

CHAPTER VI

A Siege on the Cenacle July - November 10, 1864

“We will make a foundation in Jerusalem near the Cenacle, in order to besiege it.”

To Natalie Jordan, Aug. 9, 1864

Fr. de Cuers’ second voyage to Jerusalem

Fr. Leroyer to Belgium to preach an “Apostolic Month”

Parish Retreat at Rennes

Fr. Eymard to Rome

1418

CO 1419

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER, SSS
(I 23/54)

Paris, July 1, 1864

Dear Colleague,

I would like you to get information from the Pastor about the postulant, and if you see fit, to test him further.

It is possible that we will need such a postulant, I will know next week. This is the reason: we are being offered a former abbey to buy as a novitiate; we would need a gardener there. We will visit it Monday or Tuesday with Fr. de Cuers. Then I will write to you about it. If he is in your way, send him to spend some time with his parents, we don't really need him here.

Thank you for the explanations you were kind enough to give me concerning the Ladies of the city, we had nothing to do about it: that concerns him. The Bishop knows very well how dedicated we are to him.

Fr. de Cuers had some stomach discomfort, it was a reaction to his trip and to the climate. He is better. We've just received an excellent letter from the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda, which praises our plan to go to Jerusalem and strongly urges us to carry it out.

Tomorrow night, I must go to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ask for a letter of recommendation and approval for our foundation.

Everything leads us to hope that 1864 will be a great year for the Society.
Pray for that and for us all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1419

CO 1420

LEBOURLIER MARRIAGE – INVALIDITY

Invalidity of the Lebourlier Marriage

Monday, February 9th, 1852, in the church of St. Nicholas des Champs in Paris, a religious celebration was held for the wedding of Charles Philippe Le Bourlier, the eldest son of Francois Pierre Le Bourlier and Marie Ursule Richard, his wife, both deceased, to Marie Josephine Pauline, eldest daughter born of the legitimate marriage of Jacques Theodore Le Carpentier, deceased January 1, 1858 and Francoise Appoline (nee Le Bourlier) - the marriage was blessed by Fr. Reboul, the pastor of the Parish. The witnesses were Charles Jacques Le Carpentier, Lucien Millet, Philippe Millet.

However,

The above marriage is radically null in the eyes of the Church because:

1. The husband is the maternal uncle of the bride, and this obstacle was not revealed to the Church: even worse, it was knowingly and willingly hidden by the parties and especially forbidden to reveal it by the mother of the bride. -

2. It is certain that the bride, Marie Josephine Pauline, was born while her father was alive. He died only on January 1st, 1858, and although separated in property from his wife - nevertheless was

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still seeing her. According to law, she is his legitimate daughter and was herself born of adultery which can in no way be proven, even according to the falsified documents which were referred to in the act of separation - as such, there would also be an obstacle since she would have been married to the brother of her own mother.

And also

In June 1863, I, the undersigned, consulted in Rome Archbishop Giannello, the Archbishop of Saides, and pro-secretary of the Sacred Congregation of the Council on the question of the invalidity of the marriage and he replied that it is null by law.

In May 1864, I consulted Fr. Bours,¹ the Vicar General and official of the Archdiocese of Paris and he replied that the marriage is radically null.

In addition, I consulted several eminent theologians who all replied that the marriage is radically null.

Which I also certify, I, the undersigned,
Paris, July 2, 1864

Eymard,
Superior of the Society
of the Blessed Sacrament

1420

CO 1421

TO FR. HENRI DURAND
(VIII 2/2)

Paris, July 4, 1864

Dear Father,

I must be away until Wednesday evening. I am afraid I may not be back by midday - I am writing to tell you to save you the trouble of coming.

I am praying, and will pray hard, that this desiderio desideravi² may be accomplished in our Lord.

All yours in Xo³
Eymard

¹ Perhaps Le Bours.

² "I have greatly desired...."

³ Christo.

1421

CO 1422

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 250/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 7, 1864

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I have the 15,000 francs here.⁴ I'll send them to you by some safe means. I've just returned from a three-day trip. I haven't seen Mr. Bouvier yet.

Until later.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1422

CO 1423

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 251/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 8, 1864

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Enclosed I am sending you a note for fifteen thousand francs on sight from the bank of Angers. You need only write as follows on the back, below the two printed lines:

For Receipt.

Angers, date ...

14 rue de L'Hopital.

Marguerite Guillot

Give it to Mr. Neveu, who will withdraw the money without fee. Then send me a note for 15,023 francs to pay for the amount to cover both the creditor and myself. The additional 23 francs are first, 15 francs required in Paris for a note on the bank of Angers, and then 8 francs for the Bank of Marseilles in Paris, unless you prefer to pay these separately from the round figure.

Be sure to have all the necessary repairs done in the Soland house, in order not to have to come back to it. Yes, boards would be better in the parlor.

Yes, have a communicating door made to the parlor, where a mother would visit, to be able to see one another without grilles. All the doors would be contrary to the Rule, if this one were.

But yes, I had definitely told you to do the second floor of the Soland house. It's necessary to have as many rooms as possible, you will be short of space later.

As for the retreat, I can't give it now, I have too much to do. Wouldn't Fr. Leroyer be better? Poor Fr. Leroyer! what was he saying? Well, our good Master will fix everything. It would be well if you wrote to tell the Bishop how happy you would all be to receive his group.

Send me the note from Mr. Le Clre, so that I may pay it.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

⁴ cf. Letter of June 21 to Marguerite Guillot.

Give me Sr. Benoite's address; pray for a matter related to the Society of Mary. I'm sending you the letter from that poor child. Yes, she is one.

1423

CO 1424

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 252/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, July 10, 1864

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I received your letter. I'm glad the money reached you safely. I'll go to Mr. Le Clre to withdraw the amount and send it to you immediately. A lapse of time is always allowed to pay the workmen; you have to wait for the memorandums, only the common laborers need to be paid, like the wall-paperer... Mr. Trottier will wait. I wasn't able to see Mr. Bouvier, which I regretted.

Please, I beg you, don't leave any connecting door between the house and Joseph's room: it isn't possible, nor prudent, whatever the advantage may be. He must pass by the common door like everyone else. It's already enough to have that parlor door reserved for the mothers; the stairs for that should begin in the public parlor.

I'm very happy that you have so many cells⁵ in the Soland house. There won't be too many. Take care to do well what needs to be done, so that you won't need to redo it.

Wait until you are settled before receiving aspirants, except for a legitimate exception made by God. Don't allow any special privileges in the chapel, with reserved seats and pews. By the fact that they aren't paid for, the adorers' chairs should be in front. I've never tolerated the indirect possession of a space with reserved chairs: they belong to the first person who comes.

Jerusalem is in the making. Couldn't you make us a few vestments like your own for this foundation? I will certainly pay the expenses but you would offer the work. You would need to begin soon, because we will need them in September or October.

I will be sending Fr. de Cuers there with a Brother right away, to prepare the way; he will be leaving toward the end of the month.

Pray for that.

I bless you all in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. If the Bishop should come often, don't attempt to give 5 francs each time as I do, but once or twice a year.

Write to acknowledge the receipt on this document. The one you sent me would subject you to a fine: I, the undersigned, Superior of the Servants of the blessed Sacrament, rue de l'Hopital, 14, acknowledge having received a deposit from Rev. Fr. Eymard, Superior of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament of Paris, for the amount of 15,700 francs 50, which I retain for his free disposal. Angers, date

⁵ Monastic term for bedrooms.

1424

CO 1425

TO MSGR. CHAILLOT, ROME
(VI 1/1)

Paris, July 10, 1864

Monsignor,

To have the pleasure of writing to you and [thanking] you for your kind letter and good wishes, I decided to send you directly the amount for my 2 subscriptions to the Annals and for the correspondence - that is, 34 francs. I am adding Mass stipends for the rest, at 1 franc per stipend, which may be appreciated by some priest. I have designated some of them for the French Penitentiary at St. Peter's. In "*Le Monde*" I was happy to read their praise for your last article about the Patriarchates, quoting extracts from the correspondence. It is necessary to become known, especially these days, and by all lawful means.

It seems that a favorable reception is being given to solid theology and the spirit of authentic understanding for Rome.

