

CHAPTER V

Paris, 1857

Identity of the New Work and its Apostolate

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Preparation for the foundation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament

- **Contacts with potential candidates**
- **Retreat with potential candidates**
- **Search for a new location**
- **The “Cenacle” as model**

Initial Trials of Foundation

- **Misunderstandings with the Marists in Lyons and Toulon**
- **Misunderstandings of Third Order members**
- **Poverty**
- **Theft**
- **Betrayal from within and without**
- **Assassination of the Archbishop**

Sale of property

Paris, 1857

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CO 645

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 155/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, January 1, 1857

Very dear daughter and sister in our Lord,

I returned your New Year's wishes before the divine Tabernacle and while celebrating holy Mass for you. This is how I would summarize them: that this year, you may become a Religious of the Blessed Sacrament and be in the Cenacle of his love! - I have the sweet hope that Jesus will bless this thought, this desire for his glory, and then all the little crosses strewn along your way will come to an end ... [*two lines erased*].

A king's bride thinks only about pleasing her bridegroom. She lets him govern and take care of external matters.

You will be a spouse at the foot of God's throne. He will be your provider, your Savior and your All.

While waiting for that blessed day, we are preparing and making plans. When the Cenacle is ready, you will be told: "Rise up, take your lighted lamp and come into the presence of your heavenly Spouse."

As for us, the time is drawing near for Jesus to take public ownership of his Cenacle. Two priests arrived two days ago; now we are four priests, and two or three others are preparing to come shortly.

For over ten days, we have had adoration during the night. My colleague and I began by each taking one hour in the night, saying to one another: those who come later will follow, and see, four hours are already filled.

Good daughter, thank you for what you sent us. What a grace it is! I must admit that we will find it very useful. If I didn't have our Lord to pay you back for all my debts, I would be very sad. However, I have a good guarantor.

Big news! Ever since the feast of the Immaculate Conception, no more tobacco, no more skullcap in church, and I'm fine. If I could have foreseen this success I would have asked you to choose white handkerchiefs. It doesn't matter.

My New Year's wishes to our dear and beloved Mr. Gaudioz, to his fine wife, and his two daughters. Believe me ever in our Lord,

All Yours,
Eymard

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CO 646

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 156/395 VI 2)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, January 19, 1857

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

Today, I am writing to entertain you a little longer. Everything arrived safely, even the butter. Everything is being used. May God be praised! you as well as all the others.

Paris, 1857

It was on December 8th that I asked the Blessed Virgin to help me give up tobacco, and the skull cap, and our good Mother obtained this for me. I'm still happy about it and it is no longer difficult.

It's a small sacrifice, and it will be more fitting near our Lord.

We had enough money to pay board for the two children; we had some left from the last time. One costs 25 francs a month and the other 30; it is paid until the month of March. Withdraw your money; you may do better to invest it in Paris in a safe place where you could gain more.¹ I know people who get as much as 8 or 10 in business, but with guarantees.

Finally Chasselay is finished and the estate will return to civility and to [orderly] protests. Unfortunately we find the world with its little passions everywhere. How fortunate we are, when we need only God and when he is enough for us.

I am afraid that the New Year's Day visits tired you. If only you had stayed quietly at home, excusing yourself on pretext of your state of health. Your office dispenses you from visiting the Third Order Members. The commander doesn't visit his soldiers. What is happening to the famous Third Order Manual? It's taking so long to come out!

Now a little news about us. How happy we were on January 6, to see Jesus our King on his throne of love for the first time, manifesting his presence by such an outstanding grace! My heart was too full to be able to speak and express its feelings. I was almost mute and speechless with awe. In fact when I think about the way Jesus led us to this point, making us pass through so many difficulties unknown even to ourselves! Now that I see these difficulties behind us, I am like someone who has gone through the greatest dangers unknowingly. What happened is that Jesus was in the boat and we were asleep at his feet. - Oh yes, God wants this eucharistic Work! Everyday we see the proof of it. We should at least cooperate fully with such a great grace!

Everything appears calm now with the good Marist Fathers. It is no longer a cross for me. I needed that to acquire greater trust in God.

And then, the cruel death of the Archbishop told us once again that God wants to be our only protector.

Now that the seed is in the ground, we need only to rot, in order for God's grace to germinate.

My health is the same... I do things I never would have done with the Marist Fathers. My hour of night adoration is practical; it is from eight to nine o'clock at night and from five to six in the morning.

Goodbye, dear daughter. May Jesus watch over you all.

All Yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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CO 647

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 20/76)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, January 19, 1857

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I was so worried about all of you! I pacified myself with praying for you. Thank you for your letter and also for everything that Miss S[tephanie] sent us. You wouldn't believe how useful it was. Money is used for a thousand things beyond our needs, but material objects last. Now, at last, we have the essentials. You know so many other people in need; share with them. The rent is paid. I hope that the eldest will soon earn his.² I must go handle this matter in a few days.

¹ Interest.

² Fr. de Cuers?

Paris, 1857

Now about your letter. There is nothing better than presence to remove illusions and to reveal the great grace that was granted when it didn't go any further. As for me, my opinion is definite: I wouldn't want him at any price. A sailor's training leaves much to be desired. As to their friendship,³ God willed it, that's fine. Yet without making a break or being insensitive, use a few opportunities to help the sick, even recommend some to him. You can do that while always remaining reserved to a degree, especially as regards marriage. Yes, it would be good that it should happen: he certainly has good qualities. He is worth more than many others. If someone asks you for recommendations, you can give good ones. As for personal questions, you aren't obliged to answer them. These are family secrets. I think he is a very good doctor, better than many others, because he gives medicine while many others only suggest diets or stop-gap measures.

I'm very happy to learn that Mr. G[ourd] likes his home life, family life, that's a good sign. It's the first serious step towards duty and towards God. Support this change; it will lead you to the Church.

Now for you, absolutely no fasting, that is God's will. Go to bed by 10 o'clock at least. When that time comes, put aside any unfinished exercise of piety and be content with night prayer. Then, go rest in peace. However, you could say your five Our Fathers and five Hail Marys to replace the Way of the Cross.

Yes, in fact, read a little more and try to find a spiritual book which helps you without causing mental stress.

Take a book which feeds your heart, leads you to the love of Jesus, either hidden, or crucified, or eucharistic, or in all these states.

The essential thing for you, dear daughter, would be to keep your soul close to Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament; and then to make yourself available to everyone and to everything with peace and freedom. Please, avoid all mental stress, never give in to discouragement. Consider yourself as Jesus' poor servant, good only to sweep and protect the door of his house.

About the forty year old woman from Lyons, remain free. Your other obligations are sufficient. Divine Providence will take care of her.

As for Mr. L. and his embraces, don't mention it again. It may be the last time, and if he is sensitive at all, he will have understood the lesson. But if he should do it again tell him yourself, or write to him about it, giving him reasons of prudence and reserve because of your position and the village.

Thank you, dear daughter, for your wishes and prayers at the feet of the divine Tabernacle. I'm very happy to repay you in kind. How good it is to live in this eucharistic house! How good Jesus is here!... You also have him close to you three times a week. On Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays we have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, these are three feast days. When we become more numerous, we will have it always. Then it will be an extension of heaven.

My affectionate and very devoted respects to your fine mother. You know my sentiments in our Lord,

Dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

³ Courtship between Dr. Lallour and her daughter Stephanie.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(VI 2/10 III 145)

All for Jesus-Hostia

Paris, January 19, 1857

My very dear sisters,

I am very late in answering; we have been so busy for over a month that I have not had the time.

If only you knew what life in Paris is like, and how quickly the days go by. We had the happiness, on the Feast of the Epiphany, of making our first solemn exposition of the Most Bl. Sacrament. It was done by Bishop Hartmann, Bishop of Bombay; there was a good attendance.

Our chapel was very beautiful, and tastefully decorated; a magnificent dais adorned with precious stones, and a beautiful crown of gold and shining stones lay upon the altar. Beautiful candelabras and adoring Angels adorned the steps of the altar. Everything was brand new and belonged to us.

As we thought back to the beginning, when everything needed to be done, we wept for joy. It is indeed God who has done everything and brought everything to pass. There were 4 of us priests around the eucharistic throne, and the men from the Paris adoration came to join us. These were beautiful days, giving a foretaste of Heaven.

Since then we have continued with exposition on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays each week, until there are enough of us to have it daily.

You know, my very dear sisters, that I have not forgotten you, and that I offer you each day to our Lord. On Christmas Day, as usual, I offered the Holy Mass for you.

My health is good and I hope that yours is the same.

You have no doubt heard the sad news about the assassination of the Archbishop of Paris. It has caused us great grief and distress, for he had shown a great interest in us. Paris will miss him: he was so devout and so charitable.

God alone, sisters, is still with us, and he is always our Father.

I was saddened to learn of the death ... (1) ... of Mme. Arland. I shall be writing to her.

Believe me always in our Lord, dear sisters,

Your brother,
Eymard

(1) The paper is torn at this spot.

TO MR. LEO DUPONT, TOURS
(VII 1/2 U 3)⁴

To Mr. Dupont,

[1857]

You love us in our Lord; in your devotion and love [you] will rejoice to learn about our happiness. - On January 6th, 7th, 8th, we had a eucharistic Triduum in our chapel to mark the opening of solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. - His Excellency Bishop Hartmann, the Bishop of

⁴ Excerpt of a letter to Mr. Dupont.

Paris, 1857

Bombay, exposed [the Blessed Sacrament] for the first time and gave the first benediction... How can I express to you the feelings which were pressing upon our soul! both gratitude and servitude, trust and surrender, suffering and love!...

What a surprise! After only 8 months of preparation and longing, we already possess our treasure! We are hardly born and Jesus has a throne among us!

That isn't all. Every week, on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays we have the joy of exposition! What beautiful days they are!... The devil is furious. He would like to discourage or destroy us; but we trust in our good Master. - If we come from his heart, we have nothing to fear. If we come from our own initiative, then, yes, let this human will be destroyed. Let whatever comes from our own selves perish!...

What a sacrifice it is for us, dear papa Dupont, that you are so far from us! You would do us so much good!....

I beg you once again to thank the Divine Face of our Lord for healing my strong palpitations. - Since my trip to Tours, I have not felt it again. How good the good Lord is!

...⁵

“I have some holy oil. He will pray at noon, in union with you.”

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CO 656

TO MR. LEO DUPONT, TOURS
(U 3 VII 2)⁶

All for Jesus Hostia

114 rue d'Enfer, Paris, February 1, 1857

Very dear brother and friend in our Lord,

You love us in our Lord. Because of your love and piety, you will therefore be pleased to hear about our happiness. On January 6, 7, 8 we had a eucharistic Triduum in our chapel for the opening of Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Hartmann of Bombay is the one who made the first Exposition and gave the first Benediction.

A devout assembly shared in our joy. How can we tell you the feelings which were filling our souls? Knowing and feeling our unworthiness, trust and surrender, the cross and love. Imagine! after only eight months of preparation and longing we already possess our treasure! We have just come to birth and Jesus has a throne here among us!

What is more, every week, on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, we have the joy of Exposition. What beautiful days these are!

Our small number has grown a little. We were 4 priests on the 6th; one has left to put his things in order. Three brothers are beginning their postulancy.

The devil is furious. He would like to discourage or destroy us. But we trust in our good Master. If we issue from his heart, we have nothing to fear. If we issue from ourselves, oh yes! Let every human determination be destroyed, let every self-generated activity perish!

What a sacrifice it is for us, good papa Dupont, that you should be so far away. You would help us so much. Please thank the divine Face of our Lord for the healing of my strong palpitations [of the heart]. Since my visit to Tours, I have not felt them anymore. How good God is!

Please begin a novena tomorrow, Feb. 2, the feast of the Purification, for the eye problem which affects one of our priests. I have some of the holy oil, and I will pray at noon in union with you.⁷

⁵ Fr. here asks him to begin a novena for the healing of the eyes of one of his priests.

⁶ This letter was quoted in the biography of Mr. Dupont by Canon Janvier and reproduced in the “Supplement de Correspondence” vol II, p. 81-82 (Correspondence of Mr. Dupont).

⁷ Tradition of Mr. Dupont at his Oratory of the Holy Face.

Paris, 1857

My humble respects to your fine mother, to the Assistant Pastor, your friend, and believe me ever,
Dear brother in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. People in Paris are very happy to have your Cardinal as our Archbishop,⁸

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CO 649

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 19/52)

Miss Stephanie

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, January 25, 1857

If my pen had been as quick as the pleasure your letter gave me, dear daughter, I would have written to you sooner. I can't explain to myself how I could have delayed so long. I was quite worried by your last letter. May God be praised! I am happy to learn such good news!

Be a guardian Angel to your dear mother, her sister of charity, her doctor, also her friend, her loving daughter. Be constant and firm for the care she needs. Your dear mother must obey you on this point. When bedtime comes, stop everything rather than begin anything, cut off any business or visits, if possible. Your mother comes first. Let this be done in a very gracious, thoughtful, pleasant manner. That is the flower of charity and the unction of true virtue.

Regarding the neighborly visits, it's nothing. You are healed; you can see, analyze, form your opinion. Then you will thank our good Jesus for having kept you in his gracious service.

When charity requires that you should be with your parents, Jesus Christ prefers that you should be there, remain there content. But since your heart and thoughts are your own, direct them toward the divine Tabernacle from time to time, even often.

As for your distractions, dryness, etc..., consider them as a natural weakness, and encourage yourself to move forward. The good Lord is the one who, by this means, wants to force you to go to him through the desert and sacrifice. It is the right road.

As for the singing, you would be better without it because of your throat; but if it is relaxing, it's a recreation.

Thank you for your Christian and eucharistic wishes.

May you always be totally God's. Give him all for all; do so in general and detail. These are my [thoughts], dear daughter.

All yours,
Eymard

⁸ Cardinal Guibert, the Archbishop of Tours, was named to replace Archbishop Sibour, who had been assassinated Jan. 3, at the Church of St. Etienne du Mont.

Paris, 1857

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CO 650

TO FR. JEAN-VICTOR BARET

(V 5/6)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, 114 rue d'Enfer, January 25, 1857

Very dear and old friend,

You wouldn't believe the pleasure your dear letter brought me, and what delightful memories it awakened!

We are very far one from another here, and we haven't seen one another for such a long time. So many things have happened since! I am now working at a foundation. Really, if we didn't know that God likes to use nothing to do something and draw his glory from it, it would seem foolish. Our little Work is progressing: we began our Solemn Exposition January 6th, the beautiful day of the Epiphany. Bishop Hartmann, the Bishop of Bombay, is the one who did the opening. We were 4 priest adorers from the house.

