if the favors they are granting you were linked to that. As for me, I can't believe such a thing! There can only be some misunderstanding.

3. Fine for Miss Jaricot. That holy woman is suffering so much! I would surely like to help her, but I can't do so here. I approve what you are doing.

4. About mortifications. Follow Fr. Ch's. advice, he is prudent and wise. I understand his reserve about the refusal. It is out of charity. Then, too, he knows that the permission is an exception, requiring necessary grounds.

5. Yes, the poor man's heart is more grateful, I see it every day. So: blessed are the poor! Yes, accomplish this little task at your leisure, without haste or agitation.

6. I think that Miss de Revel will join in that good work, but not to any great extent, because I think she has many responsibilities. On the other hand she is a kind person and so she should know about it.

7. About the Third Order: I love it and I suffer for it. But at present, I prefer not to be informed about it. I prefer to pray quietly for it in oblivion. Since the Good Lord is no longer giving me responsibility for it through obedience, it seems to me that his will is that I should leave it to his grace. Please consult Fr. Ch. for any difficulties related to the Third Order. Forgive me for that, but this sorrow is one of those which is hardest for me to bear. So, out of consideration for my weakness, speak to me only about yourself and your family. For that, you know my great interest and dedication.

I won't mention my health. It is sufficient for what I have to do. May God be praised! If I knew how to do everything for his sake, I would be rich. Still, how difficult it is not to forget the Good Lord in the midst of everything!

My regards and remembrance in the sight of God to your whole family.

I am in our Lord,
Devotedly yours,
Eymard

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CO 381

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 19/33)

All for God alone

[La-Seyne], October 20, 1852

I received your sad letter, my dear daughter in our Lord. Alas! What sad news it brings me. You don't ask me for a reply.

I understand that advice given from such a distance, without the grace of the Sacrament, cannot heal such deep sadness. Therefore, I will limit myself to telling you that I will double my prayers for you, so that our Lord may help you to be generous and [have] confidence in his divine goodness.

Your poor heart will suffer until it rests in God. People have made you suffer for such a long time now. Alas! When will you find peace?

Leave Father B. since he is not helping you, and go rather to Father Desch, because you need to live with our Lord.

I leave you in his divine goodness which is so kind toward you, and I am

Your very humble,
Eymard

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TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 95/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, November 23, 1852

I don't have enough time to write Miss Claudine a long letter. I will do so as soon as I have some free time. Yes, make the retreat, it is a valuable grace on life's way, take advantage of it. It makes me happy to think that you will be getting back to your original way of community life and become the first house of Nazareth. If you are the one who will bear the burden of it, that adds to your merit. It's usually the weakest and least useful one who watches over the home! God wants his share in the direction of souls, he wants to be everything. So, believe in his holy grace. I will pray very much for all of you during this retreat, in order that you may all become true religious before God.

I don't dare write to Fr. Favre concerning the Third Order. You understand that it isn't my place to inform him. Besides, I had passed on some notes. My New Year's wishes have been put to the test, so let God act, but you might then perhaps offer your resignation, if your reluctance continues.

What you tell me ... makes me sad. The Good Lord is putting her to the test, but she must be helped to say what is making her sad ... it's a temptation.

Goodbye, my dear daughter. Pray for me. Yes, I forgive you and bless you wholeheartedly.

Eymard

La Seyne-sur-Mer Part I 1851 - 1852

Miss Marguerite Guillot
31 Rue du Juge de Paix
(Rhône) Fourvière, Lyons

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CO 383

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 93/145 VI 10)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, November 30, 1852

My very dear sisters,

I have only one moment and it is yours. Thank you for your letters and news. La Mure is always La Mure for me, and news about everything that happens there interests me, and especially news about you, my dear sisters. I believe you are having cold weather and snow, but the Good Lord has provided you with fire for warmth. Here we are now having beautiful sunshine and warm weather like in the springtime. But we are often visited by the violent mistral, which is stronger than the strongest breeze of a cold region, so unlike the constant climate of our region. The Good Lord, like a good Father, has put both pleasure and pain everywhere in order that we might not become attached to this land of exile.

Our boarding school brings us many consolations. We have a hundred and twelve children from the leading families of the area. So we need the patience and kindness of a mother, and the firmness of a father.

We have just founded a house of missionaries at Toulon. That will relieve me somewhat, as the beautiful Work of Adoration was taking me two days each week.

I am writing to the Pastor about the Third Order. I gave him the faculties to receive privately and sent him a little book. He will surely be pleased with me, and I hope that he will be so with the Third Order. Besides, as the Third Order of Mary is not a confraternity nor a congregation, you depend on no one. If he wants to help you, be grateful. My good sisters, be like beggars are: they receive alms from everyone and belong to no one. We belong only to God: "Do what is right, and let others say what they will," St. Francis de Sales used to say.

I am happy that my painting pleased you. It is beautiful, and I could not give it to anyone better.

Take care of yourselves, my dear sisters, in this bad weather. If you should see Philibert Gros, tell him that I hope his brother will obtain his grace...

Goodbye, my dear sisters. I think of you constantly before God; do the same for me. I am well.

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

P.S. I was pleased to see Mr. Giraud, Mme. Bernard's brother-in-law. I recommended Bernard Bizot to him. He promised me he would keep him in mind.