My thanks again, Monsignor, for your kindness towards the gentlemen from Marseilles. It is a good seed sown for Holy Church. It will make them favor Rome, and they needed it.

If there is anything I can do for you, please let me know. I would always be happy to show you my most genuine and sincere gratitude. Please believe me, Monsignor, ever in our Lord,

All Yours,
Eymard

1425

CO 1426

TO CARDINAL BARNABO, PREFECT OF PROPAGANDA
(VI 1/4)

Paris, July 10, 1864

Eminence,

We were very grateful to receive the letter which you kindly wrote to us on May 31, 1864 regarding the request we had made to His Holiness to purchase the Cenacle and make a perpetual foundation there; and, in the event of a present impossibility, we asked for the authorization to make a provisional foundation in Jerusalem itself; so that, being on the spot, we could more easily purchase at a suitable time the pieces of land near the Cenacle, saleable at the death of private owners, and thus prevent heretics and schismatics from purchasing them.

Your Eminence explained in the letter to us, and we have also had evidence, that at this moment the purchase of the Cenacle is impossible. You have praised and approved our plan to make this preparatory foundation and strongly encouraged us to put it into effect. You have even been so kind as to commend us in this matter to His Excellency the Patriarch.

So as to cooperate with the desires of His Holiness and the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda, we are busily arranging the immediate departure of our religious for Jerusalem.

The Emperor's Government, expressed by His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has assured us of his protection and support.

But, Your Eminence, we are counting above all on divine protection, and the blessing of the Holy See for this great endeavor; and we hope that your heart will consider us henceforth as

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members of your great apostolic family; and that, as such, you will deign to give to the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament, for all its children to be sent to the Holy Land, the same faculties on land and sea as you usually give to apostolic missionaries. We await this confidently, so that we may leave as soon as possible.

It is with the deepest veneration that I kiss the hem of your sacred Purple, and am bold to call myself, Your Eminence, in our Lord,

Your most humble and devoted son,
Pierre Eymard, Superior
Society of the Blessed Sacrament
Paris
rue faubourg St. Jacques 68
July 10, 1864

To His Eminence the Cardinal Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda.

1426

CO 1427

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 253/395 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, July 14, 1864

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am working to bring your Rule into harmony with ours; pray for that.

Send me the details of the habit for postulants, novices, junior professed, and perpetually professed.

When I told you not to accept reserved chairs in your chapel, it was as a principle, in order that you would have authority in your own home, and not have empty chairs when there are too many people. For the present, leave things as they are, but be clear and explain the rule.

You would do well to accept Mme. Garreau's recruit. It seems to me that she is really called and very courageous.

For the vestments, we need five: white, red, green, purple, and black. Then we need a white cope with stole, and two stoles for the adorers. Buy what you need in Lyons. It is cheaper there; make them like yours, not Gothic.

For the moment we have not decided when the departure for Jerusalem will take place but everything is settled and accepted.

I thank God for having quieted the storm in Angers.

Have great trust in God. I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1427

CO 1428

M. LOUIS PERRET⁶
(VIII 1/2 VII 14)

Paris, July 20, 1864

My dear Mr. Perret,

Our good Father de Cuers is at last leaving Paris again to go to prepare the foundation of Jerusalem. Propaganda, on the orders of His Holiness, encourages us and urges us to do this.

Fr. de Cuers would very much like to see you before leaving France. He leaves here on Saturday and will be in Lyons on Sunday morning. He will stay there purposely to see you. He asks me to ask you to come to Lyons on Sunday. He will look for you at your house. He will arrive that same morning from Paris at the Gare de Perrache, and will say Mass at Ainay. He will tell you the rest himself. I bless God for this foundation. Please pray for it. You know that I promised you a cell in all our houses, and that the Cenacle must be our divine fortress.

I pray sincerely for you and for us all, so that God may bless you in your apostolate, which is already bearing such precious fruits.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Monsieur Louis Perret, Architect
9, quai de l'Archeveche
Lyons

1428

CO 1430

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 254/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, July 27, 1864

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Finally I am able to write to you. I've been so busy because of the departure of Fr. de Cuers and Brother Eugene for Jerusalem that I didn't have time to write. They left Saturday night. Sunday, I preached elsewhere, these last few days I was still busy with things to send.

They are leaving from Marseilles on the 29th. Pray for this foundation which, I hope, will give great glory to our Lord.

I wrote to the young lady from Chlons to ask her for information due to my lingering doubt that she had some infirmity.

I didn't know that my brothers had said that I wanted to keep your oven, they must really want it; well! we will keep it. I'll send you the 200 francs.

Now about the vestments: we need a white cope with its stole. Make the cape and embroidered orfrey in gold, but simple, with quality tapes. For vestments, I prefer moir to all those damask materials, provided the price is approximately the same.

⁶ Architect in Lyons.

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Therefore we need: white, red, green, violet and black; put silk tapes on the silk vestments; the vestments should be simple, since they are to be used every day; later on, we will try to have something better. For the altar linens, we will use some of those we have here. We would need a dozen surplices, medium length.

I haven't been able to go to Mr. Le Clere yet. I'll try to go soon.

I'm working on your Rule at every free moment.

I'm happy about all the good things that are happening to you; our Lord is celebrating his wedding; everything comes from him and through him; you do well to thank him, it's only right. Everything for him, nothing for us, that would be like putting a worm in the roots of a tree.

I wrote to Sr. Benoit.

I think that Fr. Henry's servant is fine, and that she has a reasonable dowry, you could give her a try; however, if it is convenient, you could ask Fr. Champion to see her beforehand.

Fr. Peilin wants to leave, he may even have left already. He wrote to the Bishop of Grenoble and the Bishop sent the letter back to me which is certainly not a credit to the Society. I see that we have somehow been used as the means for his priesthood. Now that he is ordained a priest, he is leaving; what is worse is that he wants to stay in Marseilles. No doubt he will do some good there, for he is a good confessor, so I will leave him free. He had never given his heart to the Society, he wanted to preach, and be active! May God bless him! I didn't discredit him to the Bishop; on the contrary, I praised him: he is a good priest.

I bless you all in our Lord,
Eymard

1429

CO 1429

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERSS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 138/181 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, July 27, 1864

Very dear Father,

I have just come from the Ministry; everything is fine, everything is settled, you will leave on the 29th. We must really pray for Mr. Faugre, for he is so kind and friendly toward us: our Lord is indebted to him. You must have received the 4000 francs today, which I sent you through the mail; I know that you received the 10,000 in Lyons. Truly God is doing everything, arranging and preparing everything for the best, he wants Jerusalem. He will give the Cenacle at his own time. It is evident that this foundation, the first bouquet after our Canonical Approval, must truly glorify our Lord and honor his Society, for it means giving back the Cenacle.

May God keep you, lead you and bless you, dear Father!

May difficulties, if there be any, only serve as new proofs of your trust in God.

We are praying a great deal for you and Brother Eugene.

I bless you fondly in our Lord, in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

July 29 - Fr. de Cuers embarked from Marseilles for his second voyage to Jerusalem, this time with Brother Eugene.

1430

CO 1432

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 255/395 VI 2)

Paris, August 1, 1864

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

I'm enclosing a letter from Miss Baillet. Study and see whether she should be admitted; she really seems to love the Blessed Sacrament; she has a dowry of 20,000 francs; she won't be a burden.

I'm pleased that you received the good Polish lady; her vocation makes her rich and well-endowed. Such subjects are worthy of a price, because they have passed through fire.

The doors were made exactly as I wanted them.

I'm working hard for you.

Don't let the idea of the Jerusalem foundation over-excite the sisters; besides, when will it happen? It's useless to go make a foundation when a foundation is in course.⁷ That could dissipate energy from the house, and cause gossip and difficulties.

Nothing new here. Please take better care of poor brother ass, as St. Francis of Assisi would say, and don't overdo it in any way, because moderation has the last word.

I bless you all, and especially you,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

August 2 - Second letter from Cardinal Barnabo encouraging the foundation of Jerusalem.

1431

CO 1431

TO MADEMOISELLE X
(VII 1/1)

Paris, August 3, 1864

Mademoiselle,

I've just arrived from a journey. I will be happy to see you tomorrow, but it would have to be from 3 to 4 p.m. or after Benediction, which would be at 5:15 p.m.

So you will be going to the beautiful and beloved Dauphine. Congratulations. It is still the most beautiful countryside in the world, whether rock or desert.

See you tomorrow.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁷ Useless for the sisters to think of going when they are barely getting started in Angers.

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 59/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, August 7, 1864

Dear Lady in our Lord,

You are right, I'm really late with you! I had some [religious] who were sick and then so many things, it's dizzying! So I did like lazy people do: tomorrow!!! But I assure you that it's only my pen, you are as present to me otherwise!

I am very pleased about your direction by Fr. Rich. I lovingly thank our Lord for it. Finally, you feel understood, and especially fed; not always being purified. Yes, yes, you need more food than others, - more strength than sacrifice, more love than virtue! Consequently you are our Lord's poor grateful one. To receive and give thanks, that is your lot.

But your weaknesses? - well! this is the claim which the poor ones have on God. But my sins? - They are your claim to great mercy, which forgives once and for all; like a good mother who forgives over and over again, a thousand times a day, because her poor child is very weak and miserable.

Mediocre Communion that may be evil? - Mediocre! sometimes, but lukewarm water is on the warm side. Since you don't want to let them be lukewarm, they won't provoke the vomiting that sin does, since you don't like it.

Evil? - Never.

But my temperament? My bad example? - It's true that you are not naturally kind, and supernaturally, you are not perfect. So I urge you to bear the first and not discuss the second. Presume that others have a little charity. After everything is over, humility says: I'm not a model of sweetness, but let's be a model of patience and sometimes of reparation. Know that some thorns are more useful than some flowers; it's good that certain external faults cover our piety and protect our heart.

Well, this is quite a sermon, isn't it? but it's already an old one.

I am pleased with your decision about that dear Polish priest.

Oh! how I would like you to be a little host of love in your little Tabernacle!⁸

I don't know when I'll go to Angers, I expect to go during the month and this time I'll try to give you 12 hours.

I bless you wholeheartedly,

Eymard

P.S. There is hardly anyone in Nantes who has a subscription to the little leaflet of the Blessed Sacrament.

⁸ Alternative translation: how I would like to have a little host, etc.

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 19/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, August 7, 1864

Madame in our Lord,

I don't want to leave your letter without a reply, if not with a word of comfort, at least with charity.

I can see that the storm is setting its thunder rolling over your head, and that your soul is troubled and discouragement would be quickly at your door, if God were not protecting the entrance. I understand that [the thought of] Heaven does not encourage you, because the idea of Purgatory darkens the path and divine justice frightens you. So, I will not tell you: Serve our Lord because he has a beautiful Heaven for you; but, Love our good Master because he is gracious and because he has a great love for you, because he created you through love, guided you in love and promised forever the mercy of his love.

You must absolutely avoid self-scrutiny in this great issue of God's service, because the sight of yourself upsets your heart, and yet, your heart loves the good Lord and sovereignly loves him alone. Besides, outside of God, human beings amount to so little, or are even so weak and evil! You do well to be free of them. Work to free yourself of your fears, which, basically are not bad, but proceed from a good feeling which is the desire to be in God's good graces, not to displease him and not to be separated from Him. That is all very fine; but if these fears prevent you from receiving Communion, from being faithful to your duties of life and your spiritual practices, they would not be good and would harm you. Besides, you know that in such a painful state you must behave as one does in a storm: pray, and surrender oneself to the mercy of God; or, as when we have a very strong migraine headache, we say: "My God, I offer it to you... since it comes from you." The essential thing for you is to do things through duty, without turning back to see whether the heart... (half a page is missing) at this time, because the struggle you had to inflict upon yourself left you agitated.

May our Lord place a little more trust in your heart!

I hope to be able to go to Angers during the month of August; I will let you know.

Finally, I don't expect to go to Jerusalem until the chapel is built... (the end of the letter is missing).

TO MME. TAMISIER, TOURS
(VII 2/2)

Paris, August 7, 1864

Dear Madame in our Lord,

I do thank you for your kind remembrance and letter. I laughed a little, because our foundation in Jerusalem has not taken place yet, even though they have gone, and should arrive in Jerusalem for that purpose shortly. If these fine women adorers expect to go soon, it will require a miracle; the very one of obtaining the Cenacle, which is still a mosque, and which will continue to be so, unless the good Lord turns them upside down or destroys it. And so, dear Madame, there is nothing settled for these Ladies. They have the time to prepare themselves.

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Surely, if the good Lord gives them the grace to go to Jerusalem someday, they will be very happy.

I still don't know when I shall go to Angers; but I had them prepare a parlor without grilles for the parents and there, dear Madame, you will be received as a mother.

I am happy to see your dear daughter keep so firmly and faithfully to the eucharistic service of our Lord. She finds that it gives her the vitality she needed so badly.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Madame,

Your faithfully devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup.

1435

CO 1436

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 54/75)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, August 9, 1864

Dear Madame in our Lord,

You know that suffering either puts us to sleep or makes us beastly or takes all our attention; that describes me a little. However, the sick priest is healed and more peaceful now, so I am picking up my pen for Calet where my old friends are.

I would surely have been happy to see you; you and all your daughters; but the coach of divine Providence didn't decide to stop there. I felt I had a few necessary errands, but the good Master kept me busy elsewhere. So don't be upset with me because I would hold it against you. The more I long for solitude, the more my boat is tossed and turned. I must accept these thousand and one things, which like a swarm of hornets come to disturb me. Paris is like a whirlwind! Pray for me. You are very quiet there with your summer fruit, your pious leisure, and the many families!

We will make a foundation in Jerusalem near the Cenacle, in order to besiege it; in a few months I hope to go there to visit.

We are preparing another [foundation] for the novitiate.

We are on the point of losing our property in Paris for Boulevard St. Marcel; may everything be for the greater glory of our good Master.

I am sending you two issues [of a periodical] which may perhaps interest you. Since your daughter may be with you, I won't send her one.

What are your dear nieces doing?

China stands before them like a mystery! - divine Providence will arrange everything, and for the best. I like their holy surrender; God will bless it. You had mentioned some wedding plans, I pray that God will bless them if it is in his plan of grace.

I would be so happy to see dear Mme. Nugues again with her dear children! Remember me to her, as for you, dear daughter in our Lord, love our good Master dearly. Serve him ever better, and become very spiritual because that is the root which makes the tree, and the sun from heaven which makes it flower and ripen.

Read a lot and pray even more; you must notice your heart's great need for God and the frequent absence of thoughts!

Goodbye, I bless you very much in our Lord,

Eymard

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 256/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, August 11, 1864

Dear daughter in our Lord,

As your letter supposes, I have become forgetful; I have so many little things to do these days that I often forget even what is essential. I went to Mr. Le Clere, but he was away. I must go today or tomorrow. I'll send you everything... [*two and a half lines erased*].

Keep a notebook for the dowries and deposits belonging to the sisters, in order that the dowry may always be listed; as for what has been given outright, it isn't necessary... [*3 lines erased*]. We will settle all these things when I go to Angers when your Rule will be ready for printing. I hope that it will be toward the end of the month.

About Miss Baillet, if you like her, write to her yourself saying that she can come for a try; that's more appropriate than my doing so.

I really understand that when there is good news about the Society, the Sister's joy and happiness consists in sharing it with their friends; it's only natural, but it is childish, because things are not ripe yet, and outsiders are speaking as if they were.

From Marseilles, I received a letter telling me that the story about Fr. Peilen has caught fire with those hotheads. Collections are being made for him, people are taking action, Fr. Champion has been criticized for a few words. His friends present him as a victim; enough, it will pass.

I learned yesterday that in Marseilles there is also talk about Sr. Benoite; I think that Miss Lautard spoke about her and as everything gets repeated among devout people, we are afraid that the Bishop may be upset by it. It was even said that Sr. Benoite was to go to Marseilles; write clearly that she is not. But don't worry about anything; in Marseilles everything passes quickly. As for letters which might be misleading, don't be afraid to have them rewritten.

These little problems are on all sides; it should be said that religious life makes people childish.

I haven't heard from Sr. Benoite; is she sick? Where is she? She must be told to come back when she can.

Goodbye dear daughter, I bless you. Be simple with God, joyful with your sisters, calm and peaceful within yourself.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1437

CO 1438

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 257/395 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, August 16, 1864

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

I'll write to Miss Baillet telling her to wait.

Let's praise God for everything, since in spite of my poor intuition, he wanted [us] to go to Marseilles.⁹ I imagine that you must have written to Miss Lautard, rue de Grignan, for a recommendation in her favor.

So then, do whatever you think would be suitable for your chapel. It is regrettable that you would have to suspend adoration. Couldn't you close the grille with a curtain or two, tell the workmen to be silent, and continue adoration? Don't count on me to preach the adoration, especially the first day, because I have been detained here. Then, for the last three days, my voice is becoming hoarse as it did last year. Nevertheless, we will do all we can to help you.

Yes! Watch out for the cool walls, it's easy to get sick.

The arrival at Jerusalem will be the 17th.

Concerning Henriette from Laus, we will talk about it. I believe she has already been in a convent, that her health is frail. The first reason would lead me to refuse her.

I bless you all in our Lord,
Eymard

1438

CO 1439

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 258/395 VI 2)

Paris, August 19, 1864

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

I'm sending you the letter I've just received from Marseilles. You'll like it.

I hope that Sr. B. will come back soon.

You don't mention that you are feeling better. I hope you are, since our Good Master is giving you much to do, he owes you strength.

I'm working hard for you: the first part of your Rules is already printed. I'm working on the second part, but before having it printed, I'll send it to you to read, and submit any observations you think are needed.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

⁹ unclear whether he is referring to the community or some individual[s].

1439

CO 1440

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 18/24)

Paris, August 21, 1864

Very dear friend in our Lord,

I accompanied you and your dear son to Germany with my prayers and wishes. May God watch over him! I also recommend to you my former student and child, the eldest Nicode boy, a straightforward and intelligent young man. If you could house him or help him to find housing, I would be very grateful. He is the son of a holy mother.

I am in our Lord,

Very dear friend,
All yours,
Eymard, S.

1440

CO 1441

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 139/181 VI 2)

Paris, August 26, 1864

Very dear Father,

Miss Michel, at the first news of the Jerusalem foundation, came to tell me that she wanted to go to Jerusalem. I opposed her desire by presenting all the sacrifices she would have to make. In spite of that, she persisted, and is leaving on her own. She has a generous heart, she is capable of great sacrifices, and she is proving it in this circumstance. She will not be a burden to anyone. On the contrary, she will do some good. She deserves your trust. I blessed her when she left, admiring her dedication, which will certainly please our Lord. We are waiting, and we never stop praying for you and the foundation.

Vocations are scarce, some good ones seem to be in the making. People are coming to ask what we are doing; adoration frightens the timid and the self-centered.

In the meantime, we pray, we hope.

Goodbye, dear Father, may we soon receive a comforting letter from you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1441

CO 1442

TO MME. TESNIERE
(VII 2/2 III 2)

Paris, September 1, 1864

Dear Mother,

So your pious desire has been fulfilled! [You are] totally God's and totally your neighbor's! on the path to religious life! You work quickly! that's fine: give everything at the first go.

May God support you, may He be your all in exchange for everything you are giving him and for everything you will do for him!

It's a dream for me! but is there anything God's love cannot do! Your dear Albert is still fine and very responsible; therefore, worthy of all your maternal love.

I feel very despondent. They¹⁰ are demolishing the Church of the Capuchin Fathers today - I am waiting for our turn without knowing either the time or the place, but the good Lord knows it and we sleep peacefully on the safe pillow of divine Providence.

May God bless you as I do with my whole heart.

In our Lord then, Dear Mother,

All yours,
Eymard

1442

CO 1444

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 3/22)

Paris, September 2, 1864

Mademoiselle,

I was hoping to come to Brussels by tomorrow, Saturday, but now I have been prevented. I am obliged to put off my journey until after September 15th, as I have been committed for a long time to give a retreat in Rennes.

Your kind letter, Mademoiselle, made me glimpse the possibility of uniting our two works and a foundation. This idea does us honor and I thank you for it. However, I must tell you that such a foundation is not possible for us at the moment, since we are making one in Jerusalem. Two religious are already there preparing the site, and I shall be sending all those who are free at present.

We have been strongly urged by the Propaganda to make this foundation, so as to have the Cenacle one day. God ever blesses us, but true adorers are rare, and we ask the good Lord for them.

I shall be back from Rennes on September 16th or 18th if I go to visit our house in Angers.

Please believe me to be, in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your respectful and most devoted servant,
Eymard

¹⁰ Perhaps the city for the creation of new boulevards.

1443

CO 1443

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 259/395 VI 2)

Paris, September 2, 1864

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letters, you know how much they mean to me: they come from the family! If I don't answer you each time, it's because I count on your charity when there is nothing urgent, or when I see that you can manage by yourself.

I was hoping to visit you from the 4th to the 7th, but it's impossible: the printing is still in process, and I want to finish before going to Rennes (Ille-et-Vilaine) St. Aubin's Parish, September 7th; so I am using my time efficiently.

I'm told that Sr. Benoite will be coming one of these days. It's high time. I'm not very pleased with it all, but if Heaven wills it, we must will it and still bless heaven for it. I informed Mr. Le Clere. Sr. Benoite will bring you the money.

Pray for Jerusalem, for our compulsory sale, for my retreat.

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

All yours,
Eymard

1444

CO 1445

TO MR. HENRI DURAND (FR. DURAND SSS)
(VI 1/1)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, September 6, 1864

Dear friend in our Lord,

I shall arrive in Rennes tomorrow evening. It will indeed be a joy to see you again, God willing.

I embrace his designs, which are ever gracious and benevolent toward you.

It is your responsibility to know and fulfill them without selfish motivation, without giving in to natural influences, without [depending on] any reasons of body or mind which might be foreign, or harmful to your welfare.

Like you, I desire only his holy Will, and you will always be dear to us and united with us, whatever state you choose, or in whatever difficulty you may be.

Believe me, in this Good Master.

Ever yours,
Eymard, Superior

11

¹¹ Virginie Danion came to Rennes from Mauron to meet with her director-friend.

Sep 8-16 Retreat for the Nativity at Rennes [parish].

I. Sermons or Instructions

- 1. Greatness of Mary*
- 2. Greatness of her divine Motherhood*
- 3. Mary, Mother of mankind*
- 4. The Eucharist: Why?*
- 5. The Hidden God*

II. Meditations

- 1. On prayer*
- 2. Rules and reasons for prayer*
- 3. On meditation*
- 4. Rules for prayer*
- 5. Three counsels*

III. Conferences

- 1. Love, the principle of holiness*
- 2. Three principles of the three faculties*
- 3. Counsels: Vigilance over head and heart*

1445

CO 1446

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 60/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rennes, September 8, 1864, At the Rectory of Saint Aubin

Madame in our Lord,

I will be here at Rennes until September 16th; I am preaching a retreat in the parish.

It begins tonight; then I'll return to Paris; at the end of September I will be going to Angers. I'll let you know if it is sooner. From there either I will go see you, or you will come.

I thank the good Lord for having given you Fr. Rich.

Pray for me and my retreat. I had thought I would be able to go to Angers sooner, but it's impossible. Jerusalem is beginning; they arrived there August 17th. I hope to go in the Spring.

I bless you and your dear sister,

Eymard

1446

CO 1447

TO MME. FELICIE DE COUCHIES (NEE RATTIER)
(VII 5/9)

Jesus Hostia

[Paris, Sept. 19, 1864]

Dear Lady,

I would need your help to complete the good work you helped to begin if, however, it is possible for you to do so.

It would involve your coming to Paris to accompany the Sterlingue son to the Trappists at Briquebec (Manche) where I was promised room and board. It's a final effort and the final grace. It is very difficult for me to be absent at this time, and [the matter] is urgent.

It would also be necessary to pay his debts. I am really afraid that all these debts are a bit exaggerated. I am being ordered to pay them by Mademoiselle, his sister. May God help you! I am almost annoyed! and I don't know what to do.

Finally, he agrees to go there ... but is he really converted? time will tell.

My respects to Mr. and Mme. Rattier. All yours,

Eymard

1447

CO 1448

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 260/395 VI 2)

Paris, September 20, 1864

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

Finally, I have some time to give you. I returned from Rennes Saturday. I was a little tired, since I had spent the night, and then I was burdened with visits and things to the point that I am a little impatient at times. I don't have a single moment: may God be praised! If I could cut down on my sleep, but I'm afraid to [do that]. So then, as God wills!

I saw Sr. Benoit very little, barely a moment, since I had to leave and couldn't delay my trip which had been set and preplanned.

My God! dear daughter, how worried you are about having that poor confession, for every week or two! If Fr. Leroyer holds to it, let him confess every week, because it's our rule and yours. You shouldn't feel bound by whatever was said nor base a decision on it. Fr. C.¹² may have said that but it seems to me that every two weeks is quite long, and would require a good reason.

I'll come to see you, be a little bit more patient, and we will settle everything. Read the first part of the Rule which I gave Sr. B. and if you have any observations, send them to me right away.

I bless you in haste,
Eymard

¹² Perhaps Fr. Crepon, the Pastor, or Fr. Champion.

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER, SSS
(I 24/54)

Paris, September 22, 1864

Dear Father,

Your two letters had bad luck. The one from Fr. Audibert traveled to Rennes and was left there unread. The one that Fr. Carriè brought me stayed in the hands of Fr. Chanuet who forgot all about it. You settled the issue of Fr. Carriè; you did well.

Certainly, go once to each of your family member's homes: equality of right and friendship require it.

Nothing yet from Jerusalem. As the mail comes every two or three weeks, I'm not surprised, since, no doubt, Fr. de Cuers wants to give us good news.

I've just learned that Fr. Crepon has arrived.

I do understand the opinion that was given; on my next trip to Angers, we will try to settle everything for the best; Sr. Benoite saw Brother Henry's servant; she must have interviewed her.

We have Fr. Blot, an ex-Jesuit, as a postulant: we will see how he does; he is edifying and happy. He left the Society of Jesus with honors to dedicate himself to the service and glory of the Most Blessed Sacrament. He has good reports from his superiors; we will see whether he is a good adorer above all.

I have a great proposal for you: an apostolic month in Belgium.

Miss de Meeus, the Superior of the house of adoration in Brussels, came to beg us to found a house in Brussels saying she would give us her beautiful and magnificent church of the Miracle and a house next to it, and at least for a time set the rent at 2500. She adds that, by this foundation, we would gain all of Belgium; that, by means of their associations, which are spread everywhere, all the cities of Belgium would be open to us.

I answered no, because Jerusalem is underway and we have to provide for it.

Then, she asked for you by name, for a month, so that you should see for yourself and that you could see the four major cities: Antwerp, Liege, Ghent and Brussels, where they have centers. I more or less promised you for the month of October, but on condition that you would like to do it: if so, I would go to replace you in Angers, and you would go to cast some fire in this Catholic Belgium: we are free to refuse.

I didn't commit myself to anything. Consider, dear Father, whether that suits you and whether you feel inclined to it by the love and glory of our Lord.

Rest assured that I am in this good Master,

All yours,
Eymard

1449

CO 1451

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 4/22)

Paris, September 26, 1864

Mademoiselle,

Here I am at last. I will send Fr. Leroyer to you for the month of October, but he will not arrive until next week, Tuesday or Wednesday at the latest, since I cannot send him from Angers before next Sunday or Monday, as I am swamped with business in Paris at the moment.

I still don't know, Mademoiselle, what the will of God is to be in regards to Brussels. I am showing my good will by sending you one of our Fathers. We shall be praying, and God will do the rest.

If God wills it as you desire it, our acquaintance at the beginning of our Society, and our meeting in Rome, must all have been providential! But, with the prospect of our foundation in Jerusalem, the idea of another would be too much for me. So I prefer to close my eyes and ears and live day by day, without committing myself for the future.

Believe me to be, in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your respectful and most devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup.

1450

CO 1450

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 140/181 VI 2)

Paris, September 26, 1864

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Very dear Father,

May our Lord direct and assist you in all your ways, and strengthen you in the trials which are inseparable from a foundation, especially in Jerusalem. Fr. Champion told me about your trip to Rome; it surprised me, but did not discourage me: you are in place, you know better than we do what is necessary, you have the grace of state. However, we are praying very much for you, so that he may bless all that you will do.

A few weeks ago, Sr. Benoite saw three men dressed like Turks, dwelling in the houses of the Cenacle and telling one another, while pointing to a vacant lot of theirs on a small plateau (I believe) across from the Cenacle, "this land isn't of any use to us. We should sell it." Then the devils began to make hellish noise. Sr. Benoite didn't hear anything else. She told me: "Fr. de Cuers should buy that."

I'm telling you about it just as it came to me, to see whether there is anything there to see and buy. On Oct. 10, you will be in Beirut, then from there to Jerusalem. You are hoping that on the Epiphany we will have a fourth throne; I also hope so, for that is the royal day for our houses.

I sent away the two Englishmen, brothers, and Fr. Carel, as being doubtful and not entirely given to the Work. Since then, Fr. Blot entered as a postulant, he loves the Blessed Sacrament and is a skilled writer and is very eucharistic. On Sunday, Oct. 2nd, he will begin the novitiate.

We also received a fine sergeant who has good will. The brother of Brother Marie is in Marseilles, they say he is very edifying, he is 16 years old. Fr. Audibert is making his vows on the 29th, feast of St. Michael. His family created a storm about it, he has been very generous, God will bless him.

A Siege on the Cenacle

There are a few vocations on the horizon, but nothing positive; we will make a novena to St. Michael for this. The novitiate is separated in every way and is going very well.

Nothing new beyond the ordinary.

May our Lord keep you and bless you.

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

1451

CO 1452

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 261/395 VI 2)

Paris, September 29, 1864

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter and the remarks¹³ which I find accurate. I took them into account except on the article about monitors. I don't want any, for many reasons. I replaced them with an observer at the chapter of faults.

I included the remarks concerning the cook. However, if she doesn't attend the Office, she should have three adorations like the others. Otherwise she would be looked down upon, or she would become a lay sister. However, she should have set hours because of her primary duty.

I am hoping to bring you the two parts of the Constitutions. I also hope to be in Angers Sunday night or Monday morning, and then we will work for the Project of the Good Master and his happy Servants.

In our Lord, all yours,
Eymard

P.S. If you have any errands in Paris, I will be glad to do them.

I've just received your letter. That poor woman ... is quite a cross, and Fr. Peilin even more. He must be the one who told the whole story in Marseilles; let people talk and do as they will. The good Master knows all the good things we did for that poor priest and all that I wanted to do for him. The fury in Marseilles will calm down; the essential thing is to be silent, pray, suffer, and ask God forgiveness for so many offenses. You did well to send the woman away, but take care and good care of her daughter.

I'll bring you the money from Mr. Le Clere. I'm aware that you must not have any. If we need a small loan of five or six thousand francs to pay everything, we should not hesitate.

I hope you will be satisfied with your Rule. It's better than ours; however, my dear friend, I always find you so insecure, I'd even say with the same defect: specifics. Remember that there are things which ought not or cannot be determined. We need to make judgments, to have an authority to settle matters; otherwise authority would be nothing more than a melody. You need to have a little more confidence in your grace and in the grace of others.

I bless you, and the "little mother"¹⁴ whom I am looking forward to seeing, as well as your whole eucharistic family.

Eymard

¹³ He had requested remarks on the new draft of their Rule.

¹⁴ Her sister Claudine.

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 55/75)

Paris, September 30, 1864

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

Friends are often the last to whom I write; don't be upset with me. I am like those who tell their work: I'm yours right away! and to my friends: Wait that I may be free and we will speak at ease by ourselves, but that leisure never comes. So, I must give you a few moments. I expected to do so from Rennes, where I spent 10 days preaching, but the crowds laid hold of me and ate me alive. So now, I will soon be going to Angers (at the Carmelites) to visit our two houses. I'll stay about two weeks. Calet! runs far away from me.¹⁵ I greet you and bless you from a distance with all your friends.

First, a word about your last letter. I would be very happy to receive your Mr. Gerin, but he hasn't come yet. I'll try to help him in any way I can; let him come. I know Mr. Laverdan; he is a good courageous Catholic, but he will be leaving soon.¹⁶ It may now take two or perhaps three weeks, because I am the day laborer of divine Providence. I didn't pay your offices, and if you haven't done so, I will go to pay them when I return. Is your dear Mathilde always so kind? I don't doubt she is; her virtue is like her training, serious and dutiful; that is the best. Then she goes simply to God - that is the shortest way.

You really pleased me in your last letters! At last! At last! You are walking in the interior kingdom which I have been longing for you for such a long time. You love silence, solitude of soul; that is the sanctuary of God where he gives his oracles of love; love it very much and there you will learn quickly and easily how to know God in his light, enjoy him in the essence of his goodness, imitate him in his spirit of love. We are always beginners in this school of love, because we are always learning something new; we enter more deeply into the depths of the knowledge of God and his virtue. Oh! Please believe me, let your prayer be made up of silence, contemplation, union with our Lord; that is the only true center of life. The rest is a painful and difficult work of the soul; it means working too much. Here, it is God working in her, the heavenly dew penetrates her gently. But also you are old,¹⁷ you must hurry to God by the shortest way, quickly redouble your efforts.

Pray for my Jerusalem, the devil is obstructing it. I have a great respect for your sister-in-law; I assure you that she has a beautiful soul. However, she needs more openness.

Goodbye dear daughter.

I bless you,
Eymard, S.

¹⁵ Calet, the place where she is, is inaccessible to his travel plans.

¹⁶ meaning unclear.

¹⁷ They were the same age.

1453

CO 1454

TO BROTHER MARIE RATONS, SSS
(VI 3/7)

Paris, September 30, 1864

Very dear Brother Marie,

Your letter really pleased me, especially your genuine and generous feelings for our Lord and for the most beautiful vocation on earth.

You have been sorely tried and tempted, my poor brother, but you are still within the holy Ark. The good Master has kept you and will keep you. Yes, Fr Peilin's departure is a good lesson and a cause for sadness. The poor priest is trying to undermine the Society from which he received only good; he speaks ill about his brothers, and has written to the Bishop of Grenoble about it. I have repaid him good for evil. May God open his eyes, or at least prevent him from sinning. Alas! this isn't how we should behave when we love a Society as our own mother. Don't discuss it in the house any more - and if anyone brings it up to you, just say: "We are praying for him."

Be confident, when the moment for enlistment will come, make a novena to St. Michael and we will all join in it with you. I shall be happy to place you in the house of solitude, but you must earn this grace, dear brother, by your fidelity and love for our Lord.

I am pleased with your dear brother, and I bless him.

I bless you too, may God keep you, protect you and be your All.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Fr Audibert's Profession was magnificent. It made us all cry that evening at Benediction. He preached a wonderful sermon with a paraphrase of the Creed.

1454

CO 1455

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 61/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Angers, October 6, 1864

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I have been here in Angers one day already; I'm writing to let you know, so that, if you should need me, you can come to see me. I would really like to go see you at Nantes, but I can't, since I'm replacing the Superior whom I sent to preach a retreat in Belgium.

I hope that your discomfort is over and that you are feeling better now.

How happy I would be to see you always abiding in the peace of the Lord, and thus trusting in his love and obedient to His grace.

My religious sentiments to your dear sister.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1455

CO 1456

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 20/52)

Angers, October 9, 1864

Madame in our Lord,

I have been here in Angers for a few days, I hope to be here still when you come; this week I am giving a retreat to my Religious, and the 16th or 17th I will begin that of the Ladies. I saw them in haste because I have been replacing Father Leroyer here. I sent him to Belgium to preach one or two retreats there and so I don't have long intervals to myself.

Madame, there is only one thing that is essential, which nothing can replace and which divinely replaces everything: it is to love our Lord, to place all our works, our pleasures, joys and trust in him. The rest is nothing, or so unstable, so pitiful, that we suffer if we must see to it.

So, love our Lord dearly: he loves you so and he loves you so tenderly in his divine Sacrament; be attentive to spare a few beautiful moments for his divine life of love and don't let yourself become too busy and overwhelmed.

I bless you in our good Master.

Believe me, in his holy love,

Your respectful and ever devoted,
Eymard

Oct 10-17 Retreat for the SSS Religious (men) at Angers.

Opening: "and they persevered in prayer." Ac. I 14.

1st Meditation: Need for salvation

Conference: On the Rule

2nd Meditation: Fear and salvation

3rd Meditation: Backsliding, routine

Conference: On modesty

Meditation: Our duties toward the Society

Meditation: Ordinary actions

Conference: Developing the virtues

Meditation: Eucharist and life

Meditation: Love, a means

¹⁸ The following nine letters were written while preaching this retreat.

1456

CO 1458

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 3/26)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Angers, October 10, 1864

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I am returning your little daily schedule with a few notes. Be faithful to it during ordinary times, but when illness or the needs of charity prevent you from following it, do so graciously; but protect your freedom, your independence of heart, the strength of your virtue in order to belong to God alone.

Great love is needed to know how to protect it. You can be a fine daughter and still be the head of the house;¹⁹ be a friend and remain free within.

Above all, go to the good Lord by the heart, by openness of heart, by an intimate conversation of soul, in order to obtain that peace that says everything, to a feeling for God which replaces everything, an affectionate glance toward God²⁰ which gives life to everything.

I bless you both, joy and love in God.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1457

CO 1457

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 62/104)

Angers, October 10, 1864

Madame in our Lord,

I will be entirely at your disposal when you come to see me. I will be giving a triduum to the Ladies of Adoration²¹ of the city, toward the end of next week, I believe. In any case, I'll let you know.

I'll certainly be very happy in the Lord to see you. I'll be very available to you.

I bless you.
Eymard, S.

¹⁹ Difficulties with her mother? Ed.

²⁰ “*regard affectueux de Dieu*” - *de* could be translated glance of God or glance toward God.

²¹ Women adorers who frequented the chapels of the Fathers and that of the Servants.

TO MISS ZENAIDE BLANC DE ST. BONNET

(V 2/3)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Angers, October 10, 1864

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,

This morning at the Office while reading the Martyrology, they announced the feast of St. Zenaide, Virgin, for tomorrow the 11th. Therefore, I am writing to wish you a happy feast day, and to wish for the very thing that makes it so beautiful: the love of our Lord, whom you have chosen as your eternal and royal Spouse, whom you serve in the charity of self-denial, and whom you will always serve as the King and God of your heart.

I was happy to learn that after so much suffering, your dear mother was feeling better, and that you were all at St. Bonnet. May God be praised! Because if it were not for the glory of God, your mother's holiness, we would look with great sadness at so much suffering and pain; but that is exactly what we must adore in God's plans, who chooses a few beautiful souls for himself which he dedicates to the pain of Calvary as victims of salvation for his people, because there must always be an amount of suffering on earth for God's blessing and forgiveness.

How happy I would be to see your dear mother again! For me, she is like a living relic of the holiness of our Lord within her. Poor mother! may our good Master comfort, encourage, and strengthen her on her mysterious Calvary!

You share in it also, dear Mademoiselle, and you do so with the heart which God has given you, and protected, and with a daughter's love such as she deserves. For you, that is worth as much as any religious vocation, worth all virtues, all merits. And so, have courage and trust! However, don't let sadness lay hold of your soul; I say "of your soul" and not "of your heart," in order that you may always be able to lift it up and give it courage. Remember that the best condition of love is to be ruled by its necessity, and the greatest proof that we love God is to love him with self-denial and sacrifice.

However, feed your soul carefully with the piety, divine love, and prayer which are both its formation and its nourishment, with Holy Communion, in spite of everything, which is its incarnation in you and its daily source, with readings which restore your freedom of mind and give new freshness to your thoughts.

And then, come and go where you will, you are on a good path. The circle of God's will is large enough for you to exercise and run in the holy joy of his law.

A year ago at this time, I was on the delightful and beloved mountain of St. Bonnet. What a beautiful month for me! How happy I would have been to return! It seems to me that we can find every inspiration, virtue, charity there; and so that stay left one of those imperishable, I will say, ever delightful memories in my soul.

May God repay you all the good that you have done for me! If I had some reason to go to Lyons, I must admit that I would have to be very rushed not to go see you all at St. Bonnet. That beautiful horizon is ever before my eyes; its devout chapel and its guard always in my heart.

Mme. Chanuet is fine,²² I saw her several times, but I haven't spoken to her at length. She seems happy; she is. One would say that she is getting younger. In fact, the Ladies²³ are very happy, although in very cramped quarters.

I will be giving them a retreat in seven days, on the 16th. Really, if you were free, I would tell you to come, dear Mademoiselle. It would be 10 days of vacation for you; it would do you so much good. So then, why not come while I am here. It seems to me that you would bring me all the

²² Her sister-in-law's mother, Sr. Camille.

²³ The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

A Siege on the Cenacle

happiness of St. Bonnet. I owe you a picture of my poor self, I thought I had sent you one, I made a mistake to the advantage of an old friend. When I think of it, I will send you one if you want it; otherwise, we will leave it buried in the dust and neglect; because alas! it embarrasses me.

I bless you! Give me news about everyone.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1459

CO 1460

TO SR. AUGUSTINE DU SS
(III 1/1)

Angers, October 12, 1864, rue Lyonnaise, 9

Mademoiselle,

I proposed your admission to the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament. On my proposal, they accept you willingly. Therefore you may come, if you feel called to this beautiful life (rue de l'Hopital, 10 bis). Since your good and excellent teacher²⁴ is thinking of religious life, she would do well to accompany you and come and see, in order to be able to compare later: the Ladies here are beginning their annual retreat Monday morning.

If you want to participate in it, you should hurry.

I bless you in our Lord.
Eymard, Sup.

P.S. Bring me from Fr. Chanuet four Rules in French and four in Latin, please.

1460

CO 1461

TO MME. FELICIES DE COUCHIES (NEE RATTIER)
(VII 6/9)

Jesus Hostia

Angers, Oct. 12, 1864

Dear Lady,

I am very happy about the news you have written to me concerning that poor young man; how wonderful that he should be there, and be happy! He owes you a hundred times more than he does me. Truly, God has heard so many prayers!

Your dear daughter is fine.²⁵ She is happy. She laughed wholeheartedly when she received your 10 francs which will be used for flowers, etc...

The Ladies²⁶ are doing well. I saw them very little as I was preaching the retreat to our religious. They are so happy with their vocation!

²⁴ Alternate: your dear fine employer.

²⁵ Sr. Philomena

²⁶ Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

A Siege on the Cenacle

May God bless you, fortunate mother! You have a daughter who is a mother, another a Sister of Charity, and a third an adorer. You have everything.

I bless and thank you for your good letter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1461

CO 1462

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 141/181 VI 2)

Angers, October 13, 1864

Very dear Father,

I have just learned about your return to Paris and your slight fatigue. Rest, because “*grandis via tibi restat*”.²⁷

I will not have you come to Angers; stay in Paris to keep the house which is a bit empty because of Fr. Audibert’s departure.

This week I am giving a retreat to our religious; next week I will preach a retreat to the Ladies. I expect to be in Paris a few days before All Saints.

When do you expect to leave for Rome? Do the Roman holidays end at All Saints or later?

I am feeling some regrets about the recall of Brother Eugene; he just wrote me a letter from his Greek Catholic Monastery, about his Latin studies with a professor. We thought we were doing for the best, but he has just arrived and must already leave: in short, God willed it.

Store up a good supply of strength and grace, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

P.S. You would do well, dear Father, to see Mr. Fouquet about the bronze items for church.

I saw a lovely inexpensive model for candelabras at Girard, the bronze-smith’s, at Notre Dame des Victoires. Brother Frederic knows him.

1462

CO 1463

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 56/75)

Angers, October 13, 1864, rue Lyonnaise, 9

Dear Madame in our Lord,

All your people are going to leave for China; that makes me feel badly for them and for you. Fortunately we bring the good Lord in our heart.

I wrote a little letter to your dear nieces; give it to them if you judge it opportune. I wanted to give them my dear Virgin of Laus.²⁸

²⁷ “You have a long road ahead of you.”

²⁸ Perhaps a statue.

A Siege on the Cenacle

I will give you one someday.

But, you are staying here with us: you may say, it's almost as if China were separating us! Well, even so! there is no distance for souls; or better, friendship is even greater and broader.

I am giving retreats to our religious men and women here in the city, so you can see that I am always a little bit on the battlefield in order to leave behind, not all of my wretchedness, but at least a few shreds. It does me good to speak about our Lord. It seems to me that when I am saying it, I love him more, perhaps it's only the fever of activity. When shall I go to give a retreat of the Blessed Sacrament in your Lyons? And at Ainay? How sad! Poor Lyons!

I am very happy here; I'm not receiving any [visitors], I am a bit alone, I can find myself again at the feet of God. I am like someone who is out of breath, now breathing in peace: to be quiet at God's feet is to find him. Don't you sometimes feel the well-being of spiritual breathing, gently, affectionately at God's feet, in the sight of his beautiful Heaven, there on my rock of Caesar?

My God, what a gossip I am becoming! My pen flows as quickly as my thought to Calet!
Goodbye in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Please tell your sister-in-law that I'll never forget her cousin, nor her children, nor her whole family. May your nieces be very kind toward her.

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

1463

CO 1464

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 263/395 VI 2)

Angers, October 14, 1864

Dear Daughter,

To cut short all the requests and pressures regarding vocations, I think we need to adopt the following points as a rule:

1. Ask for a dowry of 12,000 francs or 600 francs in revenue; be strict about exceptions.
2. Don't receive persons who were refused by other Communities, or who have been professed, or even who have received the religious habit. The reason is that they make comparisons, they are already anxious, and finally, the Master must have the first fruits.

The first ones were necessary for the foundation; now we must build with new stones.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 262/395 VI 2)

Angers, October, 1864²⁹

Dear daughter,

I won't be able to go to visit you tonight. I am preaching at Vespers.

I'll go tomorrow morning to say Holy Mass at 6:30 [a.m.] and immediately after holy Mass, we will begin the retreat. I want to say holy Mass with you daily in order to have more time. Consequently, Fr. Leroyer will have to come to say it here in my place.

With the instruction in the chapel at 8:30 and at 5:00, it seems to me that it will be sufficient to close the chapel at that time, and open it the rest of the time.

All Yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I saw the Bishop; I hope he will come Sunday morning.

To the V. Hon. Mother.³⁰

Oct 17-23 Retreat to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, Angers

| | |
|---------------|---|
| <i>Oct 17</i> | <i>1st Meditation: Opening of the Retreat</i> <i>2nd Meditation: The three miracles: conservation, preservation, preparation</i> <i>Conference: Explanation of the Rule</i> <i>3rd Meditation: Recollection of the virtue of prayer, of love</i> |
| <i>Oct 18</i> | <i>1st Meditation: Our physical, natural, and supernatural life</i> <i>Conference: Explanation of the Rule (cont.)</i> <i>2nd Meditation: Our Lord, model of the gift of self</i> |
| <i>Oct 19</i> | <i>1st Meditation: Purity of life</i> <i>Conference: The Rule (cont.)</i> <i>2nd Meditation: The Eucharistic Service</i> |
| <i>Oct 20</i> | <i>1st Meditation: How we must serve Our Lord</i> <i>Conference: The Rule (cont.)</i> <i>2nd Meditation: Humility (principle of the life of love)</i> |
| <i>Oct 21</i> | <i>1st Meditation: Prayer</i> <i>Conference: The Rule (cont.)</i> <i>2nd Meditation: Simplicity of love, of virtue, of life with self, the neighbor and God</i> |
| <i>Oct 22</i> | <i>1st Meditation: The gentleness of Our Lord</i> <i>2nd Meditation: Mary, Model of Eucharistic Adorers The Eucharist, summary of all mysteries. Attraction of grace</i> |
| <i>Oct 23</i> | <i>Counsels. The cord</i> |

The following five letters were written during the course of the above retreat.

²⁹ Probably the 16th. (Troussier)

³⁰ Very Honorable.

1465

CO 1466

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 142/181 VI 2)

Angers, October 19, 1864

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your little note. I had received all the details from Fr. Leroyer; it would even be more beautiful, but the time has not come. Besides, there is the question of Rome, and Jerusalem above all.

I had mentioned again the house of Mme. de la Villeneuve. In coming to Paris, this lady came to see us. No doubt in answer to it, here is the letter from Fr. Hermann. Consequently, it is easy to establish connections. They are established.

I would like that house as a novitiate; then, at the given time, we would establish a house of adoration in Lyons.

It seems to me, instead of coming to Angers, where I would have very little time to give you, since I am preaching three times a day, and confessions are beginning and will last until Sunday, it would be better if you went to Lyons yourself to see the Countess, and His Eminence, if everything goes smoothly. You would be well received, and if you want a letter for the Cardinal, I would send it to you right away.

In any case, I hope to be in Paris at the end of next week, since I must give another Triduum to the Aggregation of the city on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

May our Lord heal you and give you strength and courage for his greater glory.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1466

CO 1468

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 5/22)

ADVENIAT REGNUM TUUM

Angers, October 20, 1864

Mademoiselle,

Your sentiments of good will and unity are indeed very welcome to me, for divine Providence brought us to birth³¹ at the same time and to meet on the path of the Most Blessed Sacrament.³² And so I have given you proof of my consideration by sending you two of our Fathers.

As for the present foundation, it isn't possible for me. I cannot abandon Jerusalem where everything is in readiness. All I can promise you, Mademoiselle, is to put you first and give you priority.

Please believe that if I could do more I would do it at once, as I love your Church, your work, your country.

I am expecting Fr. Leroyer, who will give me his impressions of your Belgium, sorely tried by the spirit of evil, it is true, but also truly Catholic and devoted to the Holy Father.

In our Lord, all yours,
Eymard, Superior

³¹ The two Congregations.

³² Meeting in Rome.

1467

CO 1467

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER, SSS
(I 25/54)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Angers, October 20, 1864

Dear Father,

Thank you for your good and consoling letters; they pleased us.

I am expecting you a few days before All Saints, at least by October 29th, because I want to return to Paris before All Saints day.

I'm not writing to His Eminence of Malines, because it is too soon; I cannot yet accept that foundation. Jerusalem must be first; no reason, no offer should tempt us at this time.

I sent you to see, to study the territory, to make the Society known a little, and for vocations, should God will it.

I am surely very grateful that these excellent Ladies considered us, and your eucharistic work; but let us wait for the time when it will be possible: I already have enough experience not to take on more than we can do.

I bless you and expect you with joy in our Lord, in whom I am, dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1468

CO 1469

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 63/104)

Angers, October 21, 1864

Madame in our Lord,

I will be giving a triduum to the Adorers of the city in the Chancery chapel at 7:30 a.m. and at 3:00 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. These instructions will not prevent me from having enough time to see you. So, you may come when you wish. Get lodging at the Hotel of Anjou. - I would like to spare you this trip and go to Nantes, but I don't see how I would have time for it.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

1469

CO 1470

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 6/22)

ADVENIAT REGNUM TUUM

Angers, October 22, 1864

Mademoiselle,

Your second letter would tear my heart if it were not that I await the time of divine Providence. It is my only rule and, for my part, my only desire is to follow it, but not to anticipate it. I did so once, and I promised God that I would never do it again, for it cost me very dearly.³³ I realize, Mademoiselle, that the circumstances are indeed very favorable or at least appear to be; but for me that would be a reason to consult God more deeply, since, humanly speaking, it would be too much of a commitment.

If then, Mademoiselle, you can give elsewhere what you think is now needed to end this uncertainty, please act as if nothing had been planned with us. I would indeed bless God if you could soon find what your love for the glory of our Lord desires. As for us, we already have so many requests that it would be a relief, personally, to have one less concern.

Believe me ever in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your respectful and most devoted servant,
Eymard

Oct. 24-26 - Retreat to the Ladies Adoration Group, Angers.

1470

CO 1471

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 7/22)

Angers, October 28, 1864

Mademoiselle,

I am very touched by your kind feelings towards us. Be assured that like yourself I indeed desire to work for the glory of our Lord in union with you, for your work is very dear and admirable to me, being the first to know it. But at this moment, it is impossible for me to promise anything or to seize the favorable circumstance, because God's hour has not yet come for us, and we must remain free on both sides.

Besides, Mademoiselle, the experience I have had of the movement of God's Grace upon our Society has sufficiently convinced me that the foundations which God wants for us are always brought about with "firmness and gentleness," - and that is why we do not take advantage of propitious occasions, but only of orders from On-High.

As I told you, Mademoiselle, I am keeping you in first place, while at the same time leaving you free. I have only one thought in mind - Jerusalem; and I hope that next Holy Thursday will see the first throne of Exposition there! It is in that direction that we are working with confidence.

³³ Perhaps referring to the approval of the Third Order of Mary? Ed.

A Siege on the Cenacle

I commend this thought to your devotion, and I remain united indeed with you in a common prayer and vocation from our good Master in our Lord, in whom I am, Mademoiselle,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS.

1471

CO 1473

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 264/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 4, 1864

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

I'm leaving for Rome Saturday or Sunday. I will not be staying there a long time.

I adore God's plan in this matter. I was expecting it. The young woman from Paris wanted to write to you again, she begged me on her knees. I told her that it was useless, that you wouldn't take her back.

As I reflect on the estimate you sent me, the passageway would be made very solidly, it might be better if it were less so. If, instead of bricks, they used wood, and instead of a tile roof, they used zinc, it would be lighter, cleaner, and perhaps less expensive. For the roof, Mr. Trottier can give you good information.

Also have them look at the passageway that goes to the ironing room, it is light and solid. Then, put in your order when you have decided what is best.

Don't worry about the Russon house.

I told Fr. Leroyer to speak to the novices on the monthly retreat day, and that Fr. Crepon would take care of the confessions.

I asked Fr. Leroyer if he would preach. He would do so willingly, but he needs permission, and then his voice is weak. He should try. I am writing to Fr. Crepon today.

About Sr. Rose, if she calms down, fine. If she wants to leave, leave her free; but be kind to her and reason with her for her own good.

You may write to me in Rome: at the French Seminary, Rome, via Marseilles. The postage is 1 franc.

I'm praying for the healing of your dear sister.

I'll leave Sunday morning at the latest.

I bless you all, and you in particular, dear daughter.

All Yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Take it as a rule not to make decisions based on what "they say" or "they told me." The Bishop is polite: he doesn't share his private thoughts with everyone.

1472

CO 1474

TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)
(VI 1/12)

Paris, November 4, 1864

Dear daughter in our Lord,

So you are suffering! Offer all your sufferings for my journey to Rome because all the demons are against it, and yet God wills it, his glory is at stake.

Do not increase your sufferings by taking on those of others, not even mine. Just pray for me.

You know quite well that it is your mission for the Society. You will rest in Heaven, but not yet. Suffering for our Lord and in our Lord is so good!

I shall pray hard today and tomorrow for your relief.

Pray too for the Papal Nuncio in Paris.

Love the good Lord dearly, and help your daughters to love him.³⁴

I am praying for Sister Rose's attitude.

Although I am far from Angers in the body, I am there in spirit in our Lord. Every blessing to you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Nov. 7 - Fr. Eymard embarked in Marseilles for Rome in order to pursue the possibility of purchasing the Cenacle.

1473

CO 1477

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(VI 5/10 III 145)

Marseilles, November 7, 1864

Dear sisters,

I am leaving for Rome this evening. I shall stay there about one month. I shall try to bring you something for your raffle.

I am going there to negotiate for a foundation in Jerusalem, for the Cenacle. How happy I would be to see our Lord there one day - for it belongs to the Turks now.

If I can find a free day I shall go to see you. I desire it as much as you do, dear sisters, but my obligations are always increasing, so I am always very busy.

Until next time, dear sisters,

All yours,
Eymard

³⁴ Sr. Benoite was Mistress of Novices

1474

CO 1475

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 143/181 VI 2)

Marseilles, November 7, 1864

Dear Father,

I am leaving tonight at 7:00 for Rome; pray.

Fr. Eugene arrived this morning at 9:00 in very bad weather. I told him to stay in Marseilles until I return.

He invested the money in Jerusalem, fortunately; I am sending you the receipt; withdraw the one of St. Joseph of Cluny. As for Miss Michel, she will write to her brothers.

I am going to Rome with hope, but expecting trials.

May God be grace and strength!

Take good care of yourself, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1475

CO 1476

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 265/395 VI 2)

Marseilles, November 7, 1864

Dear Daughter,

I've just arrived in Marseilles, I'm leaving tonight for Rome, write to me at the French Seminary. Give me news about yourself and Sr. Benoit. Everything is fine here.

I'm leaving now in God's care. Please, all pray for Jerusalem.

My blessings.

Eymard