Since then, we have continued with Exposition 3 times a week: on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. I can't tell you the happiness I feel that I can finally rest a little at the feet of our divine Master and spend a few hours in adoration and peace after so many years in such a varied and active ministry.

When you also desire to rest a little, dear friend, and think a little more about yourself, you can come with us. There will always be a cell in our Cenacle for you.

About your project to establish a mission church for St. Martin's, I am looking for someone to help you. As the Minister is new, everything has changed. I promise you that I will do everything I can. If the former [minister] were still there, your project would be taken care of. I knew one of his relatives.

If your nephew could send a petition to the Minister through some Senator or Deputy, and then, push the matter... Because, in this Paris, if we wait for our turn, we will wait a long time. Oh! Dear friend, long live the religion of our villages! The North is a disaster for priests: money, pleasures, intrigues, that is the life most people live. What is it all going to become? Evil increases and good decreases. Wicked people are well-organized and good people go into hiding.

Pray for us. You can be sure that I don't forget you.

Goodbye, dear friend.

All yours in Jesus Christ.

Eymard, SSS

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CO 651

TO THE SUPERIOR OF HOTEL-DIEU⁹

(V 1/1)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, January 25, 1857

Dear Mother,

It pleased me greatly to receive your note, to indulge your crucifixes, to read your wishes for me. Dear Mother, thank you, but I had done nothing to deserve so much kindness. I had hoped to deserve it later, but it was not God's will.

⁹ At Belleville-sur-Saone, Diocese of Lyons.

Paris, 1857

I am here in Paris, totally given to the Work of the Blessed Sacrament, organizing, praying, sighing for this eucharistic reign, which is so good, so beautiful, so powerful, so pleasing for a soul which possesses its secret. - All the mysteries of Jesus and Mary have their own religious group to honor them, keep them, perpetuate their virtues, spirit, and life. And why would the greatest of mysteries not have its own? Why would the King of kings not also have his guard of honor, his eucharistic court? Why would men not return to their place in the Cenacle?

God really helped us: he has done everything, and what is more admirable is that he has done it all with what is weakest, most wretched, most imperfect and evil.

It is the opposite of other religious groups, who saw at their head men who were distinguished at least by their virtues. Here, Jesus Christ is everything, man is nothing. If there were a great man, people would not go directly to the Master.

We already have the happiness of having Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Some devout laity come to our quiet chapel; how well one is there.

We are three priests; a few [others] are preparing to come, but the devil, who has a horror of the Eucharist, is creating obstacles for them.

Pray for us, dear Mother, and have your dear sisters pray; I do not forget them and I like to recommend them to our Lord, because I love them like sisters.

I have often thought that if I had Mr. Gattier's address, I would go see him. What does his dear daughter think?

My respects and greetings to all your dear sisters [*two or three words erased*] who received us too well, and, if you find it well and proper, to your esteemed and beloved Fr. Chaplain.

Believe me ever in our Lord,
Dear Mother,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

P.S. When I go to Lyons, you will have my first visit, and I will ask good Sr. Gattier to prepare my supply of anti-rheumatic plasma.

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CO 652

TO MME.GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)
(VII 6/8)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, January 28, 1857

Dear Mme. Galle,

How great the cross is for a Mother and such a good Mother!

Poor Paul who was to be your joy and support is becoming your Calvary.

Oh! If he only knew what a Mother is! That poor child will know it, only too late! He was always cherished, loved, cared for by the heart of a Mother, and that is why he doesn't know how to compare it with the opposite.

Also, illness often gives birth to better sentiments and opens the heart to love. May God give him that grace!

Dear Lady, take care of yourself for your poor son: what would he become without you? You are his Providence and his guardian angel.

All your alms and prayers will not be lost. God has his time. - Do not cease to pray; I do so in union with you, at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament exposed.

- It is our happiness to have it exposed on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays of each week.

Paris, 1857

Our little eucharistic Work is being established humbly and silently. We have such a need to pray, to prepare ourselves, to crucify and die to ourselves, so that God may use our nothingness.

Continue to pray for us, dear Lady, as we pray for soldiers who are going to fight on the battlefield. We really need it.

Goodbye, dear Madame and dear Sister. May Jesus comfort and strengthen you.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, SSS

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CO 653

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 106/145 VI 10)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, January 30, 1857

My very dear sisters,

I was deeply grieved to learn that you were sick, and sick because of the news about the terrible assassination of the Archbishop of Paris.

How could you imagine that the crime had been committed here! Poor sister! Don't worry so much about me: or rather, spare yourself so that I may have the consolation to go see you and to speak with you about everything the good Lord is kindly doing through our inadequate means.

How fortunate we are to have the joy of exposing the Most Blessed Sacrament! Don't worry about my health either; I assure you that I haven't been this well for a long time and that we have no disturbances nor troubles.

We were all deeply afflicted by the death of the Archbishop. He was so good to us! God allowed this trial, but God is our first Father.

I will say Mass for you on the feast of the Purification in order that Our Lady of La Salette may heal you quickly.

Then, give me news about yourself. When you see Madame Second from upper Breuil, tell her that I saw her son Louis and her daughter-in-law, and they are well; her son is delightful and very fine.

Concerning Mr. Guetat's errand, I am very happy to take care of it. That dear man deserves it from every point of view.

May Jesus heal and strengthen you.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Your brother,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Paris, 1857

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CO 654

TO MISS ROSE NEGRE

(V 4/4)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, January 30, 1857

Dear daughter,

I praise God that the time to give yourself entirely to the divine Eucharist is approaching. Let the same frame of mind be yours as was the Blessed Virgin's preparing to welcome and serve her divine Son however he would wish. Our divine Mother served him so joyfully in the stable, in exile, in the silence of Nazareth and even on Calvary! In Jesus was found every treasure, every companion, every joy, all life.

How fortunate we are that Jesus is willing to accept our services, to choose us to establish a new family of adorers for him, a faithful and committed court which will serve him until the end of the world!

Even if we should suffer a thousand martyrdoms, we would still be too privileged to glorify Jesus by the reign of the divine Eucharist!

Courage therefore, dear daughter, don't worry about your limitations or difficulties. Jesus is taking charge of everything.

All yours in Jesus Hostia,

Eymard

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CO 655

TO MR. BAL

(VII 1/1)

All for Jesus Hostia

14 rue d'Enfer, Paris, February 1, 1857

Dear Mr. Bal,

In your charity kindly excuse my delay in writing. It was with very strong emotion that I read your [letter].

I am so sad to see you burdened with such heavy crosses! You and your whole family! Oh my God, how consoling it would be for me to lighten them and to share them with you!

I think of you often. If divine Providence let me find a good position, I would be happy to tell you right away!

I will double my prayers for you, dear Sir. Yes, we are very fortunate to have such an angelic vocation, to be almost always with our Lord. - I had been longing for such a great happiness for such a long time, and God in his infinite mercy has kindly cast his eyes on my weakness and nothingness and received me in his divine Service.

What remains now is the great duty to be faithful to so many graces. Ask this from God for me, and I will be very grateful to you.

We are six here, three priests and three brothers. Three times a week, on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays it is our happiness to have exposition, until it pleases God to increase the number of adorers.

Paris, 1857

My respectful regards to Madame, to your dear sister in Vienna and all her friends.
Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Mr. Bal,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

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CO 657

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 4/19)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, February 2, 1857

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I did the same as you about answering your letter. This month was so full of activities, business, that I put it off until today, in order to have a bit more time.

1. Your good letter expresses both the illness and the remedy. You've gone back to your little schedule. That is the capital point, to regulate your time, your duties, your piety, your studies. Order brings success. Love it well. When by exception, you can't follow it, go back to it as soon as you are free.

So many women, for lack of order, lose their devotion and their learning; they waste their days, their lives! I am so happy about your resolution to study, to keep yourself informed about writings which are helpful and current, not to give up your drawing, and even, to do some music! That will honor your fine husband and become pleasant company for you.

Nothing is more common than to see young women forget everything they have learned and have no further education than the newspaper, fashions and novels.

2. If you always want to be happy and joyful, be devout. Devotion is the sweetness and happiness of the love of God.

If you are faithful now, at the beginning of your marriage, you will always be. I would like your piety to be sufficient to itself and needing no other ordinary director than your confessor. I say "ordinary" not extraordinary. When we are experiencing greater sadness, or perplexity, or prolonged sorrow, then we must search for extraordinary means.

Every day, take time for your short meditation, some spiritual reading, and you will have a perpetual source of living water for your devotion.

3. Live like your mother; imitate her; consult her: that will be one of the best teachings you can find.

4. Be constant in your thanksgiving to God, if you always want to be in the peace and joy of his holy service.

Look more at his benefits than at your sorrows, his strength rather than your weakness, his love more than your mediocrity. Then you will cling from your heart and life to his beloved and constant goodness.

God will give you children, but he wants them to be the fruit of your prayers, of your charity: that is the origin of the saints.

Dear daughter, thank you for your wishes for us. May God repay you for them with blessings! We are still very pleased with our privilege to share in the function of the saints in Heaven. Jesus is our All. If at least, we were all his!

Since January 6th, we have had the solemn exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament three times a week: Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. What beautiful days [they are] for us! These hours pass delightfully and quickly!

Paris, 1857

Unite yourself with us during these days of devotion. I will inscribe your name, the fruit you desire, the name of your husband and all your family, in the book of Eucharistic intentions exposed before the Blessed Sacrament.

Give me news about yourself from time to time; it always pleases me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

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CO 658

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

(V 21/76)

All for Jesus Hostia

February 2, 1857

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I am very grateful for the details you gave me about your health. Avoid mental stress, be content with the heart. Good servants are not intellectual, but humble and devoted, simple and gracious. That is what our good Master wants from you, the service of your heart and intentions. Look for moments when you can go to visit the heavenly King, the God of your heart, who is there only for you.

Let others care for you, and graciously accept whatever can help your health. It will be a good mortification.

Now to comment on the woman's letter and request.

1. She was quite at fault to consult the lady sleepwalker. The priest who didn't condemn it may be unaware of a decision from Rome, which appeared not long ago, which forbids it, considering these sleepwalkers as being under diabolic influence.

2. She believes in this poor woman blindly. If she knew how much trickery and lies there are in it all! So, when she says that her brothers are close to the Bastille, she is really wrong, they are at least two leagues away. The announcement of her mother's death is a trick of the devil.

3. What should you advise her? Leave her free, only tell her to look carefully at the pros and cons, then let divine Providence act. Only, be sure to make that novena. I am uniting myself to you. Since the Procurator from Macon feels that it was because of my advice that this whole family was placed, throw it all on me. The girl should know about it if she were to return to her father.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear daughter,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard S.S.S.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 20/52)

Miss Stephanie

All for Jesus Hostia

February 4, 1857

I've just read your long letter, dear daughter. When you write always do so in this fashion, without tension, simply letting your pen flow. I read you very easily. Then, you are the one, not I, for whom this is most difficult, because so many hours, so much attention and reflection are needed for all that!

1. I think I explained myself badly about the doctor's words. I was afraid that his judgment might be exaggerated, that's all. Because I had perceived a long time ago what was noticed at that time; but it was very helpful that you learned and understood everything. It helped you see what your role should be, how to be a loving daughter and practice charity.

I'm glad to know that you are gracious, pleasant, happy, and joyful with your parents; and strangely enough, I also like it when you oblige your father to give in to the prescribed care. That is your function, to keep a firm hand.

All your good mother really needs are care, tonics, sleep, rest, peace. Yes, avoid everything which would upset her; but it must be done carefully without her noticing it.

The good Lord will surely always let her have opportunities to suffer, but we must spare her, as much as possible.

In fact it is a grace from God that the doctor goaded all of you on to take care of your dear mother.

I am also convinced that all your discomforts come from nerves and only from nerves. So dear daughter, you must get used to it, learn how to battle against them, treat them as we treat crying children. However, you must avoid two extremes, two dangers: the deprivation of necessary sleep (so sleep until 6:00) and the deprivation of food - no fasting.

There is no harm in your chatting with Miss B., you need it a little. When you will become more perfect, more in God, Jesus Christ will be enough for you.

Don't worry too much about these thoughts and memories about Mr. L.

It is by putting it behind you that you will be free. And so, dear daughter, to perceive faults and imperfections is a good way to restore balance to a judgment, while yet presuming many qualities and many advantages. Then the act of preference for Jesus becomes nobler.

Keep in mind that the Sovereign virtue of the moment is the care which charity requires for your parents. Have courage, dear daughter, you are beginning to become virtuous, since you are living self-denial.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Paris, 1857

661

CO 660

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 19/75)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, February 6, 1857

Dear daughter and sister in our Lord,

Thank you for your New Year's wishes. They were mutually offered before being written. I am happy to know that you are happy, especially devout, loving God with your whole heart: that is the essential and true happiness. Belong more to God than to your neighbor, more to the interior life than to external charity. Jesus has few faithful souls around him. People prefer his service to himself.

We are ever moving forward on the wings of divine Providence and God's goodness.

Jesus Christ makes us pass through a path of graces and difficulties which we never expected. However, that is what gives us confidence: it seems that we are beginning with trials as God's works do.

Today, I am writing especially for your dear daughter. Please send her my letter. I don't know her address.

I am always very close to you in the love of our divine Master and Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

Mme. Jordan
10 rue de Castries, 2nd
Lyons (Rhone)

662

CO 661

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 157/395 VI 2)

Paris, February 15, 1857

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am taking advantage of this opportunity to send you your indulgenced crucifixes. I put the printed material in the box. You will find in it three little flasks of oil of the Holy Face and eight crosses from Jerusalem which touched the Holy Places. Four are for you and four for the Gaudioz family.

I received everything: goods and money. You don't owe any Mass, nor anything else; I am the one who owes you. We are really becoming too rich, you've sent us so much!

Goodbye. I haven't finished the Rule yet. I'll give it to you when it is done.

All Yours,
Eymard

Paris, 1857

663

CO 662

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 25/52)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, February 17, 1857

You are once again upon a new Calvary, dear sister: a very painful, very sad Calvary. Your dear mother died in your arms: your tender mother whom you loved so much and who deserved that love in so many ways. She died as a good Christian, in the grace and love of her God, assisted by her good daughters, with all the blessings of religion. She died in peace, in the joy of the Lord. What consolation! What gentle hope! From Calvary we go to the Resurrection, to the Ascension of Jesus. Poor daughter, your soul accompanied your good mother on the paths of love; you wanted to follow her and you gave each other a heavenly rendezvous. This beautiful day will also come for you, dear sister, when earth reclaims earth, death its portion, Jesus will unite you eternally to his glory, his life, himself. But, wait still a little: you must continue to suffer and love, by the sacrifice of yourself, to make Jesus known, loved, and served by the folly of the Cross and of love.

I am united to your prayers for your fine mother, but I beg you to take care of your fragile health or rather, of your weakness.

Please have someone give me news about you and believe that I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

P.S. Please give this letter to your sister.

664

CO 663

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 11/28)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, February 17, 1857

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

I learned with much sorrow about your great and immense sacrifice. I understood it and assessed it, knowing your heart and your dedication to the best of mothers.

What a cruel wrenching! What agony! What emptiness around you!

Oh! How evil sin is, since it engenders death! How bitter its sting, since it goes to the very soul of our affection! God alone is great, loving, powerful, eternal!

So everything that is good, holy and faithful goes toward him as toward its finality. He harvests the ripe ear. He gathers pure fruit for Heaven. He leaves the others so they can grow to maturity, exposed to the storms.

Your dear mother is in Heaven! dear daughter. She was so good! Suffering had ripened her for Heaven. Your dear mother had suffered a great deal! How happy she must be that she loved God and did so much for his love!

You are now alone, dear sister, responsible for the whole house, caring for your dear father, continuing the domestic virtues of your fine mother. You will certainly do it well, because you love God and you are advancing toward Heaven.

Paris, 1857

Oh! Poor daughter, in the glow of the sun of eternity the value of everything on earth changes! Let us walk attentively toward that lovely and delightful Homeland and let us reject whatever might serve to make us stop or settle down on the road that leads to Heaven.

I do recommend myself to your prayers and I will always pray for your family and for you.
Please believe me ever in our Lord, dear sister,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

665

CO 664

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 159/395 VI 2)

Paris, April 2, 1857

Good daughter,

How sad it is to have to write to you through others. Yet I couldn't do it myself. You yourself are somewhat to blame. I wanted to give Miss Mariette a long answer while writing to you and the time I was hoping for hasn't come yet.

I told Miss Duh. C.¹⁰ to tell you everything. There are no secrets for you, poor daughter. If I have any desire, it is that we may soon prepare a lovely cell¹¹ for each of you.

But, this is the time for suffering, for Calvary; this is what leads me to hope that the sacrifice will be blessed. How good the good Lord is to take away every person, every human support, every expectation, every future event, from us.

What a great grace it is to surrender oneself to God from moment to moment, to his Goodness, to his Wisdom! That is where we are, yet our hearts are happy and surrendered to the divine good pleasure. I was hoping to receive a few words from Father General when he returned from Rome, since on New Year's day I had written all that a son's heart knows how to say, but nothing. May God be blessed for it! It was another bond that I wanted to keep. - God suffices.

So the Third Order Manual isn't finished yet! Provided that it truly be in keeping with the spirit of the Blessed Virgin! I hope so, for it can't be a personal matter.

My health isn't bad, in spite of abstinence and half of the fasting. How good the good Lord is! His grace really does everything in my weakness.

Mme. Duh. Cil will send you the little "Rules" as soon as I finish them.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I really would like to have a few words from you and your sisters.
The bell is ringing.

All Yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
17 Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons
Rhone

¹⁰ Mme. Duhaut-Cilly, president of the Women's Adoration at Toulon.

¹¹ Monastic name for bedroom.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 158/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, Good Friday, 1857¹²

I was very worried about you, dear daughter. At this very moment I was going to write to you, when I received your letter. I read it like a child who forgets everything else when he receives a letter from his relatives. I know that Monday you will be having a display about Oceania. I pity you for all this trouble, but I praise you for having taken charge of it. At least, when the moment of freedom and departure arrive, you won't be accused of indifference! You are doing it for God and for the love of Mary.

You are earning your eucharistic dowry. Still, you shouldn't exhaust yourself. It's useless to tell you to take care of yourself now that you are on the cross: the cross of Jesus, the cross of society, and let's add, the cross of human nature.

Now about us.

Yesterday, Holy Thursday, at two o'clock, Jesus let us rent a house, a Cenacle. There are two houses, one for the sisters, and one for the Fathers. The chapel is in the middle; two gardens, the two houses are well separated. It is everything we could hope for. It is in a very good neighborhood near the center of Paris. That is the first bit of news. The second is even more comforting. Yesterday at six thirty in the evening, the Bishop signed the permission granting us perpetual Exposition. Lastly, at eight o'clock in the evening, at the Visitation Convent, I alone carried the venerable relics of the whole Crown of Thorns, the Sacred Nail, and the most beautiful piece of the true Cross that I have ever seen. I offered them for veneration. What a grace! God fills us so! In the midst of it all, I could only be grateful while thinking of Calvary ahead, the necessary and divine cost of so many graces. Spiritually my soul was happy, but humanly speaking I am afraid of the cross. My poor nature will need to be stretched and crucified on it! It's only right.

We will go to set up our eucharistic tent beyond the Seine, on the right bank, one hour from our neighborhood. I'm happy about it. All the communities of men are on this side. On the other side, we will be alone in the midst of the great Babylon, - in the commercial district, where the influential people are, etc.

May Jesus be your resurrection and your life on this beautiful day of Easter. When will we celebrate the Passover together with Jesus presiding?

Goodbye.

All Yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Board and room for the two costs 110 francs for two months. It will be due on May 1st.

I saw Miss du Rousset here. She seems to think that you aren't very devoted to us, that pleases me.¹³

¹² April 10th.

¹³ Because Marguerite's generosity was unknown.

Paris, 1857

667

CO 666

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 160/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, April 21, 1857

So you are ill, poor daughter. It's the result of your vigils and your work. Such is life! Fortunately heaven is there, and that's where we shall rest in God.

Leave them all now.¹⁴ You paid your share, and gave your quota of devotedness and charity. It's a sad truth, that self-interest or self-love are often the source of confidence and esteem, even among pious people. Oh! How sad it can be to see human nature!

Be firm about your resignation. It's time. I didn't tell you so before now. It was necessary to be there at the hour of sacrifice. However, now that a direction contrary to the former one is being taken, it's better to let them proceed alone. I am really afraid that Fr. J. will do as he did in his other tasks. He will end up by ruining everything. May the Blessed Virgin watch over her Work!

Good daughter, thank you for your package. God is really too good through you.

Holy Thursday had its joys, then Calvary came. I trust that the Resurrection of our Lord will bring us some grace.

I'll explain it to you later. I want to send my answer right away.

Give me news about yourself. I'm really sorry to know that you are sick.

All Yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Thank that good woman for her generosity. I would have liked to know her name. We are praying very much for her. We are doubly obligated to her. I put all her intentions in our book of intentions placed before the Blessed Sacrament.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
17 Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons
Rhone

668

CO 667

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 161/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, May 1, 1857

Dear Daughter, I've just received your letter with its enclosed note.

It worries me to know that you are ill and very ill at that. Please take care of your health for the eucharistic life! My opinion is that you should send your resignation in writing to Father General and tell Fr. Jaquet what you've done. This way, he would be well informed.

If you have a white stole left, I would accept it willingly. The reason is that we wear a surplice and a white stole for our adorations.

As for the linens, we have enough. We also have vestments. I would have preferred a white one, but I see that you don't have one, and that would be asking too much. We have two simple ones.

¹⁴ The Third Order of Mary.

Paris, 1857

Later on I'll tell you about our little troubles in relation to the house we had chosen. Pray so that we may find the one that Jesus has chosen.

I only have time to say that in Jesus, I am

All yours,
Eymard

669

CO 669

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 22/76)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, May 19, 1857

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I was so anxious to receive news about you! I'm really sorry for having made you wait for my letter. It was because of an overload of work. Now I am a bit freer and so I turn quickly to you. Although I am in Paris, consider me as very near and make use of me. Write to me when you wish and when you can, but without effort, with a very free pen, and I will reply to you with joy, happy to be able to help your dear soul. It is with great thanksgiving that I learned that your fine mother had been Confirmed. The sacrament of the strong will give her....

May 26.- Excuse me for having left this letter unfinished for so long. We are on retreat... However, I will try to finish it.

1) I approve your desire to relieve the unfortunate. Consult God rather than prudence. Our good Master will arrange everything, as he knows so well how to do for you. Your natural timidity is a grace; it keeps and protects you.

2) Yes, be at peace about the poor man who was healed. We must do good works but without prolonging them; that is, perform the actions, but don't maintain the relationship.

3) Yes, try to remove that girl from the parish and that house. I want to believe there is nothing, but prudence requires that we have pity for the weak, and avoid scandal. You can give the real reason for her admission without fear, it's a very strong reason. But don't commit yourself to pay for the board.

4) Charity towards Mr. G.¹⁵ precedes any other ordinary ones which can wait. In necessity do what is more urgent.

5) Yes, the good Lord will answer your prayers for your husband. So many prayers cannot remain without fruit. I really like your idea of giving our Lord a more beautiful chapel, so that he may bless the vines.¹⁶ He will do more than that.

6) Now dear daughter, go to our Lord by means of spiritual poverty and charity toward your neighbor, when God gives you the opportunity. Let your poor mind and memory rest. Use your heart and desires to love the good Lord and do his holy Will.

7) Never put aside holy Communion because of your distractions and failings, but go because of your failings and weakness. Go to holy Communion with the sentiments you describe. When you are so poor that you have nothing to offer, offer the goodness of Jesus to his own love.

8) Please, dear daughter, don't worry any more about your distractions and neglect. Become accustomed to it and consider it as poverty which doesn't offend God. You can always give thanks, offer and give yourself. That is what our dear Jesus asks of you.

¹⁵ Evidently, Mr. Gourd, her husband.

¹⁶ Vine-growers?

Paris, 1857

Good-bye. I will write to Miss Stephanie and to Miss Boisson soon. I am anxious to send this for fear of delaying again. Write to me more often.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. We are fine; the good Lord is blessing us a little with his holy Cross and greatly with his Father's love.

670

CO 617

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 47/52)

Miss Stephanie,¹⁷

Dear daughter, I read your letter today with attention and thanksgiving. I praise God for freeing you from that net. Let your heart belong to God and be entirely God's. As for mental flashbacks from mental images, feelings relived, pay no attention to them. However, when it tends to become substantial, turn your heart to God and tell him: Yours alone and always.

No more soul-searching, no more scrutiny, no more explanations. The cloud has passed over. It is fortunate that you did not go into details in confession. Leave it at that. If the sight of that image, that book, pursues your memory, get rid of it. Otherwise, keep them.

Poor daughter, God loves you so!

I didn't want to discuss the embraces of politeness you mentioned, not at all, but about the tricks of the devil and human nature.

Serve God with simplicity of intention, with freedom of action, with holy surrender to his divine Providence! The future! is the eternal love of God.

Pray for the one who is entirely dedicated to and one with you in our Lord,

Eymard, S.S.S.

671

CO 670

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 162/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 25, 1857

I couldn't answer you right away, dear daughter. You can guess the reasons. The retreat I hesitated ... if only you were here! You will come. That is my hope. It's my strong and gentle confidence that you will [come].

Everything is consummated! Good! You drank the chalice to the very end! You completed your task, proved your devotedness to the point of heroism.¹⁸ That is fine. It is very good that they should leave you without any honors, without thanks, without even the simple expressions of it. God and God alone is our witness, our good Master and goal. However, when your feelings turn to rebellion or dislike, don't pay attention to it, it's just a passing fever. Our Lord knows full well that he rules over you.

¹⁷ No indication of date. Tentative placement because of preceding correspondence.

¹⁸ Her resignation from the Third Order.

Paris, 1857

How disappointing people can be when left to themselves. Religious can also become demanding, even greedy and aggressive for their community, as a body!....

I know they themselves may have a good intention for themselves. Still, for outsiders it's a temptation.

Oh! How good the good Lord is to have shown me the vanity of the admiration, attachment, and compliments which were quite mistakenly directed to me. It liberated me and left me in a state of great inner peace and freedom. My love for them [the people] is greater, but more spiritual.

I'm very happy that you will be going to the countryside, at Mme. Galle's. It will be so good for her, and you will be very quiet there.

I wish my sisters were not so far away; you would be at home there.

Pray for our retreat.

The monthly payments for the children are not due until the month of August, and I still have 35 francs in advance.

Give me news about yourself from time to time. I was quite worried until I received your letter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

672

CO 668

TO MISS FANNY MATAGRIN

(V 1/5)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, May 5, 1857

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,

Forgive me in advance for such a long silence, especially after your gracious offers of help and dedication. I will admit it very simply: I didn't have the courage to write! Crosses followed one another and increased in number on this little calvary with a thousand problems and duties, which hardly leave me enough time to pray and complain at the feet of our Lord.

I knew in principle that I was going to Calvary by devoting myself to the eucharistic Work, but the divine goodness had shown it to me in the light of so many graces and [such] love, that I was embracing it with joy. Today, I am fortunate to be on calvary, but like a poor victim which lets itself be, that's all.

You may say: But then, what are these crosses? Some crosses are from the outside: crosses from hostile persons, persons with false concepts, disappointments, change of domicile and nothing suitable to be found. There are small persecutions, small calumnies, pinpricks; false vocations, etc.... These things afflict but do not crush us. We know that the Kingdom of God is established and consolidated in the midst of tribulations. Poor human nature moans, but grace comforts it. The day [will come] when we will be very happy to have suffered a little. Pray for us, dear sister in our Lord, in order that we may not remove any thorns from our dear Master's crown.

June 5th. - I really reproach myself, Mademoiselle, that I didn't finish this letter, and I wouldn't dare send it... But since it was begun for you, it belongs to you.

Our greatest cross regarding our place of residence has been mitigated: His Eminence sent us word that we could continue to stay here; that he did not intend, at least at this time, to come and live here. - So we feel more peaceful on that point.

God has made our small crosses blossom. We received some vocations who seem fine. We are 4 priests and 2 brothers. We also increased our days of day-and-night adoration. We have 4 days of exposition: Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. - How holy and fervent we ought to be with so many graces! Pray for us, dear Mademoiselle, and that would be a great charity toward me.

Paris, 1857

Miss Bost had told me that you wanted to offer our Lord another decoration for the altar, an alb, or something else of our choice. My God! You have already given enough, and I assure you that your gift has pleased us very much. So, when we use your albs, it's a fond memory for me.

We now have enough albs and enough decorations for the altar. What we don't have is a white vestment. We do have one, but since we wear it on all the days of service, we have nothing special for the Feasts. Therefore, I would like a vestment that would be all white, but simple. Since it isn't urgent we will wait because I think it would cost about 80 francs, and that is asking too much.

I put your name, as well as your father's, in our book of petitions opened before the Most Blessed Sacrament. May our Lord comfort you and grant you the great grace you desire for your dear father!

We have begun a little Congregation of women adorers.¹⁹ If you were here, I would enroll you with pleasure.

I leave you in the hands of divine goodness and I am united to you in our Lord.

Eymard, SSS

673

CO 671

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 1/104)²⁰

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, June 7, 1857

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

May our Lord keep you always in the blessed peace of his grace and love. Yes! that is the best sign of his friendship for us, and proves the validity of the spiritual means you are using in your state of life.

So, don't let yourself be troubled by anything in this world, nor by any natural or diabolical temptation, not even by your sins. Obedience is your weapon, your victory, the absolution of your daily faults. - Receive Communion! Receive Communion every time you can: it is your remedy, your strength, your center and your virtue. I congratulate you for having bound up self-love with its own chains. You did well, very well to be open with your sister about your faults. You will only be the stronger for it. Your heart must have suffered from this self-awareness and its exterior consequences. - I say your heart, because your heart was certainly not at fault. Go as long as you can without confession. However, it is better to make a simple confession at the first opportunity rather than give up Holy Communion. Leave meditation aside while you are undergoing treatment. Put aside serious things. Follow the prescribed diet: let even Holy Communion be subordinated to your treatment, when you cannot do otherwise. That is the wisdom of obedience. But you have carte blanche for the practice of the Presence of God, thanksgiving, spiritual freedom, and childlike love.

I ask our Lord to heal you so that you can work harder.

News from you will always please me. I leave you, dear daughter, to our Good Lord and Master.

Eymard, Superior

¹⁹ At this time, Marguerite Guillot, Claudine and Benoite had not yet come from Lyons. However, the group of women had arrived from Toulon.

²⁰ First of 104 letters of St. Peter Julian Eymard, to Madame de Grandville, n^èe Cornulier, 8 rue Saint-laurent, at Nantes (Lower-Loire).

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 12/28)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, June 7, 1857

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

What must you think of my silence? Especially after waiting for an answer which gave you hope for our Lord.

I've just passed through a period of days that were so busy and so crucifying, that I had neither the time nor the strength to write. There are some storms on the sea when all one can do is try to control the ship.

At this time, things are a bit calm. What kept us busiest, was searching for a suitable lodging, at a time when Paris is being demolished and more than thirty thousand families are looking for a home. To sum it up, the good Lord is leaving us where we are, at least for the moment.

In the midst of it all, our little Work is progressing. There are six of us: four priests and two brothers. A little Congregation of Women Adorers is beginning,²¹ and, if God gives his blessing, everything will grow for his holy service.

We now have four days of exposition, while waiting to be numerous enough to have it continually. So much for us.

And what are you doing, dear Mademoiselle? I imagine that your heart is still crying; the wound is still open ... how could it be otherwise, especially in the midst of such isolation, of such solitude? How unfortunate that your dear sister is so far away! She would be three great treasures of life for you: a mother, a sister and a friend.

How helpful religion is, especially at a time of sorrow! It shows us that life's journey is only a little longer and that we will soon meet again in the arms of God our Father. How good and delightful Heaven is, when we find our mother and our friends there with God, when we are related in heart, mind, hope and love!

You must often visit your dear mother in God and you will find consolation.

Pope John XXII was preaching one day about the eucharistic heaven of Jesus. He said that holy souls begin their paradise near the Blessed Sacrament of the parish where they died, in order to form a court for Jesus, and that they stay as long as Jesus does. This thought has often brought me comfort. I like to pray in the church of the parish where my parents died because of this pleasant and comforting thought.

In the Benedictine Journals we read that a mother had lost her son, a religious, and was inconsolable. To comfort her, God promised that if she came to the night Office in the Monastery church, she would hear her son singing. She did have this happiness, but she also wanted to see him... and in fact, she did see him, very radiant. That is the end of the story... It was enough for her to know that he was a perpetual adorer of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

So, go to pray and praise God with your good loving mother. Even if you don't see or hear her, your heart and devotion will feel her gentle presence in Jesus.

I am enclosing a letter for Miss Matagrín in yours. Please give it to her.

Your patronal feast day will be on Thursday. We will pray for you. Repay us for it, dear sister in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

²¹ The future Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

Paris, 1857

675

CO 673

TO MME.GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)
(VII 7/8)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, June 9, 1857

Madame and very dear Sister in our Lord,

Miss Guillot gave me news about you, as well as your Poor Paul. - How sad and distressed it makes me! Great God! What a cross! Oh! Poor mother, you do need God's grace to bear and sanctify it! Do not give in to discouragement or to excessive sadness, it would unite two misfortunes - no, no, the good Lord will not forsake you. Everything will turn to the greater good and return your poor son to you, responsible and rational. However, let your trust rise above it; let your prayer be stronger than your pain. By the confidence you have always had in me, please, I beg you, be the strong woman and stand once again at the foot of this cross.

The whole Community will make a novena that his behavior may improve and that he may be healed. Beginning on Thursday, Corpus Christi, every day at 7 o'clock, Mass will be said for this intention. I don't need to tell you to join with us.

I thought that poor Paul was healed, I was told that he was doing well. Courage! - The good Lord is his Father. Put all your trust in him, dear Mother, and tell yourself: when I have complete trust, my son will be healed.

I am very happy that you have Miss Guillot near you. This dear Sister will help you to carry your cross, to lighten it. - She is so kind and so dedicated to you. - Please offer her my devoted sentiments and tell her that I received what she had promised me.

I wanted to write her a word, but time is lacking and I want to send this letter on its way.

We are fine, our little Work is progressing. We are six - 4 priests and 2 brothers. - We now have four days of exposition each week. - See, dear Lady, how the good Lord loves us!

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, S

676

CO 675

TO THE PRIORESS OF THE BENEDICTINES OF THE BL. SACRAMENT, ARRAS
(VIII 1/1)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, Corpus Christi, June 11, '57

Very Reverend Mother,

I am late to offer you my humble and very warm thanks for the spiritual favor you granted us by your letters of affiliation, dated March 7 of this year. How joyful we were to receive and bless your charity toward us who are so weak and so insignificant! The thought of this unity strengthens us, and we need it, for since receiving your letter, we have had rather serious trials considering our fragility. However, the God of all consolation has sustained and consoled us.

Our little Work is progressing slowly. We have 4 days of Exposition each week until such time as it shall please God to increase the number of adorers. We are only 6: 4 priests and 2 brothers.

Paris, 1857

We placed your very dear name in our eucharistic register. Every day at the Holy Sacrifice and at adoration we like to offer you to Jesus, host of praise and love, you my Very Rev. Mother, and all your daughters! Please consider us always among your very devoted affiliates and believe that we are in O. L.

My Very Rev. Mother,

Your very humble and obedient servant,
Eymard
Sup. Rel. of Bl. Sacrament

677

CO 674

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 163/395 VI 2)

All for Jesus Hostia

[Paris]²², Corpus Christi, June 11, 1857

Very dear daughter,

How could I let this beautiful feast go by without writing to tell you that we are thinking about you. You are with us at the feet of our King and Lord! Oh, when will you be here fully and personally? It seems to me that you would be happy here. You would find peace after the war, rest, like Mary (at Jesus' feet) and prepare for the great journey. No doubt you were also thinking about us.

This was a beautiful feast for us. Fr. Hermann, the Carmelite, preached to us on the Most Blessed Sacrament, as he knows so well how to do. Our chapel had its most beautiful decorations. Your white vestment served for half of the Masses, as well as your lovely white pall which I found in very exquisite taste. I prefer it even to all the gold ones.

Thank you, thank you for everything: the stoles, altar linens, skull caps and even the rabats, though we don't wear them anymore. I've given up the skull cap too, and I don't have any toothache as a result of it.²³

How kind that Lady is! Really if all this generosity were not for the Lord, I would feel embarrassed. I am praying so much to our Good Master to repay all of you since everything is given for him and everything is dedicated to his eucharistic worship.

About the children: I have 55 francs, that will take care of two months. So you can forget about that until September.

Monday I saw Very Rev. Father Favre in Paris. He received me kindly, and offered me money if I should need it. He apologized for not having answered me, spoke about Fr. Huguet with whom he is dissatisfied because of the book about La Salette. There was no mention of the Third Order nor of the Ladies of Toulon. He was charitable and proper. He told me that he would pay me a return visit.

On this subject, you had asked me for news about a Third Order Member whom Miss Belle had brought here. I heard that she had made a retreat with the Ladies of St. Regis, that Fr. Huguet was directing her, that he had then sent her to visit a lady who wants to start a Work. Then it seems that it wasn't working out. The poor lady asked the Ladies of St. Regis for her entrance with them, and she was definitely refused. I don't know what happened to her. If she is still there, the best thing for her would be to leave those people who are said to be very unbalanced. I'll let Mme. Duh. C.²⁴ tell you about our retreat. I hope that God will bless it. It seems to me that our purpose is becoming clearer and clearer, as well as the means and the spirit which ought to animate us all.

²² Fr. Troussier.

²³ He refers to the theory that a cold head brought on toothaches.

²⁴ Mme. Duhaut Cilly, President of the Ladies of Adoration in Toulon, had come.

Paris, 1857

My health is satisfactory, even with night adorations. See how grace is more effective than all our little remedies.

As for you, I firmly believe that one day you will be in the Cenacle, a religious of the Blessed Sacrament (with your sisters if they wish.) - But I am old, you will say. - You could always remain at the feet of the Most Blessed Sacrament. - But I am an invalid? - It is good to have one, to provide the object and merit of fraternal charity. - But I will be a burden? - No, never. A daughter is never a burden or in the way in her father's house. Only I say, it's necessary to wait until we are a bit more established and settled, and to know whether [Church] authorities would consent to a common church between the Fathers and the sisters, although truly separate as required, while having only one Exposition for all. That is a big question. Or must there be two Adoration chapels? This is what we are asking our Lord. I favor the first plan; it is like the Cenacle where the Apostles, the disciples, the holy women and Mary were praying together in the first church near the first eucharistic Tabernacle. Oh, I have such a great desire to know the will of God and to see his work grow under the influence of his caring love! Poor daughter, your illness will pass, your infirmities also. God will give you sufficient health to continue to serve him in his eucharistic kingdom.

Follow carefully what is prescribed for your diet, that has the same value as religious obedience and the greatest activity. Your piety is being deprived. Your soul is drying up for lack of the divine food which is its whole strength and life. Bear these deprivations, dear daughter, God wills it so. You need to practice the same charity toward yourself as towards the sick.

So now you are free, so much the better! Miss de Revel will accept, I think. Forget all those troubles, good daughter. Admire God's goodness which gave you such a beautiful mission for the Third Order, that of suffering; let others reap its fruits. I am happy that Miss de Revel withdrew her letter. God is enough for us. If our Work were of human origin we would need human support. I believe that it is from God and God alone.

678

CO 676

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 12/17)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, June 12, 1857

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

It takes your kind heart and the heart of the Mayet family to continue to have confidence in me after so many ineffective efforts. Thank you for remembering me and especially for your charity.

I had so much business, so many duties since January when the happiness of having exposition has been ours, that it was necessary to become a slave of duty and attend to everything in the house; receive visitors, return visits, hold conferences, make adorations, recite office in choir,... finally, I don't know how my frail health sustained it. I was not forgetful, but obliged to suspend all relationships; always putting things off until the next day.

I was so happy to see and accompany dear Fr. Mayet. He is always the same and he is always my old brother and friend.

I don't deserve the thanks you want to ascribe to me. It was a great pleasure. How good and gracious this dear old friend is!

What a pleasant surprise it was for me one day to welcome that dignified, direct and kind Mr. Tonny. What a wonderful hour we spent together! We spoke about dear Marie, alas! so worthy of a better lot in this world. Poor young mother! Already in mourning... But her piety, her virtue make her greater than her misfortune. God! Yes, God alone! is the eternal love of the soul. I did pray for her, and I like to pray for the soul of her husband whom I loved without knowing him. I had been told he was such a good Christian! such a good husband.

Paris, 1857

And you, dear Mademoiselle, you are there in life like a sister for every need, for all consolations, all tears. Be so always, for it is the mission of the Angels. Put aside Oceania. Your health is not strong enough for that distant mission, at least it seems to me. Continue to trust in God for your future; surrender like a child to his Holy Will at each moment. These two wings of love lift us very high.

Our little Work is constantly progressing, sometimes by the cross, sometimes by consolation. It is an alternation to which we must become accustomed. One thing which suits me well is the time to pray, to adore, to sacrifice myself to the Eucharistic service.

I don't know whether we will see the development of this little seed, but it seems to me that my soul is where God wants it to be. I sacrificed a great deal and I never had a moment of regret or frustration about it.

Pray, dear daughter, that I may be faithful to grace, and that, if I cannot spread the love of Jesus Eucharistic everywhere, he may at least reign in my heart.

Believe me ever,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

679

CO 677

TO MME.ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 8/19)

rue d'Enfer 114, Paris, June 26, 1857

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I didn't read your dear letter until today. It was left in the middle of other letters. I was so sorry to learn that it was too late for me to write to Hyeres. I don't know whether my letter will find you at Orleans, but I am taking a chance.

Yes, certainly, I will be happy to see you and we can speak in Paris about your situation and your plans for the present and the future. I may have more time there to speak than to write. For the last three months I have had so much business, so many trials, that it often happened that I didn't even have time to come up to my room. No, no, I do not have anything against you. That would be very ungrateful. I only have gratitude toward you and the desire to help you. I am the same in Paris as I was at La Seyne, only I have so much business that I don't know where to turn. When I wait for a free moment for my people, I risk forgetting them. That is what happened to you.

May my letter find you and help you decide to come here.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Paris, 1857

680

CO 678

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 13/28)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 1, 1857

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

Your letter deeply saddened me as I saw your ever growing sorrow, with a future that seems more bleak and discouraging.

So I am writing very simply to tell you what I think. I certainly remember having told you that your heart would be crucified, but without seeing the future, and certainly without knowing the imminent death of your dear sister.

I said that, because, knowing how loving your heart is and how much Jesus also loves it, I've always believed that this divine Spouse would crucify any affection which might be too strong or too natural, in order to rule alone on this throne of pure and devout affection. As I know through experience that is how God deals with other souls which resemble yours; I said it about you.

Oh! Dear daughter, I do hope that our Lord will not come yet to take your dear sister, his tender spouse. I am praying that he may leave her a while. Her work isn't complete. I know she is longing for that heavenly moment. God loves the sighs of the dove in the desert, but eternity is long and time is short.

Don't be upset about the future, dear daughter. Abandon this thought. I think it is much further away than that.

Yes, often go to visit your dear mother near the divine Tabernacle. That is where your hearts will meet and speak to one another with vision. Jesus is the center of every affection and of all pure hearts.

Our little Work is progressing in the midst of crosses.

Write to your sister so that she may begin to pray. I see a great storm coming; it is beginning and pierces my heart. It is a storm stirred up by the devil who wants to sow discord.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I always save the best place in the heart of Jesus for you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

681

CO 679

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 14/28)

July 6²⁵

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Please give Miss Matagrín this little note. I received a lovely white vestment, which will really please our Lord for his feast days. God bless her! And you also!

I hope that you have believed me and that you are at peace.

Think only of the goodness of Jesus, of his infinite goodness; and when you cry a little for your dear mother, sleep afterwards on the heart of Jesus like a child on the heart of its mother.

All yours,
Eymard

²⁵ Probably 1857.

Paris, 1857

682

CO 680

TO MISS FANNY MATAGRIN

(V 2/5)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 6, 1867²⁶

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,

How kind you are toward our Lord and to me. I cried with wonder and joy when I received the lovely white vestment you sent us. It's really too much, and you are too kind to me, who have helped you so very little. It's true that I desired great things for you and that I would like to repay you a hundredfold; but I can only ask the good Master whom we serve to bless you and to repay you in graces and consolations for everything you are doing for his love.

Now that I am like a servant around a poor unattended Master - no, I am the happiest of men when I can offer him something beautiful for his worship.

I looked for a little word from you in the mailbox because I wanted that more than the gift. Don't be afraid to bother me. Now I am a bit more quiet, though not free. I say quiet, alas! I have just spent 8 days in an agony that could kill. It was another trial, but now the cloud has scattered and calm has returned... until it pleases God to put us a little on his cross again.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Matagrín, Tarare

683

CO 681

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 164/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 20, 1857

This is your feast day, dear daughter. I am writing to express my wishes to you in the Lord. I did so first of all at the holy altar. That is the most useful and the surest way.

Your Patroness was a virgin and a martyr. It seems that God is giving you these two crowns from day to day. For, when one cross is over, another follows immediately, and these crosses seem to pursue you. You either receive them well, or they are at home with you. We must make use of them and do like the poor do with poverty. You must give our Lord this pleasure and be at the service of his crosses. It is better to suffer than to pray, preach, or do charitable deeds.

At long last you are free now from your responsibility. I'm happy about it, you'll rest a little, you'll suffer alone.

Very Rev. F. Favre didn't stop in Paris when he returned; he sent his regrets for not being able to come here. He was kind, but you understand that his heart must hurt and be a bit afraid.

As for me, I love the Society of Mary more and more as well as its dear members. However, I don't go see them very often, I don't have time; and then, the visits are uncomfortable and don't go beyond basic charity.

²⁶ Probably 1857 because of the content.

Paris, 1857

I saw... several times. I hope that his health will improve. The doctors don't think it is serious.

I will be seeing one who will tell me privately what he really thinks.

May God yet preserve this dear mother for her daughter, and this dear sister for her friends! As for me, I found her well.

Everything is settled about the 40 francs. I have some of your money for the children, 55 francs left for this coming August. So, if I need money, I'll take it from there. I don't need any money for the children until September. Your two elderly friends are very fortunate to have you. What would become of them otherwise?

God will help you; the father of the family always allots a share of his treasures to charity. Make use of me; I'm happy to be able to serve you in some way.

I wrote a brief note to Miss de Revel. I've owed her an answer for so long. She spoke to me about you, about your illness, your resignation, and her temporary responsibility, but in very proper and kind words. I'm very happy to see that she is very fond of the good Marist Fathers.

I bless sister Martha, Miss Mariette, and your dear sisters wholeheartedly.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

684

CO 682

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 165/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 26, 1857

As soon as I received your letter, my dear daughter, I went to the hospital on rue de Picpus. I saw the Superior who told me that they receive both men and women there, but that the number is very limited now; they have only twenty-four elderly persons. They replace only those who die. It's a good location, the house is beautiful and the garden very spacious.

To be received there, one must apply to Mr. Bauchet, administrator of the Orleans family property, rue de Varennes, 55.

Then one needs to be accepted by Queen Amelia. I wasn't able to locate the gentleman; I was told that he would be there Monday or Wednesday. I would have liked to get the address of the lady who has the papers.... I would have gone to ask her for them. I'm trying to find a sponsor; that way, we might get a favor.

I saw the Superior of the La Rochefoucauld hospital; it is close by, but they are burdened with requests. Some have been waiting for four years; there, as elsewhere, those with sponsors succeed first. Board is 250 francs for a year for those who are able-bodied, and 312 francs and 50 centimes for those who are infirm.

I know the mayor; he will recommend me to the administrator. But first of all, we will try every means for the first institution which is better in every way.

Poor daughter! I made you suffer without knowing: you know that I think only of one thing at a time. It is rare that I think of two things. I didn't bring up the Eucharistic house again because I consider that idea as settled and definite for you and your dear sisters; but when it will be, I don't know. As soon as the good Lord says the word, it will be done. In the meantime, we are preparing the first drafts of the Rule, and that is only prudent.

I scarcely speak to you about myself, I don't think about it, but you can guess everything.

I'm asking the good Lord to heal you; do the same. One day you must come to help me carry this cross. I don't think you should go to the celebration at Miss de Revel's. It's better to be quiet; it's the same for the chapel, for fear of the unexpected. They might well make announcements which would make you sad and which you would need to accept modestly.

Paris, 1857

I don't know about Fr. Huguet's departure, I haven't seen anyone. I wouldn't be surprised and I had that thought myself.

I haven't seen the doctor yet... I'll write you his opinion. I....

It would be best if the Third Order members from Toulon and La Seyne had separate meetings, otherwise it will fail; and that the Third Order of Toulon be directed by the Superior of the house of Toulon. Poor Miss Claudine was expecting a letter and I can only send her my blessing; it's worth more than a letter.

Goodbye, have courage! Your poor crosses weigh you down. I will ask our Lord to lighten them and to give you strength and love.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

685

CO 683

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 166/395 VI 2)

Paris, August 5, 1857

I am being encouraged to go to the springs in some unknown location; at Saint Pierre d'Allevard near Grenoble. They would like me to leave at the end of the week, because it is late in the season.

How sad it would be for me to pass through Lyons without seeing you, if that should happen! In any case, if I can stop a few hours and take a coach to go say "hello" to you incognito, next Saturday morning, I will do it, but it is doubtful. I will arrive at Lyons at 8:45 or at 10:15 at Vaise. I'll do all I can to see you when I return. What led to a decision in favor of the springs was that my rheumatism has gone to my stomach and makes me cough. So be it. If I don't leave this week, I'll write to you. Poor Marguerite! There she is again on the cross, oh! oh! I will have your Masses said quickly.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear daughter,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Paris, 1857

686

CO 684

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 2/104)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, August 5, 1857

Madame and very dear daughter in our Lord,

I really didn't know what to think about your lengthy silence; I thought you were ill. So then, everything is going well, God be praised! I understand that moving brings a lot of work.

I'm happy to see that you have been faithful to holy Communion, it's your life-raft. As long as you feed on Jesus Christ, the devil will not harm you; you will be strong and well protected. Oh please! Don't stay away from it, not even through feelings of humility, and even less for fear of having sinned. You know what I told you about that: doubtful sin, no sin.

If you have committed some venial fault, it is better yet to go and purify it in the fire of the divine Eucharist. Do not continue with the works of Lord Byron and Locke. Those works can do the soul no good. On the contrary, Locke's presentations are criticized as insufficiently Christian, even erroneous.

I'm leaving tomorrow for the springs at Saint-Pierre d'Allevard (Isere). If you should need me, you may write to me there. I hope to go to La Salette from there. I'll pray especially for you and your dear sister.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

P.S. The minutes haven't arrived yet. So long.

687

CO 685

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT)
(IV 1/36)²⁷

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, 114, rue d'Enfer, August 9, 1857

Very dear sister in our Lord,

What a pleasant surprise I received when I read your letter! I thanked our good Savior so much for having inspired you with it! ... I had asked for news about you from the sister who left ... I forget her name, the one who accompanied the lady ... she had told me that God is blessing you. We spoke about you with Mme. d'Hareny, who was here recently. She was pleased to hear about you. Well! Dear sister! So many things have happened since Lyons! I am here laboring for the eucharistic Work, and you are doing the same in your village and God is blessing you.

We are four priests and two brothers here. We have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament four days a week and three nights: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

What delightful days! What blessed nights! God alone knows!

²⁷ There are 36 letters addressed to Virginie Danion who as a Reparatrix sister had been called Sister Ann of the Blessed Sacrament. She became the foundress of the Congregation of Thanksgiving at Mauron, diocese of Vannes (Morbihan).

Paris, 1857

We have permission to have perpetual exposition, but we are waiting for Jesus to send us a few good eucharistic vocations.

We take the three religious vows.

I also intend to establish a branch of women adorers.... Four fine women already live near us and share in our spiritual exercises, but I'm waiting for God's time and light to organize and form them. They will be clay in his hands.

We can no longer think of joining with Mother Marie-Therese. She seemed to be fearful, not to say opposed. I pray for her and her beautiful Work, nothing more. Provided that Jesus be glorified, loved and served in his adorable Sacrament, what do human feelings matter? However, I thank God for it, it just gives us more freedom. God is also blessing her. I will tell you about it later.

I'll be waiting for your reply at St. Pierre d'Allevard (Isere), where I am going to the springs. I'll have time there to read your letter and answer you.

I'm leaving tomorrow; three weeks later I will go to La Salette from there, then I will return here. Excuse my hurry. Pray very much for the one who is closely united to you in our Lord.

Eymard, Superior

P.S. Tell me clearly what you led me to hope for,²⁸ and I will tell you what you want to know.

688

CO 686

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 167/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Allevard (Isere), Hotel des Bains, August 14, 1857

Dear daughter,

I passed through Lyons Tuesday morning at 6:00. I said Mass at Aynay for you. I could only bless you from a distance, regretting that I couldn't go up to see you. There wasn't enough time as I had only two hours to spare. I debated whether I should leave holy Mass aside to go see you. But I would have needed to stay eight hours in Lyons and I didn't want to be seen by anyone. That was a great sacrifice for me. Here I am at Allevard as I am beginning to have a sinus infection. They wanted me to come: my purpose in coming was to be able to work and suffer longer for the eucharistic service of Jesus.

I still don't know how the springs will affect me, but up to this point, it isn't bad. You can understand how much my heart suffers to be far from the tabernacle of love and to know that my colleagues are alone! May God's will be done.

... is here and I find him well. If he were a Christian, he would be very fine in a short time, he has an upright soul. Give me news about yourself, dear daughter, and about all your sisters.

I still haven't told my sister anything. She doesn't know that I am so close to her. I'll go see her for a few days; from there I'll go to La Salette for a day, then I'll return to my place of honor.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

²⁸ Perhaps the hope that she would come and join his branch of women adorers.

Paris, 1857

689

CO 687

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 107/145 VI 10)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Allevard, hotel des Bains (Isere), August 14, 1857

Very dear sisters,

I have been here near you for three days now. I have come to take the treatments at Allevard for an infection. I had found quite a bit of relief at the Springs of Mont-Dore two years ago. This year I thought I would change in order to be closer to you and to come see you. Without this treatment, I couldn't have come to see you, being very busy in Paris, and also because of the example to be given to the other religious.

So the good Lord took care of both things. I can only come see you at the beginning of September. The treatment from the springs usually lasts from three to four weeks.

Besides I am fine. Please express my regards to the Pastor whom I will be happy to greet and to Mr. Faure if you see him before I do. I would have liked to know his address.

See you soon, dear sisters.

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

690

CO 688

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 23/76)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Hotel des Bains, Allevard (Isere), August 14, 1857

Dear daughter, I am here at Allevard. I expected to find you here and I was rejoicing in our Lord. Our good Master didn't will it, may He be praised for it! Every day I meet Mr. Gourd. He is feeling fine and I think the springs will help him. I love your dear husband very much. I really wish that the good Lord would grant me the grace to help his soul. He is a direct and honest person. Have confidence, God will hear us. I would so like to see you enjoy that grace a little.

I saw Dr. Bremont privately. He told me that you don't have softening of the brain nor its consequences, but that you need something to give you strength. What you experience is the result of weakness, lack of sleep, excessive worries. So, that is good news. Therefore, dear daughter, you must now abide by the prescription for sleep, food, and rest as a necessary remedy. Along with that, observe the three great virtues which God asks of you at every moment, and you will always fulfill the holy Will of God. I have nothing to say about myself, as I've been here only three days. Give me news about yourself.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 48/52)

To Mademoiselle,²⁹

I was very pleased to read your short letter. I repeat with joy: Oh! God loves you so much!

When these thoughts about the past come back to you, thank God for having chosen you and preferred you; and when they persist, tell your dear mother.

If the visit takes place, avoid any liberties like those you had mentioned: it's better.

Stay at home as is proper. God will let you see the shadow of the picture, if only there were none, alas! There is only one step from springtime to winter.³⁰

That you should try to see the reasons against is a good thing; what is better is to see the sovereign perfection of our Lord, his love which is so kind, so tender, so constant. May God give you his divine consolations and always be your only All.

All yours,
Eymard

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 168/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Allevard (Isere), August 22, 1857

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

Your letter left me very confused.

Is the good Lord the one who wants this sacrifice from you again after so much anguish?³¹ If you can get out of it, do so. With God's grace, success is assured.

The withdrawal of Miss de R. is a good lesson.³² It will show that when we try to lean on human greatness we are leaning on a broken reed. If you cannot get away from this heavy burden, accept it for a set length of time, for example one year. I'm not saying that to oblige you, no, because in your place, I would respond negatively to the first official proposal, then I would see. Who knows whether the choice of Miss Utinet or Miss Camus, would not be good? They could at least be tried.

On the other hand, I would be happy to see you as Directress a little longer in order to apply the Rules of the new Manual. I imagine that it will need many explanations and broad experience. Once the Manual has been received, it must be kept strictly. Poor daughter, to accept temporarily for a determined length of time, would not hinder your participation in the great Eucharistic project. I will make it up to you by waiting.

I am eager to be in Paris to house the elderly for you.

²⁹ No indication of date or place. Tentative placement because of preceding correspondence.

³⁰ Her past relationship to Dr. Lalour disturbs her. She is worried about future contacts. He cautions her to be prudent.

³¹ Leadership in the Third Order.

³² Miss de Revel.

Paris, 1857

Write to me here until Monday of the following week. Your letters are like good and comforting visits for me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. The thermal waters are a bit difficult for me to take, but they are passing well.

693

CO 690

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 2/36)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Allevard (Isere), August 24, 1857

Very dear sister in our Lord,

I've waited three days to answer your last letter; you can understand why; before writing about such an important decision, we must consult God and be stripped of self.

This then is my answer: I am quite willing to work together with you, for the love and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ in his divine Sacrament. Your thoughts are my thoughts, your desires are my desires; it's for the service and kingdom of the Holy Eucharist that I've made so many sacrifices and with his holy grace, I am willing to make even greater ones.

It was also my desire to discuss our plans for a Third Order, with the same principles. I was quite surprised, when I read the rules (which I read before your letter), to find my own text nearly word for word. So, I really praised God for it. Our old and new relationship would then result in joining our Works and sacrifices for the eucharistic service of Jesus: may he be praised for it!

Here was my plan: to form a branch of women adorers, in addition to the one for men; to form quietly a congregation for women, gathered together and living in a community, who share in our public prayers while waiting to be organized and live according to the same rule which, according to your thought, could be called a Regular Third Order of the Blessed Sacrament.

Then I would like to have a secular Third Order; adapted to the various vocations; and also a Third Order for secular priests, - for men, - for youth. - Many priests have already asked me for it. Then the Third Order would be a means of forming chosen souls who would form adorers in the world.

I really like your plan for a Third Order. Allow me a few observations!

Article 1, title 1, number 1, - I would prefer the form of title II, article 1. "The purpose of the Third Order is 1: To bring about the sanctification of its members by devotion to the Blessed Sacrament; 2. To devote itself entirely to the glory of Jesus Christ in the adorable Eucharist."

Then, follow with numbers 1 and 2 of the explanations you give me.

The purpose which we are setting for our little society is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ in the most Blessed Sacrament by the four ends of Sacrifice: adoration, thanksgiving, reparation, and petition. - or a perpetual mission of prayer. We take the whole Eucharist.³³ That is why I couldn't accept the idea of reparation alone from Ursuline Street,³⁴ nor an exclusively contemplative life. We want not only to adore, serve, and love Jesus Eucharistic, but especially to make him known, adored, served and loved in all hearts. The works found in number 4 are the same as ours, but adding eucharistic retreats.

³³ Literally: the Blessed Sacrament entirely.

³⁴ Mother Marie-Therese Dubouche's foundation.

Paris, 1857

Article III, title I, - It is evident that it would be necessary to eliminate the first point for married people.

Article IV of title II: To recite the *Miserere* daily – Wouldn't it be better to have something positive, like the *Tantum Ergo* and an act of reparation to the Most Blessed Sacrament, made according to the spirit of the Institute?

Article 8 – “If day and night adoration is not established in the parish, they will join the nearest fraternity of the Third Order.”

I think that in the revision it would be necessary to add a few articles about the organization of a fraternity, - that is, for a group of Third Order members; - but that will be easy as soon as we have the specifics.

For the invocation “*Laus et gratiarum actio*,” we have chosen this one: “*Laudemus et adoremus in aeternum - Sanctissimum Sacramentum*,”³⁵ - first of all because it's accepted in Paris; and then it's more rhythmic than the other. It's true, it doesn't have an indulgence, so we could change it.

I'm keeping your outline, and I'm sending you the fine spiritual letter of your respected Bishop.

I'll be here for another 12 days; I would be happy to hear from you again. From here I will go to La Salette, then to Paris. Pray that the holy Will of God may take place in us.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

694

CO 691

TO MME.NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 20/75)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Allevard (Isere), August 24, 1857

Dear Madame,

We really are at the two extremes of France, you at Thouville and I close to the Savoie. I have been here for about 10 days with a sinus infection, they say. I still don't feel the effects of the waters. I'm told that we feel the benefits only later. What a life these bathers have! We feel happy when we can meet some beautiful souls with whom we can speak about God; that is what happened to me. If only you were here! I would certainly like that better, because our souls met in God.

I'll stay here about 12 days, then I'll go to visit my sister and return to my divine and beloved Tabernacle.

I hope to meet Mr. Giraud in Grenoble and say hello. I'll greet you from a distance, dear Lady, because I expect to return to Paris around September 10th.

My affectionate regards to your dear daughter.

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

³⁵ Praise and thanksgiving - Let us praise and adore forever the most Blessed Sacrament.

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 9/19)

All for the honor and glory of Jesus Hostia

Allevard, August 24, 1857

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Your letter was like a little visit; I am pleased with it - first of all, I see that our Lord is giving you many graces - I have never found you better, may he be praised!

So make this firm decision: 1) always go to God with the soul of an artist, that is the right word, and it is a charming idea which is very accurate. We go to God as he has made us and as we are. - Yes - be God's artist, gather everything and offer it to him.

I like and approve your way of praying. In any case, even if you wanted to do otherwise, it would be in vain, you could not do it. We must go to God by the path he opens for us in this world. The [path] of [knowing] our limitations and [expressing] our gratitude is very beautiful and very sure. Continue on that way until it pleases God to change it.

The proximity of the eucharist is good for you - enjoy it - but this perspective of living under a rule which is not presently possible, may very easily become a reality. The essential thing is that things should be stabilized as I mentioned to you, and that the community should exist.³⁶ Therefore, pray that this grace may come soon.

The springs are helping me. The waters are a bit difficult to take - I will stay another 2 weeks. May Jesus be your all. All yours in our Lord,

Eymard SSS

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 21/181 VI 3)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Allevard, August 29, 1857³⁷

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your welcome letter. I was beginning to be lonely. I thank the good Lord so much to know that you are all faithful to your place of honor close to our Good Master! What a life we lead at the springs! only the thought of being more useful sustains me here!

I was happy that good Fr. Marie Augustine³⁸ was with you, so I am surprised that you are already talking about his departure. It seems to me that he would be so happy near the eucharistic throne. As for alms and other money for him, I received only 400 francs from Fr. Bouillierie. Since divine Providence sent us 500 francs by means of his charity, and the good Father told us to use them, I need only to thank him very sincerely.

³⁶ The future Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

³⁷ The month was incorrectly interpreted as April in the French Volume I. However, was this letter sent? See following document.

³⁸ Religious name of Fr. Hermann Cohen.

Paris, 1857

Speak with Father about the house and the cloister. I truly believe that God is preparing everything to establish us at the very place where he blessed us.³⁹

The dear Father must love that chapel with its touching memories. Who knows whether it will not be the source of even greater graces.

The mineral waters are a bit difficult for me to take; they say that's natural. I am weak, I am sleeping very little. On the other hand, my chest feels better. They probed my lungs and found nothing but fatigue.

You can be sure that I am following the treatments conscientiously. I am doing what you say: all I do is take the treatment, eat and sleep.

My regards to the good Fathers and brothers, my respects to the sisters.

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

P.S. I have a Roman Ordo here. Thank you.

697

CO 694

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 22/181 VI 3)

Grenoble, September 2, 1857

Very dear Colleague,

I wanted to write to you from Allevard. I had even begun a letter. I don't know why I didn't write to you sooner. Life at the springs is so numbing, I wasn't sick, but I was uncomfortable because of the spring waters. I didn't sleep, and I exercised very little because my legs were weak. In short, everyone tells me that it's a good sign; in fact it seems that my breathing has improved. I am here at Grenoble and in a few hours I will be leaving for La Mure d'Isere. I need to rest a little, to sleep and calm down; it will take six or seven days. At the end of next week, I hope to embrace you and tell you about the lovely events of my trip.

About the house on Cerisay St. If the Archdiocese dropped us, I would feel badly about it. I feel strongly about our initial preference to avoid debts. We would hardly have any there: 70,000 francs, needing to pay only 35,000 in five months, while being left free for the rest. While waiting, we would keep the house where we are and who knows whether we might need both in the future.

Please see Mr. Meignin, the notary, on rue St. Honore 316, I believe, and ask him how things are developing. If there is no hope, let's buy this little house.

If you think it wise, see Mr. Lergarde to find out from him whether the conditions I had offered him are acceptable. In any event, I am enclosing a letter for Mr. Barrau. Read it and if you think it can be done and is providential, send it, or rather bring it, to Mr. Barrau. The good Lord may want us to begin on a small scale.

I assure you that when I think about a debt of 300,000 francs, I am afraid, because I don't see any natural solution. What agony! God is our Father, Jesus our King. He will not forsake his servants.

Write to me at la Mure d'Isere and forgive me for having left you without letters.

I embrace you all in "*osculo sancto*."⁴⁰

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

³⁹ Plans for a second foundation.

⁴⁰ With a holy kiss. Reference to St. Paul.

Paris, 1857

698

CO 695

TO MR. BARRAU
(I 1/1)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Grenoble, September 2, 1857

Dear Mr. Barrau,⁴¹

I am deeply touched by your good will toward us and our little Society.

I believe that divine Providence has provided us this help and that you will be its helping hand.

I therefore beg you, dear Sir, to ask Mr. Chauveau, the lawyer, to purchase the property on rue Cerisay for us, for 70,000 francs on condition that we could retain 35,000 francs.

I thought of addressing you directly, with the hope of a speedy arrangement. In order not to miss the next mail, I hasten to express my deep gratitude toward you.

Dear Sir, it is my honor to be

Your devoted and grateful servant,
Fr. Eymard,
Superior of the Religious of the

Bl. Sacr.
Mr. Barrau
cloister of the Bernardines, N. 14

699

CO 696

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 169/395 VI 2)

La Mure, September 15, 1857

Dear daughter,

I am leaving here tomorrow. I will be in Lyons, Thursday night at 6:00. Miss du Rousset will come for me at the Perrache station by coach. I told her that I want to see you for business matters... at the home of Mr. Gaudioz where I will come to see you on arrival. And then, if there is a possibility of seeing you again on the next day, we will arrange it. I am well. My sisters thank you very much.

I was not able to answer you: I was taken up with a thousand and one things and visits. Excuse me.

I prayed for you all at La Salette and at Laus.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss M. Guillot
17 Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons
Rhone

⁴¹ This letter was sent to Fr. de Cuers with the preceding letter, to be given to the addressee. (Garreau)

Paris, 1857

700

CO 697

TO FR. MARIUS CARRIE SS
(VI 1/2)

All for the love of Jesus-Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, September 23, 1857

Dear Sir,

I read your letter of the 17th of this month with great interest. You expressed your desire to come and join our life of adoration and become a member of our little Society.

It is with pleasure, Sir, that I accept to receive you into our family.⁴² The opinion and advice of dear Father Brunello are enough to convince me of your eucharistic vocation. However, dear Sir, you are aware that we are just beginning, and when you come you must be prepared to share in the trials which are inevitable in a new foundation; by the same token, you will have the initial grace. We will try to have you begin and advance your Latin studies.

You may come at once; you will be received as a brother. Father de Cuers already gives you that name (of long-standing between us). Bring your goodwill; that is the mark of the true adorer sought and called by Jesus.

Give my loving and devoted regards to dear Father Brunello, whom we love dearly and consider as one of our own.

I am, in our Lord, dear Sir, your most devoted servant.

Eymard, Superior

701

CO 698

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION
(SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 3/36)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, September 27, 1857

Very dear sister,

I have just come from La Salette; that's the reason for my delay.

I've just read your letters, and here is my reply.

1. I have a great love for the Order of Carmelites, and everything which has to do with the Blessed Virgin; but I have a great reluctance toward any merger, at least until such time as the good Lord should show us his Will about it. - Several mergers were suggested to me, and I didn't want them. I had only one thought: the divine Eucharist is great enough, powerful enough to be sufficient unto itself; everything must flow from It and return to It. Its spirit must be ONE, and flow from this divine heart. - Its rules, its works, its means, everything is found in the adorable Host.

Would to God that we should be sufficiently holy and on fire with love to see it and read it in Jesus Christ Eucharistic!

2. In all my free moments, I will work to draw up my notes on the Third Order. Several priests are waiting for it. I understand more than ever that to rekindle, nourish and perfect the spirit of eucharistic

⁴² literally: among our children.

Paris, 1857

devotion among priests is the work par excellence, the most excellent of all. Jesus can do everything; if it pleases him to choose such poor instruments, it's because he wants to have all the glory.

When I returned here I found the fury of the devil unleashed against our little Work. - May God rise up and fight for his glory! Yes, my dear sister, we must make our foundation by means of the cross and serve Jesus Hostia by sacrifice.

Before I left, everything was going fine, we were going to buy a house, money was being offered, etc. Candidates were becoming enthusiastic over such a beautiful Work, my collaborators were in good health. Everything has changed, everything is going badly. May God be praised!

If we needed further dialogue, would you come to spend a few days in Paris?

How good God was to have us work together in Lyons and perhaps to join us together again for his glory and eucharistic kingdom!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

Miss Virginie Danion
Mauron, (Morbihan)

702

CO 699

TO FR. BOUX
(VI 1/1)

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, September 29, 1857

Dear Father,⁴³

Allow me to add my very sincere congratulations to all those you have already received for your 2 volumes on Law for Religious Clergy. I never knew that this subject was so profound and so beautiful. Thank you, you have done a great service for the religious life. What you have achieved is worth a whole life.

I have been looking for the answer to a question which will perhaps seem absurd, but it was put to me, and I would like to ask your opinion:

(1) May a Congregation of religious (masc.) hold its services in the same church as religious sisters of the same vocation?

If the Congregation of Reparation in rue des Ursulines had also a branch of reparatory men religious, may the sisters say the divine office with the religious in their public church, open to all? and share in their adorations?

(2) May they live near the same church, with all separations and moral precautions taken?

(3) May the sisters have a separate choir in the same church and make nocturnal adoration there?

I would be very grateful if you would be kind enough to enlighten me on these various questions and tell me if any decisions need to be made. You know that the Picpus⁴⁴ live next to their sisters.

Please accept, in anticipation, my deepest gratitude and believe me, in our Lord Jesus Christ, Father,

Your most devoted servant,
Fr. Eymard

⁴³ Father Bouix sent this letter to Mother Marie-Therese, Foundress of the Reparation.

⁴⁴ Religious of Perpetual Adoration of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary - men and women's branches, known popularly by the name of the street on which they were founded.

Paris, 1857

703

CO 700

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 170/395 VI 2)

Paris, October 1, 1857

Don't worry about anything. I'll write you about myself some other time. I am fine.

Make a novena for me to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the spirit of his Holy Surrender. I have come upon crosses which I hope will turn to the glory of God, or will prove that God doesn't want our Work.

704

CO 701

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 171/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 3, 1857

Dear daughter,

What a letter I received from you this morning! my heart is still beating with amazement.

During these last few days I was saying to God: My God, send me a helper like Fr. Champion, and your letter arrived! ... Oh yes, I will receive him like a brother and dear friend. I haven't forgotten his year of suffering.⁴⁵ Without any doubt I see many difficulties but if God so wills, everything passes: grace is so strong! I think you must have received my letter about they are fine and not in want; they have good friends.

If God gives us Fr. C., I will be happy about all our difficulties: he will be its blessed fruit.

I have only enough time to say that I am,

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

⁴⁵ French: èpreune

Paris, 1857

705

CO 702

TO FR. MARIUS CARRIE, SSS
(VI 2/2)

All for the glory and love of Jesus-Hostia

Paris, October 5, 1857

Dear Sir,

I am writing not to console you in the midst of your troubles, but to say: take heart, your vocation is on the right track, since God is testing it. Remember that if we follow Jesus Christ, our nature will revolt and despair. If you were on the path to wealth, worldly glory, or to the noblest and richest marriage, no one would think it unreasonable for you to leave your home and family for such a brilliant future: that is the law of the world.

Now, dear Sir, consider the goodness and greatness of the King you wish to serve, the favor he is granting you, the "better part" he is reserving for you, and you will say: that is too great an honor and happiness for me.

Your relatives will not be losing you. You will be able to see them. We are not cloistered. And then, you will have a time of probation during which to test our eucharistic life.

Be assured, dear Sir, that your relatives will lose nothing: Jesus will repay them a hundredfold.

When you come, bring all your personal effects - linen, clothing, some towels and sheets, if possible. We will supply the rest. Bring your books too; but above all, come with joy and confidence to the holy house of the Lord, and you will see how sweet it is to serve him. Come as soon as you can. You will be welcomed as a beloved brother. Write and tell me the date of your arrival.

My very best wishes to dear Fr. Brunello.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

706

CO 703

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 172/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 6, 1857

Dear daughter, you asked me for some details about our difficulties: here they are. The devil turned the minds of two of our priests during my absence; they spoke unfavorably about our Work to outsiders. They took steps with their Bishop to leave, and didn't spare the Work. When I arrived, a brother whom they had brought with them, left. Two business transactions in view of buying a house failed in my absence.

One of our Priests wrote to the Cardinal of Paris to ask him for an assignment, which hurt me very much. Fr. de Cuers remained faithful and committed; he is a saint.

Everyday I am learning unbelievable things.

In the midst of it all, my heart doesn't lose confidence.

Fr. Hermann came here when I was away; they turned him against us. He is writing us unbelievable things.

God alone, good daughter, is the true, fundamental and lasting foundation. I hope that God's hand will sustain us, we are praying very much. My soul is remaining calm; it seems to me that God will do something.

Paris, 1857

If Fr. Champion comes, that will make up for everything.

Don't be sad about us; calm follows the storm. Then as long as I see Jesus on his throne, the rest seems like very little.

So then you are on Calvary for a second time. Well! God wills it.

Be open and free with Fr. Jacquet; I think that with the written rule⁴⁶ there will be fewer difficulties.

I am waiting to have news about Fr. C.'s big question.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

707

CO 704

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 3/104)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 6, 1857

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I received your letter at Allevard and resolved to write to you from the blessed mountain of Notre Dame de la Salette. I even began to do so, but it was impossible to finish. I was busy with pilgrims and dear brothers.

I wasn't able to do so since I arrived here either. Crosses awaited me; they haven't blossomed yet, but I receive them as coming from the heart of our Lord: - I had some disappointments. Two priests on whom I was counting have given up. They are still here, but their decision is made. May God be blessed and glorified by it.

The Work is progressing nonetheless. Exposition hasn't suffered for it; as long as Jesus will be on his throne of grace and love, I hope and I trust. Trials are light to bear when Jesus is with us.

Finally, I'm sending you the minutes, not for long, only for a month! They don't belong to me. They didn't want to give them to me and they don't know that they are being sent so far. I would have been refused, but I can't refuse you anything, dear daughter.

I'm happy about the good news regarding your adoration program. Yes, do spread the eucharistic fire everywhere, and God will set your own soul on fire.

Please don't give up holy Communion; that is where all your strength lies.

I won't comment on the details from your first letter, it has been too long. Write to me again about your present state of soul.

My religious regards to your sister.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

⁴⁶ For the Third Order of Mary.

Paris, 1857

708

CO 705

TO MR. LEO DUPONT, TOURS
(VII 2/2)⁴⁷

“May the grace of God and his holy love make my heart beat and be consumed for his glory: that is all that I desire!” October 7, 1857

709

CO 707

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 173/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 9, 1857

Dear daughter, I've just received the letter from Fr. Champion in which he is asking me for his admission. I answered that I would receive him with a welcoming heart in either hypothesis. There is no reason why I should be stricter toward him than toward a priest who is free, since he would be free of his vows.

Tell this dear Father to ask Fr. Favre for a certificate in order that he may have the faculties, that would serve as his *celebret*; his honor requires it. What a grace for us! I cannot get over it. Praised be the Cross when God sweetens it this way! Let him come as soon as possible, for he must be suffering greatly ... [*twelve lines erased*]. Please pray for Fr. C. May God sustain him and give him to us, or rather to his divine Son. I am well, I've just received a letter from Mme. G.⁴⁸ I'll go see the little one, but if he insists on leaving, it will be necessary to let him go. God will arrange everything. Write to me as soon as you know something.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. It would be a beautiful trio if Fr. Br. came some day!

710

CO 706

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

All for the love and glory of Jesus-Hostia

Paris, October 9, 1857

Very dear Father Champion,

This is to answer your letter of May 2nd. - I was very touched by it, for since I've been in Paris I've had no news of you at all. I see from your letter that you wish to leave the apostolic ministry to join us in our eucharistic life - I desire with all my heart that God may call you to this beautiful life, and that you will come and share in our sorrows and joys.

⁴⁷ Following the certification of his healing, attributed to prayers done in honor of the Holy Face of our Lord, Fr. Eymard added the above.

⁴⁸ Perhaps from Mme. Gourd about one of the - perhaps orphaned - children she had placed in a boarding school.

Paris, 1857

You ask me if I will receive you with the authorization of Rev. Fr. Favre. - Yes, dear Father, with all my heart, - for among the priests who surround me, I still don't find true religious.⁴⁹ (the rest is missing)

711

CO 708

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 174/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 18, 1857

Dear daughter, isn't our Lord good and very good? I was far from expecting all that; but this good Master was preparing me interiorly, in so many ways! May God be blessed for it. Everything will be a grace.

I thank our Lord so much for having sent me good Fr. Ch.! The room of the one who left was not fully ready when this good Father arrived. This arrival together with the departure on the eve surprised me so that I paid for it with a migraine headache that lasted for three days. There is nothing we would not willingly suffer to establish the Eucharistic kingdom of Jesus!

I went to the Marist Fathers in Paris, hoping to see Fr. Favre there. I saw only Fr. Terraillon, the Provincial, who knew everything. They had already written to him that Fr. Ch. was leaving disobediently. They no longer mention his request made a year ago, nor the services he rendered. That is how human beings repay. This trial will only strengthen Father in his new grace. He is edifying us; he is making us so happy.

The other priest will leave shortly. For the past three days his sister has become like an idiot and infantile. How strange! It seems that the change was caused by the grief of separation.

Oh! Good daughter, if you share our sorrows so keenly, you also need to share our graces. Rejoice in the grace of our Lord which will surely triumph over the devil.

I don't want the cape thank her for us; we use only white.

Goodbye.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

712

CO 709

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 4/104)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 18, 1857

Madame,

I'm sorry that I allowed you only one month's time to copy the manuscripts. For fear that it might make you ill, I'm giving you two months. Take more if you need it rather than make yourself sick.

Thank you for the good things you sent me. I read them and enjoyed them, and what a surprise! I had just reread the pages you sent about reparation when a woman friend of yours called for me at the parlor. By her conversation I recognized either the author or the confidante of this

⁴⁹ Literally: men of religious life.

Paris, 1857

beautiful idea, and I couldn't help telling her that I knew about the Work, that someone had written to me about it. I mentioned Nantes and this woman immediately mentioned your name.

So, it seems we won't see you this winter! Life is like that; our paths cross and separate, but Jesus remains. He is the divine center of all hearts who love him and dedicate themselves to his glory.

I am quite happy to know that you are busy with the Work of Adoration. Continue to go forward: the Eucharist angers hell and human passions, but it always triumphs, provided that there is an arm to bear the torch of love and enkindle the divine fire as it passes. Continue to find your strength in the Bread of the strong. You are too weak to live from your inner self and devotion.

Ask our Good Master to make you as he wills, but don't be afraid to be as you are. I don't know if I've spoken to you about a charming book: *The Lover of God!* ... It must be shared. It's excellent!

Believe me always, in Jesus Hostia,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

713

CO 710

TO CARDINAL MORLOT, ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS
(VI 1/4)

Paris, October 28, 1857

Your Eminence,

I forgot to include with the documents I had the honor of presenting to Your Eminence, the most consoling one for us. In November 1856 I had received from the Bishop de Tripoli⁵⁰ a written mandate giving us permission for three days of Exposition per week followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. This most precious document was mislaid among Fr. Surat's papers - I had left it with him last December. As our number has increased, the Bishop of Tripoli⁵¹ (who was given to us as our Superior by the [late] Archbishop) then gave us the one I am now sending Your Eminence, so that you may judge the matters that concern us with knowledge of the facts.

I am happy to be, with the deepest veneration and the most complete surrender, Your Eminence,

Your humble son in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

Paris
October 28, 1857

⁵⁰ Bishop Leon Sibour, Auxiliary Bishop of Paris

⁵¹ *ibid.*

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 175/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 29, 1857

Very dear daughter,

I can't tell you all the different feelings I experienced when I read your letter. So then, are you trying to be like the good Lord who is ever giving and never runs out! Can you really always have something left to give! How am I going to pay this great debt? I almost feel like reproaching you a little. Winter is coming: you must provide for yourself. You are in straits and you give us everything you have. I could cry over it, as I am the one who would be so happy to share everything with you: not my little crosses, but our purse and our bread. It's too much. I am deeply moved by it ... [5 lines erased].

Dear Fr. Champion is well, very well. He is happy and content. He has found his center. Our Lord had been saving him for Himself for a long time; what a joy it is for me to have such a good helper and loving brother!

Joy has returned to the house with this good Father. Nothing seems difficult, he is so dedicated.

We suffered very much from the four departures, but God comforts us. Yesterday a fine brother arrived from Marseilles to be sacristan. It's an employment that was neglected.

I have a little more time for myself since yesterday. I'll write to those with whom I am lagging behind. His Eminence asked me for our Constitutions, and they needed much work. I marvelled at the kind regards from the Venerable Cure d'Ars; it made me happy.

We would surely love Lyons: our heart is there; but as you know dear daughter, Moses and Aaron only changed the place of the ark when the column in the desert would rise and go before them. Our King is Jesus; we will go where he will go, and we will stay where he will stay.

My health is not too bad, quite well even. Continue to pray for us, do ... the devil is busier than ever. It seems that we were wronged with the Cardinal. This fine Archbishop thought that we were in Paris without permission, and without the approval of Bishop Sibour.

I gave him all our documents. Whatever God wants will happen, and what God wants is always the best.

At the first opportunity I will send you an excellent cream for your poor sister Mariette; it will heal her.

My fond regards to all your sisters.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I wrote a few words to Madame Delpuche.

I am reopening my letter to tell you that I have just seen ... he is settled ... he is happy and content...

If the crate isn't gone yet, please kindly send us a simple purple vestment, with silk tapes, of about 50 francs. See to it that the chalice veil be large and square, without lining, and entirely made of silk.

If ... has a chalice made for us, suggest that they use the style of the Middle Ages: low and wide.

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

Paris, 1857

715

CO 713

TO MISS FANNY MATAGRIN

(V 3/5)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 29, 1857

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,

I have just learned that you are very sad; that your dear father is very ill. I immediately recommended you both to our Lord because I understand how heavy and painful this cross must be. Be strong, dear daughter, be generous on the cross, with our Lord. It's the moment to kiss his adorable hand and whatever the future holds, whether trials or consolations.

What a joy for your poor father to have you near him! to receive your spiritual and physical care! Oh! Yes, you will be doubly blessed and rewarded, because you have both saved and cared for your father! Think of his soul, his Paradise. I know that you have done so, but if God should desire this beautiful soul for himself, prepare it, love it for the glory of God. Today we are beginning a novena [to pray] for his healing if it is for the good of his soul, and for you, dear daughter, so that God may support you and comfort you in these days of sorrow and pain. If only I were near you! I would go to help you bear this cross. At least, we will pray very much.

In closing, let me thank you again for everything you have done for our Lord. This memory is ever alive for me.

I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Fanny Matagrín, Tarare

716

CO 712

TO ANTONIA BOST

(IV 15/28)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia!

Paris, October 29, 1857

Dear Mademoiselle,

Thank you, thank you so much for having given me news about yourself and about Miss Matagrín. Please give her this letter.

You are still suffering, poor daughter! I understand it: a loving heart which has always loved finds comfort in suffering.

But why so many tears over such a holy mother? I surely bless them, because they are so pure, but they are harming you. They are shortening your days, tightening up your heart.

Don't cry anymore, because your dear mother is in heaven. She is rejoicing in God; she is waiting for you, sees you, loves you, blesses you.

We don't cry over the elect, or only very little, like Jesus over Lazarus his friend, and Mary over Jesus.

Oh! dear daughter, you must understand that God alone is life, the life of love and its joy!

Have a great love for the good Lord who is also preparing a beautiful throne and a beautiful and virginal crown for you. You are loved in God, infinitely and eternally.

Paris, 1857

I do pray for you, and for all your loved ones. Do so a little for me.
You know how devotedly I am, dear daughter, one with you in our Lord.

Eymard, S.S.

717

CO 714

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 176/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 1, 1857

Dear daughter, I received everything that you generously sent us. The jams arrived safely and they are excellent.

Dear Fr. de Cuers, who is the sacristan, was jubilant to receive something for his sacristy which had become rather bare after the robberies.

The vestment is very lovely, thank you ... [6 lines erased].

Fr. Champion was pleased with the cross and with your kind regards. He is truly humble of heart. Write him a few words from time to time.

Accept the office of Directress since everything points in that direction, but only to guide the ship and not to be ever supervising its operations.

Thank good papa Gaudioz for me. I will write to him later.

Yes, yes, we will have the Masses for your deceased loved ones said right away. They are ours as well, they will be offered first.

Since yesterday, Fr. Champion has all the faculties from the Archdiocese. So now he is settled. I have time only to bless you.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

718

CO 715

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 24/76)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 7, 1857

Finally, dear daughter in our Lord, I have a little time to give you. I've been like someone who is out in the hail without any shelter, who can think of nothing else except to bear it; [like someone who is] without any time, or rather, without any courage for anything else.

These small storms are mostly over. Two priests, the sister of one of them and a brother have left. What made me sad was to see that we might have to suspend Exposition for lack of subjects. But our Lord had pity on us.

A few hours after the departure of the first priest, Fr. Champion arrived, and a few days later, a brother. So, we remain six as before. See how good the good Lord is! Yes, our eucharistic Work comes from God. There are so many miracles from providence that we would be very ungrateful and quite blind not to see them or not to thank his divine goodness.

May God repay you for your loan to him through my poor person. You deprive yourself too much for Jesus; be less generous towards us. I saw the eldest of the D. brothers. He is a fine young

Paris, 1857

man, and strikes me as quite intelligent. I suggested placing him in the city with a master shoemaker, who is a good Christian; he could perfect his trade there. He was quite happy to accept. I expect an answer soon, dear daughter; that will be one more grace from divine Providence. I didn't give him your letter as I thought it would be unnecessary.

As for the poor girl who is asking you to rent a room and be free during the day, you did well to turn her away. It would be better to let her go home to her father, so we wouldn't be responsible for her probable downfall in that style of life.

It seems to me that I have heard about Miss Besson, but I would prefer to see her there than elsewhere. Those places usually have a good reputation; otherwise they would lose trust.

However, if she asks to return to her father, let her return. God will arrange everything for the better. If she had had a religious vocation, we could have put her in a good Community. Insist on having her try that institution. If she were educated, it would favor her entrance into a Community.

719

CO 584

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 49/52)⁵² ...⁵³

8) Yes, tell your dear mother everything. She is the confessor of your heart and the center of your life. Make use of her to pour your loving daughter's heart into her maternal heart. How fortunate you are to have such a mother and such a good mother!

Please, dear daughter! At your age, one should be without worry, without grief or malice; but like a simple, happy and joyful child, enjoying God, your family, and the goodness of God - and loving him with your whole heart.

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

720

CO 716

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 5/104)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 8, 1857

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I was very pleased to read all the letters you sent me. Thank you. How good the good Lord is to put me in touch with such beautiful souls!

Don't copy the minutes for me since they belong to one of the Ladies here in Paris. I would ask her to do so if I needed them. I'm sorry it takes you so long to copy these little scraps of devotion. Take care of your health.

The eucharistic service of our Lord is going well in spite of the spiritual poverty of its poor servants. Trials come and go like the ebb and flow of the sea, but Jesus loves and sustains us.

All yours in his divine love,
Eymard, Superior

⁵² Excerpt from a letter.

⁵³ No indication of date. Tentative placement because of preceding correspondence.

Paris, 1857

721

CO 717

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 177/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 10, 1857

I say with you: may God be praised! You will have the merit of having accepted: let it be, and step aside, but without seeming to pout. Say only good things about the new Directress, and don't admit any ill feelings against the new councilors. Tell everyone that it is the grace of obedience that makes Superiors, and gives them wisdom and power.

... [8 lines erased].

For ... tomorrow we will begin a novena in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the souls in Purgatory.

Yes, yes, God will make her husband a good Christian. As for going back to him, that calls for some thought. As a matter of justice and conscience she is not obliged to; it would only be for the sake of charity. It would be necessary to discretely obtain information about his (her) temporal affairs and require a dismissal ... no doubt.

We must pray very much. Write me what you know about it.

The mail is leaving.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

722

CO 718

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 178/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 12, 1857

I am hurrying to tell you, dear daughter, that the lovely chalice is 28 centimeters too high and must be very large. I saw some at Favier's of Paris, the uncle of the Faviers in Lyons; they are about 20 to 22 inches. Tell Mr. Favier that it is the Troyes style with a flat base.

Mr. Favier was letting us have it gilded for 225 francs. Note that labor is more expensive in Paris than in Lyons.

I forgot to tell you that I began the novena for your mother last Tuesday: I am continuing it One must be pure to enter into heaven ... your mother was so good, so pious, so wise! Heaven is without clouds; it is the brightness of God; one must be without stain...

We still don't have any answer about a locale. It seems that for the moment the good Lord wants us to be without a place, without a lease, without knowing the future: may he be blessed for it! Good Fr. Ch. has great hopes for a house, that we be permanently established, and in the midst of the people. No doubt his desires are good, but the good Lord hasn't yet said: I want to live there, that is my house. Although his holy ark is under a tent, Jesus wouldn't change in order to be in a beautiful church, nor we, to be in a house of our own.

And my bills! You keep forgetting your business matters!⁵⁴

We will be happy to receive Father B. But we must wait a while.

If the good Lord wants him to be with us, he will provide him with a favorable opportunity. For myself, I don't need anything; I know him, and that's enough. The Archdiocese, however, always

⁵⁴ He wanted her to send a bill for the vestments received.

Paris, 1857

requires a certificate or a *Celebret* from the Archdiocese of Lyons. Fr. Champion can instruct him about it. This dear Father is doing well. He is here as if he had always been: his attraction has found its center.

I saw ... she wrote a very strong letter to ... telling her positively that she would send her back to her father if she doesn't benefit from the care of the Sisters; and if she is not converted, there is nothing else to do. We will see what effect the letter has.

I have hardly seen these fine Ladies.⁵⁵ I think they aren't very free, nor am I most times.

So then stop crying! You'll make yourself sick; and I'll be upset. Be stronger and trust God more.

Let the good Lord act. He will direct everything for the best.

Always all yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. – Don't be afraid to bore us with your letters. You know how interested we are to read them.

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

723

CO 719

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 179/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

November 26, 1857

Very dear daughter in the Lord,

Your letters provide us a fine and pleasant recreation. We never find them too long [24 lines erased].

As for that good Lady ... the more I go, the more I hesitate to tell her to return to her husband; it's a serious matter. She needs more than hopeful words, likelihoods, and a few religious gestures; but a sincere and constant return. What is needed is not an indirect approach but a personal one. What Madame should answer is clear: that she doesn't refuse to return to her husband if he has become a Christian and a better husband, but that she needs to see this by deeds and long-term behavior. If he were more generous and more concerned whether his wife has all that she needs, if he is attentive to her, that would be the beginning of better feelings.

She should not condone the past easily without some guarantee. In that case, justice and the law would no longer be on her side.

Present her my fond regards and genuine gratitude.

Now about you, dear daughter.

1. Don't hurry for Miss Duchere's Work: I will seek information about it here; then that would tie you down too much.

2. We are waiting for the answer on the Work for Tabernacles. If it is unfavorable to unite, then we will see about the one for the Propagation of the Faith.

3. I don't worry about Miss R.'s poor health. I knew her to be very weak.⁵⁶

4. It was on Tuesday and Wednesday ... that I began your novena ... [5 lines erased]. Thursday at 8 o'clock Fr. Champion said the Mass for ... [2 lines erased].

⁵⁵ The Ladies form Toulon, housed nearby.

⁵⁶ Her poor health is not an obstacle to her exercising leadership in the Third Order of Mary - Miss de Revel.

Paris, 1857

5. Be at peace about the Third Order and about everything that happened and will happen. You should expect the small humiliations that come with change, little complaints and especially interior suffering. All that is the beginning of being free: so have courage and trust! However, at such times of suffering, quiet nature's violent reactions. Be silent to opposition, and totally surrendered to the hail and thunder which God ordains and wants for you.

Yes, yes, good daughter, your place is ready and will always be reserved; don't worry about that. On the given day and hour, you will come peacefully with calm and joy ... requests ... myself wisdom and prudence, and to all holy love.

I wrote to Fr. B.; I don't know what will happen. I've just received a request from a priest who seems very devout. Write to us.

May Jesus comfort and bless you.

All yours,
Eymard

724

CO 720

TO THE LEMANN PRIESTS
(VI 1/1)

Paris, rue d'Enfer, 114, December 1, 1857

My dear friends,

It appears that Rev. Father Hermann will not come to preach for Advent at St. Clotilde. The "Universe" announces that the Pastor will preach.

I have been twice to thank you for your lovely furniture, but was not fortunate enough to see you. Meanwhile, thank you very much - it is most appreciated. Jesus, the Host of Love will reward you with graces. I found a 100 franc note in the Treasurer's desk. I wanted to know if it is yours before I return it to him.

With fond greetings to our friends,

All yours in J.C.
Eymard

725

CO 721

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 180/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, December 3, 1857

May God be blessed! Good daughter, you are free now: remain totally free and a stranger to it all. It is high time that you leave aside this whole burden of gossip and troubles. Continue to tell your secrets and sorrows only to God and to us.

Say good things and only good things about the members of the Council and the Directress. It is useless now to be making corrections. Be very reserved and discreet toward the Fathers, for you know what the Imitation says: those who are for you today will be against you tomorrow. Praised be God alone!

Paris, 1857

Your letter is fine; send it just as it is, and be firm.

However, if you are asked for information, give it simply without fanfare.

Tomorrow ... and after tomorrow, I will say the Mass, the one you requested.

The good ... are well. They come here when they can. We often speak about you. Your vocation is being purified and tried. It seems that things will go quickly. I would like to have you all here.

The good Lord himself will arrange it all.

I am praying very much for ... it's a comfort for us to know that she is so fond of our Eucharistic Work.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

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

726

CO 722

TO MME.CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 26/52)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, December 19, 1857

Very dear sister in our Lord,

Unfortunately, I put aside this reply until I would have more quiet, and I didn't have it until today. I'm taking advantage of it immediately.

How good God is to enable your fine father to make such a generous decision - and what is even more impressive, that he should make such great sacrifices! That is the most certain proof of God's grace.

When I read about his intention to go to the Carthusians, I was sorry that our Community wasn't sufficiently formed to say: "But your father ought to be with the Most Blessed Sacrament! We would be happy to receive him here!" But as we must respect God's plans for souls, we must let the thought of the Carthusians grow and develop in this beautiful soul: God will do the rest. So then, encourage him.

The life of the Carthusians is easier at a mature age than for a young person. Why continue to cry about your dear sister and hurt yourself in the process?⁵⁷ Scold her. As for a religious vocation, she would be fine, because then her heart would attach itself to God alone with all its strength. However, she must consider her own attraction and strength. The life of the Sisters of Charity is not a life of recollection, but of action: it is Martha.

You are going to Saint Chamond, so much the better! You will do good things there and you will water the little white flower of the Eucharist.

Embrace your children for me; I bless them. Pray for us. For the last three days we have been in difficulty: I've been told that our house will be sold. We must leave it in three months time, and leave this place which is so dear to us, but we will be bringing Jesus with us.

All yours in Jesus Hostia,
Eymard, S.S.S.

P.S. Don't be so lazy about writing.

⁵⁷ Probably her sister, Antonia Bost.

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 6/104)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, December 20, 1857

Good and dear daughter in our Lord,

If you knew everything I've had to do, you would forgive me a little. Under the weight of this storm I hardly had time to breathe. Finally our house is sold, and now we must leave here during the month of March. Our good Master knows where his Cenacle will be. He will show us, I hope. Pray with us a little.

I received everything, but I would reproach you for working so much. So then, thank you, may God repay you with his blessings. The person came. Now I will reply to your first letter.

1. Meditation - Do some of it every morning when you rise, in order not to lose that blessed custom. Plan to retire at night at a time to have sufficient rest. Get up a little before the others, if necessary. When our soul is well fed, our body is much better. When you feel a migraine headache starting, set meditation aside: be satisfied with Mass and holy Communion. Let that be a general rule whenever you are ill or have a migraine headache.

2. Confession - It is well to confess every week. I feel that you have improved on that. With your doubting conscience on possible mortal sins you could and should go to Communion within two weeks, if you cannot confess during the week. Confess yourself, my daughter, only to receive the grace of absolution. Consider the rest as supplementary.

Reject any fear and anxiety regarding confession and contrition. Leave the rest to divine mercy.

3. I'm happy to see that you aren't giving up holy Communion. It's your strength and your virtue; go like a poor person who is sick and infirm or like a daughter or spouse of our Lord; but always go.

4. Dislikes - You have almost conquered them but keep close watch over them, it is like a fever. Strive to be silent when you have strong emotions, and to do God's will when you are engaged in activity.

5. Attractions - No, don't reproach yourself so much for feelings of long-standing gratitude and love. Be at peace: time, the emptiness of human love, love for God which is greater will put things back in order. When you have given it too much thought and suffered too much, say like a Saint once did: "My God, henceforth I will attach myself only to you." Once that is said, it counts as your absolution.

6. First question of conscience: this new weakness doesn't affect the decision. Follow the same rule and set it aside whatever the trouble may be: - feelings are not consent; on this point, make only a general accusation, leave out the details.

7. Receive Communion in spite of your doubting conscience and even with the fear of having committed mortal sins. - Doubtful sins are no sin for you - and if you should have something to reproach yourself, it isn't mortal.

Feed on trust in the blessed kindness of Jesus Christ. Repeat often: "My God, your mercy is worth more than the most heroic, most devout life." Let that be your ticket to the wedding of the Lamb.

I bless you, my daughter. God loves you, love him well.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, Sup.

Paris, 1857

728

CO 725

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 181/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, Christmas, 1857

Good Daughter,

We are still on the cross. The devil is doing his utmost to prevent us from buying the house we have in mind. But Jesus is King, he cannot be overcome.

This beautiful feast of Christmas has been a sorrowful day for me. Last night I was at adoration from 11 o'clock until midnight, I felt strong. Today I would like to shed a few tears, it would relieve me. Yesterday when I went to the Archdiocese to speak about that house again, I cried, something I had not done in a long time.

That is all fine. Yes, I will receive Mme. Richard as a postulant for the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament wholeheartedly, and I associate her to all our good works, and to our holy Work. When the time to enter into the community of adorers and as the ... servant of Jesus will have come, then I will receive her as well as Mr. Richard. But she must be very obedient toward you. Let her learn to do for the love of Jesus, Mary and Joseph all the things which are humanly most difficult and most crucifying for the service of Jesus.

Thank you for everything. Yes, a big thank you, dear daughter. We will pay you back for everything here; the benefit will return to you.

I would like to receive all your sisters if God is calling them. You are my family.

Goodbye, I have only enough time to bless you.

Eymard