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

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 20/33)

All for God alone and you alone

November 30, 1852

I don't want to wait to answer you in turn, my dear daughter. I am answering immediately, because your letter reveals a soul of good will and a suffering heart.

In spite of my silence, I haven't stopped praying for you; but a human being can only help his equal to the extent that God gives it to him, and wills it. I felt that if I were to give you advice, I would perhaps prevent you from placing your trust elsewhere. So, as I want the best from God, you can understand my reservation.

See, my dear daughter, God wants you entirely for himself, though poor and weak, alone and empty of creatures and you should be happy about it. Ah! believe me, I know you as well as anyone, and your trust gives me the right to tell you very simply to love God and suffer for him, that is perfection. To love God alone and desire no other witness, consoler, or center other than God, that is the greatest love and you need it all. For as long as you are not satisfied with that, you will suffer. What you are seeking exists only in God. You have too much heart, too much feeling about your limitations. So you are alone to bear such a heavy burden, and you fall crushed under this indescribable weight, and that is the explanation of it all. God casts bitterness, coldness, a veil around you and other people, in order that you might go toward him to look for strength.

I like to think that you have gone back to your former rhythm of life, reread the prayer, [received] the sacraments, and come closer to God!

Read the twenty-first chapter of the 3rd book of the Imitation.

Goodbye my daughter. Try Father Favre.

Your ever devoted in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(VII 1/5 IV 75)

La-Seyne, November 30, 1852

Madame and dear sister,

You must be complaining, and rightly so, about me and my laziness. Every day I was waiting for a letter of reproach, and then I would say: they have forgotten everything, both the man and his debt.⁸² So now I am writing to tell you that I will pay it well. I kept my word when I left you, since I worked [on it] even in Avignon, but I didn't have time to finish. These notes are always in front of me, they blind me and blame me for letting them sleep. I answer them that you know all that and that you [blame me] even more, that we don't teach the ABC's to the one who knows how to read. What do you think of that, dear Lady? Do you still want this prayer outline? If you still want it, I promise to send it to you as your New Year's gift. Otherwise my laziness would say: so much gained. So now you are in Lyons, in that dear city, which is so dreary in the winter, enveloped by

⁸² His promise to send her a prayer outline.

its white cloth and with its startling humidity which penetrates to the soul. - How are you over there? What are you doing? I don't think you need any more advice from us for the holidays, they are over now. You are now back to your simple and recollected life, entirely God's and entirely [dedicated] to your loved ones. Consequently you are calm. Recollection comes naturally to fill your soul. Your exercises of piety have fallen in place, at a regular time, place and goodness. Holy Communion, which you need more than others because you are weak, sad, crucified, isolated, you are receiving regularly, in spite of your daily faults, the dust of the road, your spontaneous impatience, the weaknesses of life. Yes, go to Communion, my dear daughter. Otherwise, your soul will be vulnerable, hungry, will have no more strength or courage. Good beggars are always welcomed by God. So, work hard to become patient, gentle, and humble in the love of our Lord in order that you may become like our Good Master, gentle and humble of heart. That is the condition of peace and rest for the soul. You want me to remind you of all that we said about the Stations of the Cross. So be it, and with pleasure:

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death. What is Jesus? He is goodness and holiness personified. He is my God, Creator and Savior. Jesus Christ is condemned to death. Who would have such horrible courage? The Devil? No, the devils tremble before him. - However, here are human beings, his creatures, the Jews, his privileged people, it is myself through my sins. (Act of indignation.)

How did Jesus Christ, the all powerful one, let himself be seized, bound, tied down, condemned to death for love of me? He replaced me, the guilty one. I would have been damned eternally were it not for the condemnation of my Savior. Oh my Savior. Oh my God, is it possible that you loved me to that point... and loved me even when I didn't love you, when I offended you, when I condemned you?

To what kind of death is he condemned? To the most painful, the most infamous death, to the death of the lowest slave, to the death of the cross?

But why desire to die such a death? Oh! It was chosen by the love of Jesus, because there was more suffering, consequently more love. Oh my God, I am amazed and terror-stricken when I consider my ingratitude and your love.

Second Method: Virtues.

What virtue does my divine Savior practice in this station:

Calm in the presence of his evil judges and torturers! A beautiful example for me, when someone humiliates or condemns me. Did I follow it?

Strength: Jesus Christ proclaims his truth. He preaches it without letting himself be intimidated or troubled, neither through blasphemy, nor evil treatment. Here is my model of fidelity to God in trials. Have I been [faithful]?

Gentleness: Jesus Christ does not become angry; he does not threaten his enemies. With gentleness he allows himself to be bound, tied and dragged before the courts like a lamb, without malice or defense. He gives no reply to the insults, he doesn't defend himself against calumny. He doesn't appeal the death sentence.

Charity: While this beloved Savior was mistreated, and when he was condemned to death, he offered the insults and humiliations to his Father for the salvation of his enemies! Yes, my Father, I accept this infamous death, but to obtain life for all sinners. That is how we ought to pray and suffer for our enemies.

Dear Madame, I will stop now. Pray for me, in order that I might really do what I say. Kindly tell me the name of the young lady from Romans where I had dinner.

Goodbye. My respectful and dedicated regards to your family and to Miss Agarithe, if you wish.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard