

CHAPTER VI

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

The Retreat Master

Paris:

- Spiritual formation of novices, subdeacons and
- Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
- St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Octave of Corpus Christi
- St. Sulpice, Novena to the Sacred Heart
- Communion Retreat, Adult Workers

Beauvais: Ordination Retreat

La Pierre-qui-Vire: Annual Retreat to the Benedictines

1032

CO 1030

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

(I 87/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 1, 1861

Very dear Father,

1. I am well now, very well, actually, don't worry. Nothing further happened to my arm, I was careful.

2. You can try the young man, but send Raymond away and consider Father Victor only as a day-laborer. The Society must pass through every human difficulty: it's only right that we should acquire experience about poor human nature. As the service of adoration is the royal service, we must use those we have at the moment, so that the Divine King may not come down from his throne.

3. Your medals will be fine; they are working hard on the designs.

It pleased me when you repeated to me what Fr. Leroyer had said about St. Joseph, we can see that the Eucharistic grace is shaping this generous soul, fire does its own work. If I had some little Eucharistic retreat, I would let you know, but I still don't know anything.¹

4. Fr. Latil is afraid of the Blessed Sacrament. He's afraid that God is calling him, he wanted to give this attraction a try and be drawn in a way that satisfied him. God was silent, and he left. Don't talk to me about these people who come for themselves, and who don't find the noble and pure love of our Lord to be sufficient motivation!

5. I began the novitiate exercises today. The principal element is a daily conference on the religious and eucharistic life: then a strict application of the Rule. It will be a great deal of work for me, but with God's help, everything will be done.

6. Your candles are ordered.

7. Five days ago I went to Lyons. Fr. Chevrier wanted to see me, to examine the situation and the persons there. I stayed 24 hours and saw no one else.² I was very edified by Fr. Chevrier, who adopts the Society without any conditions and wants to give himself to it entirely. The place he rented for 6 years for 4000 francs, which one of his friends is paying for the first year, might be suitable for the chapel.

But here is the secondary question: Fr. Chevrier has the beautiful Work of First Communion, to which he has been devoting himself for several years. His house is organized to keep poor children, who are preparing for First Communion, under his care, as his own children. He keeps them two or three months according to their ability and virtue. The good he is doing is real. His work has the sympathy of everyone. We also need a work to occupy us with eucharistic zeal; otherwise in their free time, our adorers will waste their time. Everyone cannot do [priestly] ministry, and the children require an organized ministry. For my part, this work suits me. I feel that some organization would be needed in order that it always remain secondary. That work would be the condition of our being received in Lyons. In Paris, our Work of First Communion obtains for us all the support of the ecclesiastical Authority. A purely contemplative life cannot be fully eucharistic: the hearth has a flame. Now we are waiting to explain it to the Cardinal. Fr. de Serres, his nephew, is in favor of our merger. Bishop de Charbonnel and Fr. Chevrier will take the steps with His Eminence.

¹ Plans to send Fr. Leroyer. (Ed.)

² Marists, Third Order members, directees.

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8. I don't have the courage to tell you anything about Fr. Martin and the letter. I had an intuition about it for some time. Was my last letter given to him? I don't think so, because he doesn't mention it to me. I regret that you didn't give it to him today. However, you were in the situation; it was for you to judge.

Please give him these few lines. We shouldn't make a decision yet, he is professed. We must see what he will do. If he withdraws on his own, it won't be our responsibility.

If that should happen, you would then be too few. Write to me right away, and I'll send you a Brother from here.

Let's remember that *per multas tribulationes oportet nos intrare in regnum Dei*.³

My regards to all.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Don't worry about my requests to the Chancery of Nantes. I was only asking for an explanation, as I thought no Bishop had been indicated. Honor has remained untouched.

May 2	<i>Conf. SSS Novices. The novitiate is required by Holy Church as well as by the Council of Trent.</i>
	<i>Conf. 2 and 3: unavailable.</i>
	<i>Conf. 4: on Silence.</i>
May 3	<i>Conference Servants: Life of Mary in Cenacle.</i>
May 4	<i>Retreat Servants: Tepidity.</i>

1033

CO 1031

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 88/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 6, 1861

Very dear Father,

I received your registered letter.

I am very sorry about your two disappointments. You can be sure that it isn't our fault, and if it were, you would be charitable enough to cover them with mercy.

1. Three molds were broken while making your medals, enough said: the workman feels terrible. Nothing like that ever happened before! Three times the metal was defective! Finally, the fourth one was a success. They don't dare promise them for a set day; they told me, in a few days.

2. Fr. Locudent was due to arrive Saturday. I permitted him to visit his sister on the way, something needed to be settled, it was decided. What happened? I don't know.

Another time, I will try to have them be more punctual, or I will be less explicit.

What can I say! people will talk. God's will will continue, and saints will go forward nonetheless.

3. About the "Superior" matter, I haven't forgotten it. However, before applying a principle, we need the materials, and we are now few, as I am not counting at all on Fr. Dh. His father's situation will oblige him to withdraw.

³ "It behooves us to enter the kingdom of God by many tribulations."

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

Take courage! Dear Father, *bona mixta malis* (good is mixed with evil). Our Lord's honor will be stronger than any sorrow or disappointment. Your account number is 1187.

I have time only to say that I am

All yours,
Eyd.

May 7 <i>Conference Servants: We must start by love.</i>
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1034

CO 1032

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 8/14)

[Paris], May 10, 1861

⁴Hello, good and loved friend and brother!

We all want to have news about you.
Our news is the same [as usual].
Our hearts are always,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

May 19 - First Communion and Confirmation of 63 workers.

1035

CO 1033

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 89/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 20, 1861

Very dear Father,

1. Yesterday, on the feast of Pentecost, we had a consoling and magnificent First Communion and Confirmation: 63 in all.

2. Tomorrow begins the retreat of our candidates for ordination, to take place Saturday at St. Sulpice at 7:00 a.m. And as they insisted so much, I will be preaching a retreat to the candidates at Beauvais. How fortunate, if God would touch the heart of some adorer!

3. Your medals are being struck; you will have them Friday or Thursday of this week. They are very lovely.

4. Fr. Martin is in Morbihan. He wrote to me, and you can imagine about what! He wrote to me that he will enter the Trappists of Timadeuc; I do advise him to do so.

⁴A note from Fr. Eymard added to a letter from Fr. Carrie.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

5. When we have our deacons, I'll send you Fr. Locudent; I wanted to send you a Brother, and now instead of going to Marseilles, he is leaving the Society today.

Goodbye, good and dear brother. Praised be the cross! The cross saved and sanctifies us: someday it shall blossom.

All yours,
Eymard

A thousand brotherly wishes to good Fr. Leroyer and to everyone.

May 21-25 Ordination retreat at Beauvais. (The manuscript of this retreat entirely on the love of our Lord was reproduced in "Le Pretre", p. 195.)

1036

CO 1034

TO MOTHER MARIE ROSA DU COEUR DE JESUS (LEBLANC)⁵

(VI 1/3)

(Communication of Privileges)

1. Rev. Mother Marie Rose du Coeur de Jesus
2. Mother Marie-Dominique du Sacre Coeur
3. Mother Marie Thomas du Saint Sacrement
4. Mother Marie Catherine du Saint Nom de Jesus
5. Mother Marie-Agnes de la Nativite
6. Mother Marie-Philomene de la Croix

Misses: Uselding, Terrade, Darde, Caspar, Davaille, Luce, Milliante, Lanrey, Gauthier, Besson, Jourdan, Agar

We receive with joy into the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament all the above-mentioned persons, that they may participate in the indulgences of the Aggregation and in the merits of the Society.

Paris, Corpus Christi, May 29, 1861

Eymard, Sup.

⁵ Foundress of the Dominican Sisters of the Rosary. On Nov. 9, 1860, Fr. Eymard was named by the Archbishop to be director of this community.

1037

CO 1035

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 15/19)

[May, 1861]

I consent very willingly, dear daughter in our Lord, to your eucharistic vow, made annually, to be renewed annually at Corpus Christi.⁶

The matter for this vow will be your adorations determined through obedience, but in order to avoid any conscience problems, you should know that your vow is not binding when travelling, in case of illness or if you were not well enough to go out prudently; in that case you would offer your sufferings as adoration.

As for the spirit of the vow, it consists in relating all your actions to the glory of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and to make it the purpose of your life. Jesus said: Whoever eats Me, will live for Me.

Make this vow on June 1st. It will be the first eucharistic flower that you will offer to the King of love.

Eymard, Sup.

<i>Jun 1</i>	<i>Monthly Retreat Servants: Our Lord's royalty in the Blessed Sacrament.</i>
<i>Jun ?</i>	<i>Octave of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Paris.</i>

1038

CO 1036

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 31/104)

Paris, June 9, 1861

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

You are right to complain about me; not that I forgot you (I may never have prayed more for you), but my strength failed me. I had the flu, I preached a retreat at Beauvais, an Octave of the Blessed Sacrament⁷ and our First Communion for 63 children at Pentecost, and then my poor nature was a bit lazy.

I wanted to send you the written retreat; it's finished, you will have it in a few days. As for the retreat for the sisters next door, don't count on it: I think it will take place toward the end of June.

It seems that our Lord wants you to make a retreat in bed, with suffering and recollection. Well, do so in his holy will: that is the best penance and most perfect purgatory. Everything is to be put aside in illness, except union with God, a few good and frequent invocations, and patience as your Queen.

I wanted to scold you for two things: first, for your temptation to omit receiving holy Communion because of your faults and failings. Don't do that! What would become of you without Holy Communion which is your only virtue and the best one of all?

⁶ cf. July 30, 1858.

⁷ Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

The second is that you let your faults of character affect you too much. It's true that you are as they said, and you will be so again. It's the bark of the tree, the flower's protecting thorn. Please, poor daughter! Don't get too upset against poor Father Adam, because of the thorns and thistles he bequeathed to us. It keeps us humble, makes us practice patience towards ourselves, and tells us how good Jesus is!

I've just preached an Octave of the Blessed Sacrament⁸ at St. Thomas Aquinas. I finished last night, pleased to be able to speak about our good Lord and Master.

Please, don't punish me for being silent too long by doing the same to me.

I bless you in our Lord, and I am,

All yours,
Eymard

1039

CO 1037

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

(IV 13/36)

Paris, June 10, 1861

Very dear sister,

I am writing to thank you, at the end of the Royal Octave,⁹ for remembering me at first Vespers, and to tell you that, since I always think of you along the way or at the feet of our Good Lord, it's only natural to offer one common tribute to his divine love.

You must be very happy during these blessed days of paradise and your eyes must devour the sacred Host. You are right, feed on this God of love and life.

I'm told that the Eucharistic Octave¹⁰ was well attended everywhere.

It's a beautiful sun that will shine on these poor hearts of stone or wax.

Salvation is never far when we are at the feet of the Sacred Host.

I preached the Octave of the Blessed Sacrament¹¹ at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Paris, and I must admit that I was pleased to speak freely about our good Master.

I went to preach an ordination retreat at Beauvais at the Church of the Trinity, entirely on the love of our Lord. Hopefully, there will be some new sparks in these young priestly hearts, that's everything.

Eucharistic vocations are scarce. People are afraid to give themselves fully to our Lord - and those who don't come for our Lord alone, leave. Oh! Oh! I never would have believed there are so few spiritual men, especially here where love for the Eucharist should be as it was in his Cenacle!

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Octave of the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

Goodbye, dear sister, let us be faithful to our grace. I haven't heard anything about the Reparation,¹² except that Mother is better and that they are very happy with their foundation at Chalons-sur-Marne.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,

Eymard, Superior

1040

CO 1038

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 30/52)

Paris, June 10, 1861

Dear daughter in our Lord, I have been wanting to answer you for such a long time. I didn't know how to find free time to do so. I gave several retreats which absorbed a lot of my time. If my pen didn't write to tell you, my prayer followed you and constantly offers you to our Lord, you, the disciple of his Heart, whom he has adorned with so many favors on his Heart. So, if you don't know what to say at least you have much for which to thank his divine Goodness. See how great it is toward you. It is for you alone that he is in his divine Tabernacle next door. No one has more favors!

So, don't listen to that stupid idea that your presence is more dishonorable than your absence; that you would do better not to present yourself as you are in the presence of our Lord. A sleeping child who suffers, who is weakheaded, is still at home and loved in his father's house, and his presence gives pleasure to the heart that loves him.

Therefore, always go to our Lord and try to offer every aspect of yourself in detail, to adore Him especially through recollection, and at his feet; during your adoration try to set aside any thought which is foreign to adoration, however good it might be in itself, and don't worry about anyone except Jesus and yourself.

If you need to pray for your people and your affairs, if you will, keep 10 or 15 minutes for this only at the end.

Make sure to take the sleep you need. No deprivations. I find that you go to bed a bit late.

As far as organizing things, that will come little by little. You are head of the house, first of all.

Goodbye, dear daughter, always remain in the hands of divine Goodness and let yourself be led by it like a one-year-old child.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard, S.

¹²Reparatrix Sisters where Virginie once belonged and where Fr. Eymard first met her.

1041

CO 1039

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 9/14)

Paris, June 11, 1861

Dear Mr. Perret,

I am sorry I am late to thank you for the beautiful flower you sent for First Communion at Pentecost: It [the First Communion] was the most beautiful and devout of all: 40 boys, 23 young workers = 63. The Good Lord has honored us so by giving us this beautiful, beloved Work! Mr. Daus has rented near us. I am the one who found him a lovely apartment across the way with a beautiful view.

He is still in Turin. He writes that he is due to return toward the end of June. We will be good neighbors.

Fr. Chevrier from la Guillottiere has also created a work for First Communions. He would like to join us, and draw us to Lyons. Bishop Charbonnel took the responsibility to make this request to His Eminence. I don't know what the result will be, but if God wants it, it would place us on the road to Lyons among the unfortunate. - Fr. Chevrier has rented the former ballroom in the parish of St. Andre de la Guillottiere. It could hold 2000 people.

So you are working hard up there, at Sauvages? What a beautiful mission you have there, dear papa Perret. It's worth a thousand others. It's a perpetual sermon.

May God give you all the joy of the Work itself.

Your good, dear, blind woman was happy to have news about you. We will even be happier when you return.

See you soon, dear Mr. Perret.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1042

CO 1040

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 90/181 VI 4)

Paris, June 14, 1861

Very dear Father,

1. Your medals were sent by train Wednesday, you should receive them Saturday the 15th. Poor Mr. Coltat broke six dies, I have five of them as a proof. The workmen whom I saw told me that such a thing had never happened to them. The only one that held firm was the one for the Fraternity.

I don't know if he enclosed his bill.

I saw 401 francs on the account, and 1 franc in cash, that is 402.

2. I am enclosing the letter from Fr. Martin, so that you can tell me your feelings about it, and those of Fr. Leroyer.

Fr. Champion is of the opinion that we should receive him {Fr. Martin} again, because of his repentance, the admission of his fault and also because he didn't commit any fault in the Society which deserves a dismissal, except for his recent guilty conduct.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

The Rule also says: *Pateant illi semper viscera misericordiae*.¹³

3. About the local Superior. I think we should adopt the common rule of other Communities, and the spirit of the Church which is to name them for three years. At least, it gives time to be formed and fulfill a serious administration.

4. I still have the cassock of Fr. Locudent. I'm expecting the cousin of the Mlles. Bourges to bring it. I don't think he has left yet; he had promised me to bring it.

Nothing new here, the material situation of Fr. Dh is still the same, he can't stay because of his father.

I preached the octave for the feast of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Thomas Aquinas, at 8:00 at night. It was the first one we preached in Paris, it was sufficiently well attended.

My most heartfelt greetings to all the Fathers and Brothers.

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

1043

CO 1041

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 32/104)

Paris, June 17, 1861

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I'm sending you the little retreat I promised you via the Nantes railroad. I hope you will like it, but you will need to have it copied and return the manuscript to me which belongs to the Ladies for their retreat which begins Sunday night. (They don't know that I am sending it to you.) - My opinion is that you shouldn't follow it, because, as it will be on religious life, your soul wouldn't be fed on it. It's better to wait until you are stronger, and make one which would be more personal: your soul will find its grace of attraction more easily that way.

I will be very happy to see you again in Paris, dear Lady. It has been so long since I've seen you! If the Good Lord wills that I should help you once again I will be even happier.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

1044

CO 1042

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

(I 91/181 VI 4)

Paris, June 18, 1861

Very dear Father,

I am waiting to hear your views before answering Fr. Martin. I will continue to wait until Friday morning. For my part, I lean toward mercy, because he is repentant and his departure was the result of temptation rather than crime. So, shouldn't the Society be merciful? It wouldn't be worthy of its Master otherwise! That's my feeling. Dear Father, please tell me yours.

¹³ "Let them show him profound mercy."

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

About your resignation, I keep in mind the violent reaction you have to the burden of Superiorship.

However, with your hand on your conscience, and the honor and love of the Master whom you serve in the balance, tell me whether it isn't a temptation. May God forbid that I would shorten your life and impose an impossible burden upon you! I love you too much to place such an obligation upon you.

So therefore, I am expecting a word from your charity, and soon.

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

1045

CO 1043

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 33/104)

Paris, June 21, 1861

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

In spite of our mutual desire to see you participate in this retreat, I believe that it is better to wait, first, until you are stronger and I am freer to see you. I would hardly have time to see you. - I imagine that my manuscript has reached you by now.

I've just accepted to preach the novena for the Sacred Heart of Jesus at St. Sulpice, from July 5th to the 14th. - If you are in Paris, you may come, but it wouldn't be worth a brief meditation at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament.

Please! Dear Lady, be consoled by hoping for more than all that.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. They are asking me for information about an institute of agriculture that you have near Nantes, at Grand-Juan. Is it moral, religious, proper? A family distinguished both by its nobility and its piety would like to place two of its sons there.

1046

CO 1044

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 119/145 VI 10)

Paris, June 22, 1861

Very dear sisters,

I received your registered letter and your banner is completely paid. I am glad that you liked it. I'll see about the flowers so that you may have them for Notre Dame d'Aout.

Please forward these little notes to their respective addresses. There was no way to have lodging for your friend's mother-in-law, Mme. Jouardet-Morel. She did not meet the requirements.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

I would also like to find a place for Miss Seymat who sacrificed herself for her family. I am hoping.

I am well, my good sisters, don't worry about me. I have a good doctor, it is our Lord. We are all well here; no doctor has ever had to come here to care for any patient. The Women are fine, I will give them their annual retreat next week.

May Jesus bless you and fill you with his graces and gifts.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

Spiritual Teachings 1861

<i>Jun 23</i>	<i>Annual Retreat Servants: 1st Meditation - Death to self, the eucharistic life.</i>
<i>Jun 24</i>	<i>1st Meditation - A servant of the Blessed Sacrament was created for our Lord. Conference: Recollection of grace and virtue. 2nd Meditation - Eucharistic vocation (Jesus Christ your purpose, vocation of love).</i>
<i>Jun 25</i>	<i>1st Meditation - Our Lord wants you entirely for himself, only for himself, always for himself. Conference: On silence. 2nd Meditation - We must honor our Lord Jesus Christ, dead and living, in the Blessed Sacrament.</i>
<i>Jun 26</i>	<i>1st Meditation - State of death of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Model of our death, vows. Conference: On solitude. 2nd Meditation - The state of victimhood of our Lord on the altar.</i>
<i>Jun 27</i>	<i>1st Meditation - The eucharistic humility of body, mind, heart, will. Conference: On modesty. 2nd Meditation - Public instruction at the chapel.</i>
<i>Jun 28</i>	<i>1st Meditation - On meekness. Conference: Poverty of our Lord in the Eucharist. 2nd Meditation - Obedience of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.</i>
<i>Jun 29</i>	<i>1st Meditation - Risen life of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Conference: We must work for perfection with strength in the humility of love. 2nd Meditation - We must not dwell on ourselves but on our Lord.</i>
<i>Jun 30</i>	<i>Closing. Vows, recollection, union with the Blessed Virgin. Employments. To a novice - presentation of our Lady in the Temple. Profession.</i>

1047

CO 1045

TO MME. DE COUCHIES (NEE RATTIER)
(VII 2/9)

Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 2, 1861

Dear Madame,

I am very late [to respond to] your charity and I owe you so much gratitude. First, I want to thank you for the flower designs you sent with your friend. I will tell our Lord that they are yours.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

I am happy about the good news from Lantignie. Dear Lady, you deserved this grace from Heaven. Charity is always rewarded on earth. I am praying for this first fruit¹⁴ of God's goodness upon them and today, the day of the sanctification of St. John, I will pray even more for dear Mme. Blanche.

I found someone who fills the needs expressed by Miss Sterlingue: a young man who has many qualities: 21 years old, he writes well, intelligent, he is already familiar with commerce. As he always lived with his family, he is presently free. He is in Lyons. But Mademoiselle would need to pay for his trip. I believe it would cost 30-35 francs.

Please ask her right away if she wants him. We wrote to ask him whether he would accept. I know his family well. I knew him as a young man. I believe he is responsible, and he would have to be, knowing that I have found this position for him.

My fondest respects to your fine and beloved family. Fr. Michel¹⁵ also presents his.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

1048

CO 1046

TO MR. JULES DE LISA

(U 1)¹⁶

*(seal of the Congregation: Adveniat Regnum tuum,
Societas SS Sacramenti around the monstrance)*

Paris, July 3, 1861

Dear friend,¹⁷

In order to spare you part of the journey, I will go to wait for you in the Church of St. Genevieve, in the afternoon. Everything is ready at quai d'Orsay 106. I am happy to arrange for you for this little scientific outing for you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mr. Jules de Lisa
Student of the Polytechnical School
Paris

¹⁴A grandchild.

¹⁵Fr. Michel Chanuet, her daughter's brother-in-law.

¹⁶U = unavailable in current collections of letters.

¹⁷Mr. de Lisa was a former student of the College of Ste. Marie de la Seyne where he had met Fr. Eymard. The church of St. Genevieve mentioned here is now the Pantheon. The building had been given for Catholic worship in 1853 and was then called the National Basilica of St. Genevieve - until 1855. It is not clear, however, what was meant by a "little scientific outing." (literally: pleasure.) Fr. Andre Guitton.

1049

CO 1047

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 92/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 8, 1861

Dear Father,

1. Your registered letter arrived safely. Thanks.
2. We are waiting for your Abb Palmuro. He will be well received, since you are sending him.
3. Fr. Hermann told us about the death of Miss Manin, urging us to say many Masses and have a few services, etc.

We said a few Masses here. I suspect you did as much in Marseilles.

4. May our Lord bless Mr. Olive and make his heart overflow!
5. We saw Bishop Cruice today,¹⁸ with Brother Carri; he was happy to receive your letter, he received us very well, he is enchanted with the Adoration at Marseilles, he seems to have fatherly feelings for Marseilles. I don't think Marseilles has lost anything.

Nothing new here.

Please express a thousand and one fond and eucharistic wishes to the Fathers and Brothers.

Everyone embraces you *in osculo santo*.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

July 12-20 Preached the Solemn Novena of the Sacred Heart at St. Sulpice. cf Doc. 1052.

Jul 16	Conference Servants: Explanation of the Rule. What is the Rule.
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1050

CO 1048

TO MISS ZENAIDE BLANC DE ST. BONNET
(VII 1/5 V 3)

Paris, July 17, 1861

Mademoiselle,

I was waiting to receive your letter before writing to you, in order to have a more specific starting point.

To begin, do not be afraid to be too long, that would be a little laziness. Then, write your thoughts just as they are at the time. Nature and grace both come together spontaneously and not under observation.

You love God, that is sure; you are submissive to the will of God, that is the right path, the royal path. God has kept your heart, that is the greatest grace of your life; now you want to be entirely his. Well! we will help you fulfill this noble task.

¹⁸ The new Bishop, successor of Bishop de Mazenod.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

I thought I noticed your love and need for freedom. Consequently, we could fear the temptation and fault of independence, even spiritual independence, consequently: a fearfulness of grace, virtue's imperfections, little sacrifices and also, as regards your duty or expectations, a desire to get your work done, in order to be free later. I say that this could become a natural temptation, but you should not worry about it.

The key principle you must follow in your whole life, Mademoiselle, must be to do the known Holy Will of God with a willing heart. You can know it either through duty, or by circumstances, as well as by the interior light of his grace. As for the future, maintain the attitude of accomplishing with a willing heart whatever the Holy Will of God will ask from you in its own time.

That is the best focus of life you could have - from which you must not stray - your love of freedom will find vitality there, and your love for God [will find] its rule and perfection.

We must also be devoted to duty, that is, determined to accomplish faithfully your ordinary practices of devotion.

In another letter, please tell me what your ordinary practices of devotion are, because we must begin by determining our spiritual schedule and keep to it as a condition of health.

Then, we must follow it through our love of duty, without any other hope of consolation, because this motive can be just as strong. Maintain the holy joy of trust in God in your heart. You need it - I believe, you already have it.

We will pray for that sick woman, in order that you may have some relief.

Sr. Benoitte, brother Michel [Chanuet]¹⁹ - also ask to be remembered to you and offer you their religious respects, as I do.

Therefore, Mademoiselle, I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

1051

CO 1049

TO MISS ADELE JULHIEN
(VII 1/2)²⁰

Paris, July 18, 1861

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

I am finally sending you the certification of your miracle.²¹ I would have done so sooner, but I didn't know where to find your doctor. Then also, I was fearful, since he didn't know me.

So you are going to the Holy Mountain! May our Lord lead you there and fill you with his abundant blessings of love! You are his, he is yours. The Holy Cross makes you one; it is the bond of your covenant. May God be glorified by it and bless you. Carry it well, live as if you had none. Love loves the Cross and gives it another name, the name of surrendered love.

Your state of darkness and pure faith is the best one for you, since God's love has chosen it for you. This state frees the soul from every earthly bond, every natural feeling, of all self-pride, to become totally dependent on his grace and his love. The peace and calm you experience, Mademoiselle, are a sure proof that you are in a good state, and that God is pleased with you. Therefore, continue this way as long as it pleases the goodness of God to leave you in it. The will of God is the royal path of love.

¹⁹ Her brother's brother-in-law.

²⁰ At Marseilles.

²¹ She was cured miraculously by Our Lady of La Salette.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

Keep your soul in constant thanksgiving, it is most pleasing to our Lord, the most refreshing for the heart. Turn everything into thanksgiving, because everything is a grace, everything can be praise of God. But if you want to be the beloved disciple of our Lord's heart, do as I tell you!

Go to his heart by pure love. Pure love is the flame which rises and emanates from the hearth without turning back. It moves toward its goal.

Pure love is the Angel who loves God without looking at itself, or does so only to give back to God what it has received from him.

Let this Good Master turn you to and fro as he likes, and be content with God's contentedness. You no longer belong to yourself, nor have you for a long time. Therefore, the Good Lord must be your Master to do what he wills with you.

Remember that the soul is never quite the same; God is always leading it to a new state, in order that its love may always be new. So, look at God within you and follow him.

Goodbye, dear Miss Julhien, I hope that you will not be upset with me in Heaven; and if you come to Paris, you will find me here.

Your ever devoted in our Lord,
Eymard, SS

<i>Jul 19</i> <i>Conference Servants: The service of love.</i>
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July 20 – At St. Sulpice conclusion of the preached novena on the Eucharistic Heart.

1052

CO 1051

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 14/36)

Paris, July 20, 1861

Very dear sister in our Lord,

I received your Masses and those of your fine priest. Thank him for me. They are being said as you wish. We began them right away. I always keep the Tuesday Mass for myself, and I always say it with joy.

I saw your friend; she struck me as belonging truly to our Lord and to the Work of thanksgiving. This friend is very dedicated to you. Please God that our Lord could count them by the thousands! I received a fine letter from the Superior of the Ursulines at Quimper, thanks to you. Thank you. I plan to write to her.

I've just preached the solemn novena of the Sacred Heart at St. Sulpice. You can imagine that I spoke especially about the eucharistic Heart of our Lord. It is alive only there and in Heaven!

I spoke of his love, of human ingratitude, of the few faithful and dedicated souls who give themselves entirely to him.

See, dear daughter, people act in religious matters just as they do in worldly finances; a budget is set in advance and they don't want to exceed what is determined. That's the worst kind of servant.

Write to Mme. Lepage at Rennes for me; she is a beautiful person. Get to know her and become her friend in our Lord.

Goodbye; my affectionate regards to Fr. Levoyer.

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

1053

CO 1052

TO MR. ROSEMBERG AND FAMILY
(VII 4/9)

Paris, July 20, 1861

I wanted to send you a letter with the friends from Tours, I couldn't.

Thank you for your kind letter, I knew everything. We must pray and pity that poor mother [allusion to Mme. Lafont, from Tours]. If she were to be judged on her words, she would be judged very strictly; but, alas! She is speaking like a woman of the world, like a frustrated mother, who is taking measures she may regret someday.

I informed her of her duties, and her daughter's rights of conscience. We can only pray. I left you out of it, as is only right: see what poor nature is like!

Well! Good papa Rosemberg! The month of August will soon be here? Your room²² and our hearts are waiting for you. You know that you are at home here.

My regards to your whole family. May God bless you all!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SS

My expression of friendship to good papa Dupont, to good mother Marceau.

<i>Jul 22</i>	<i>Conference Servants: The hidden life - the vows.</i>
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1054

CO 1053

DOCUMENTS OF LA SALETTE
(VIII 2/4)²³

Testimony to the cure of Miss JULHIEN (which took place on October 25th 1856)

I, the undersigned, Superior of the Priests of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Paris, certify the event which follows, in honor of Our Lady of la Salette for the cure of Miss Adele Julhien, of Marseilles. This young lady, who had been ill for a long time, had come to Paris seeking, in medical science, some relief from her very severe sufferings. But the science of the most eminent men in the capital was useless. The illness grew worse, and became so serious that they declared all remedies to be of no avail. That was the last word on life and death. Miss Julhien received this news like a spouse of Jesus, wishing to be reunited with the one she preferred to all others.

She asked for the Last Sacraments. Father Lance administered them; she was calm and collected, as all around were weeping. She seemed to have only a breath of life left, and the doctor had said that she would pass away in a moment of crisis.

²² Literally: cell.

²³ The copy-manuscript is in the Archives of the Missionaries of Notre Dame de la Salette, Rome, No. 402, Vol. IV, item 645).

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

I arrived at that moment, as they had sent for me for fear that Fr. Lance might not get there in time. It was then that I said to the sick woman that Heaven was indeed very beautiful and desirable, but we must still work for the glory of God, and that she should join us in a novena to Our Lady of la Salette to ask for a complete cure, and promise to go (to la Salette) on pilgrimage. She agreed, and we chose the prayers we were to say. I gave her some miraculous water from the fountain. We must point out that Miss Adele, at first, had no confidence in Our Lady of la Salette. This confidence came to her only on the third day. Then, she was filled with hope, and assured all those present that she would be cured at the end of the novena.

The ninth day, indeed, was to be a blessed day for the patient and her friends. Holy Communion was brought to her for the second time, while everyone was saying to themselves "Poor girl! it will be her last." She had only a breath of life left; she was still consumed by a constant, burning fever. But - what grace! What joy in the household! Miss Adele was cured.

After she gave thanks, there was no more fever, no more pain; it was like a resurrection. I arrived at this point and found the sick lady up, free of pain; rather, joyful and talking constantly of the goodness of Our Lady of la Salette. She was indeed cured, and she left almost immediately for Marseilles. The cure had its proof of constancy and will always have proof of gratitude. How good Mary is!

(Here, the seal of the
SOCIETAS S.S. SACRAMENTI)

Paris, July 24, 1861
Eymard, Sup. Soc. S.S.

<i>Jul 22</i>	<i>Conference Servants: The hidden life; the vows.</i>
<i>Jul 26</i>	<i>Conference Servants: The gift of self.</i>

1055

CO 1054

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 93/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 26, 1861

Very dear Father,

I am writing to greet you briefly, and to say that everything is fine here. Every day we follow the eucharistic clock, our duties are always the same, and we always experience the same joy in fulfilling them.

In the world it is vacation time. So we don't see anyone, nor are there any vocations on the horizon. Everyone is running or wants to run. But the Bodyguard remains in place.

I am working as much as I can on the Manual. I am interrupted so often and so busy, that it is going slowly. Then also, my head is often empty.

The designs I sent you can be used with wax. The one with exposition can also be used as a dry seal. See for yourself.

Please give this letter to Fr. Locudent. Everyone embraces you and loves you. - Silence from Lyons.

Goodbye, dear Father.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

P.S. The Marziou affair is still not yielding anything.²⁴ There are great hopes for it. The Gazomotor is very popular. They say that your money will bring you significant profit some day. That's all I know for now.

Rev. Father de Cuers,
Superior of the Blessed Sacrament
7, Rue Nau
Marseilles

1056

CO 1055

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 37/75)

Paris, August 4, 1861

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

You must think that I am either sick or dead; a bit sick. I was not well after preaching responsibilities which were too much for my strength.²⁵ In this condition I neither had the taste nor the strength to write; all I could do was cough. My cough is a bit better. The rest is the same as usual; what I mean is, that I am doing as much as everyone else.

The more I go, the more Paris keeps me busy and robs me of all that I have. You know what this city of Paris is like.

Congratulations! You went to Notre Dame de La Salette! Beautiful and holy trip! The soul is closer to Heaven, and feels that it is there with its good Mother.

Surely, you took a supply of both waters - the miraculous water and the living water of God's love. You need it so! Alone, and as alone as you are! you must necessarily belong totally to God. Otherwise you would be sad and without resources.

It's a grace when we must find our happiness in God alone.

Yes, yes, be very charitable toward the one whom God has given you²⁶ to lead to Heaven; that is your mission and your Cross of virtue.

Spare some time for God to contemplate his goodness. You need it now more than ever, in order to attach yourself to it more strongly.

Have no more of those little passions of this passing world, of creatures who slip away. Leave all that aside, and I bless you. They are calling for me.

Goodbye.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Aug 9	Conf. SSS novices: <i>Our Spirit</i> .
Aug 9	Conference Servants: <i>The spirit of the society (2 talks)</i> .
Aug 13, 20	Conference Servants: <i>The spirit of love and sacrifice</i> .

²⁴ A financial investment.

²⁵ Novena of the Sacred Heart at St. Sulpice.

²⁶ Her husband.

1057

CO 1056

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET (NEE CROZET) (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(III 1/3 VII 17)

Paris, August 16, 1861

Good Mother,

I am sending you Brother Michel. You will be his Superior and his mother, and he will obey you well. Yes, yes, he will bring you the blessings of his position and of the whole Society as well, because you have also become our mother through him, since he is our brother! How happy he is! and would one not be so, at the foot of the throne of the God of all love? He has given up so much, but in Jesus Hostia he has found Jesus Christ entirely and all his loved ones as well! Good Brother Michel! you all loved him so much, that makes me happy! And you, good mother, what are you doing? Your first letter told me about your natural struggles, your second letter told me about your struggles of virtue. I will not answer about the first struggle, because you answered them a hundred times over yourself. This world is a mystery; it shows me God's respect for human freedom, even for evil people. And so I remember the words of Abraham to the rich man: "My son, you have received and enjoyed the goods of this life."

Lazarus had only sufferings!

Oh! blessed are the sufferings of Lazarus! The cross of Jesus! this cross which was a scandal for the Jews and foolishness for pagans!

The second struggle is better; I like [its] sadness, it is a grace; it has saved you, good mother. What makes one very guilty before God is the enjoyment of the goods and pleasures of this world as an end in themselves. You have enjoyed, are enjoying, and will enjoy nothing other than God alone. Dear mother! don't become too heavy-hearted about the difficulties and sadness of this life.

Let God hold its secret solution; that sadness could prevent recollection. Go a little more often to the feet of our good Master! Oh! yes, I would like to see you here in Paris for a long stay! And if I go to Marseilles in the fall, I will try to go and greet you when I pass by, because your house is a very comforting Bethany.

Goodbye dear mother. Pray for me. Pray for us all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

1058

CO 1057

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 1/15)

Paris, August 16, 1861

Dear Mr. Amedee,

Brother Michel is happy to come see you.²⁷ I rejoice over the happiness he will bring you and the blessing he will bear to your house and upon your family.

I would have been happy to come with him, to repay your kind visits and those of your dear, fine wife, but it is impossible for the moment. If I could steal one or two days on my return from

²⁷ His brother.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

Marseilles, I would go see you. How happy I would be to bless little Amedee Chanuet who was sent from Heaven to replace his uncle!

Goodbye, good and dear Mr. Amedee, my fond regards to Madame Blanche. May she have courage and confidence.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1059

CO 1058

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

(I 94/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 22, 1861²⁸

Very dear Father,

I waited to do all your errands before writing to you, and also to find a good moment to do so.

1. Bishop Cruice, whom I was able to see only yesterday, will go to visit your chapel on Monday the 2nd. As for the precise time, he couldn't be specific. He must make all his principal visits on that day. You will need to speak with his Vicar General to know his schedule or find some other channel. The Bishop didn't promise to preach; I understand his difficulty.

2. I saw Mr. Gondon and I gave him money which he badly needed. I was pleased with him and edified by his manner in church, where he went of his own accord. He has had great difficulties; he promised me to come back. I'll try to probe the wound, if there is one. I would like to believe there isn't.

3. Your lovely cruet has been fixed, it cost 8 francs. We had to have a special crystal glass made, and then have all the joints taken apart.

4. When your money arrived, it was immediately applied to its purpose. Since the order for candles had already been made as usual, I don't know whether they can change the forms.

5. It would surely be a great joy to go see you, but I cannot do so at this time. Fr. Dh is leaving us tomorrow, we will be only two priests left, and I am stealing every free moment I can to bring things to a close.

I'll write to Fr. Leroyer soon; the mail is leaving; I am short of time, thank him for me.

1060

CO 1059

TO MOTHER MARIE ROSA OF THE HEART OF JESUS

(VI 2/3)

Paris, August 22, 1861

Dear Reverend Mother,

A few days ago I received the reply from his Eminence concerning your community. It is bad news, very bad news! He does not wish to authorize either the profession of vows or taking the habit. In other words, he does not wish to give you his approval.

Fr. le Rebours, to whom his Eminence gave the unpleasant duty to tell me about this painful trial, added that his Eminence did not wish to take away your habit immediately, but will leave you

²⁸ Perhaps the 23rd, according to Troussier.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

some time to choose a course of action if you wish to enter or be joined with some community. But the matter has been decreed and will not be revoked, that the Dominican Sisters in Nancy are sufficient for the Third Order of St. Dominic.

That, dear Reverend Mother, is the sad news I have been carrying for several days, making me complain to God, as I think of the sorrow it will cause you and your good, dear daughters. What does our Lord want? You must lift up your hearts and eyes to the One whom you have chosen and followed, and ask him what you must now do, and whether you should now move somewhere else. Often, what we think is a calamity is a blessing and a life-giving grace. Ah yes! God knows of my concern for you, and you deserve it indeed. And so I pray, with tears, for you and for all your daughters.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Mother.

Your most devoted,
Eymard, Sup.

Aug 23	<i>Conference Servants: Dangers to avoid in the practice of sacrifice.</i>
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1061

CO 1060

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)

(VII 7/17)

Paris, August 24, 1861

Yes, dear Mother, keep your dear son until Wednesday or Thursday. It's only right that you should enjoy him a little. Although he is a Priest, he will always be your son, and in heaven you will have a mother's rights.

Dear Mother, I only have time to say that I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Remember me to your dear beloved family.

Mme. Chanuet (widow)
at Lantignie, via Beaujeu
(Rhone)

Aug 27 -	<i>Conference Servants: Spirit of sacrifice. Explanation of the Rule.</i>
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Sept. 1 *Received in the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart at St. Sulpice.*

<i>Sep 3</i>	<i>Conference Servants: The Eucharistic service.</i>
<i>Sep 7</i>	<i>Retreat Servants: Our Lord's eucharistic life.</i>
<i>Sep 10</i>	<i>Conference Servants: To please - not displease in the service of our Lord.</i>

1062

CO 1061

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 95/181 VI 4)

Paris, September 10, 1861

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your long letters, they made me very happy. I see that you are ever the friend, brother and religious who agrees on one fundamental point: the service of the Most Blessed Sacrament. We will always be so, on questions of what is good or better.

I read the beautiful thoughts of Fr. Leroyer with great joy and affection; they [spring from] the heart of the Society. But I will come back on that tomorrow or the next day, and also about the big question of the letters.

Today I have time only for two things:

1. About Mr. Gondon, I have seen him 5 or 6 times since. He seemed to me to be good and spiritual; I saw him go to the chapel on his own and he prayed to our Lord with great piety and reverence; he didn't know I could see him or that I knew he was there. We talked about practical matters, I think he is fine. But his brother must come to his help; he is in the greatest poverty; he doesn't know how he will live out the day. I cannot advance any money to him; I don't have any; the 200 francs were turned in and used immediately for outstanding debts; please speak to his brother about him. He expects to receive some compensation from the government soon, which would bail him out.

2. The second thing: Please write to Fr. Hermann yourself. Our correspondence hasn't gone any further with him. His last letter was a bit Jewish.

He is an old friend of yours. You would please me a great deal to liberate me from that letter. Wholehearted regards to all.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

1063

CO 1062

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 34/104)

Paris, September 10, 1861

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I had the consolation to see your dear fine sister. It would have been complete if you had been there, because it has been so long since I've seen you! And then you were ill, you are still suffering; often the soul suffers more than the body. Poor daughter! the cross of Jesus is your lot; but his love is your strength. Therefore, be great in love in order to be greater than your cross is, stronger than death itself.

Your fear of receiving holy Communion keeps coming back. Please, dear daughter, be without fear toward your Good Lord and good Father. Use your very failings as a right of entry, at his feet like Magdalen, at his table with the poor. Reject all your fears of sinfulness: it's a remnant of an old fever which you must cut short through the virtue of holy Obedience. Be at peace! your soul picks up the dust from the road as all travelers do, but it has neither mortal nor serious wounds.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

So also, I would love to see you calmer in the storm, more gentle in frustrations, more silent in times of emotion! But if your nature is quicker than grace, your feelings faster than your awareness, don't torture yourself about it; it will be the penitential vestment you must wear peacefully without being too angry with yourself. Thorns are good, they keep rash hands away, and protect the flowers of the rose. Well, occasionally thank God for your external faults which humiliate you, and then go peacefully to receive him.

I don't have the last letter yet, but I don't want you to copy it yourself, it's too tiring; have others do it for you.

I don't know when I'll be away from Paris. Toward the end of this month or at the beginning of next month, I must go preach a retreat to the Benedictines of la Pierre-qui-Vire; I'll let you know in advance. Goodbye, dear daughter. Pray for the one who is,

In our Lord,
Devotedly yours,
Eymard, S

<i>Sep 13</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Explanation of the Rule. Detachment.</i>
<i>Sep 17</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Death to self. Reign of our Lord.</i>
<i>Sep 20</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Transformation.</i>

1064

CO 1063

TO MOTHER MARIE ROSA OF THE HEART OF JESUS

(VI 3/3)

Paris, September 20, 1861

Dear Reverend Mother,

Now the priest's retreat is over. May I suggest an idea to you: that I go myself to see his Eminence and ask him to give you one more term, which would give you time to settle somewhere, and to get some benefit from the beginning of your school year which is very promising, and thus pay off some urgent debts.

I hope I may obtain something, even if only from Fr. de Rebours, who is too honorable and conscientious not to perform this charity for you. For you must remember that as you are at present you are still under the power of authority, and you could be warned to give up your habit at a day's notice. How then can you live in peace under the weight of such uncertainty? Whereas if we can get a set time, you will be untroubled and at peace.

But I cannot go to see Monsignor without a letter from you to present to his Eminence, and this letter must state: that you asked me to ask his Eminence to grant you another year of waiting; that at the end of this new term you will either remove the habit or leave the diocese; that you are not asking for a revocation of the decision which has been made, only that you be granted a year of grace, as you are unable to leave at the moment without great disadvantage to yourselves and your creditors.

That is my idea, dear Reverend Mother. Think about it and decide. I think it is perhaps the only thing we can do, and even so I cannot be sure of its success. I pray continually for you and your dear community.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 96/181 VI 4)

Paris, September 21, 1861

Very dear Father,

Here I am, all for you, as I wanted to have enough time to write you a long letter.

I am adding the task of Latin teacher to my other occupations, since Fr. Dh is not here; that takes a brief hour each day. I am happy to do it while waiting for something better.

Fr. Champion was very happy to send you the first copy of the book of Fr. de Machault on the Eucharist. He wrote to you about his wine, we will talk about it again. He says that it's difficult to take care of; the answer to that is, difficulty is not impossibility. He is having a beautiful Roman Missal printed; we are now definitely using the holy Roman Liturgy in Paris; that was certainly due to the Most Blessed Sacrament.

About the Carthusian postulant. I haven't received any information about him yet from the Chartreuse. I wouldn't want to write to his Archbishop until there is some hope that he has a vocation, because it is delicate and a bit humiliating to ask for information on temporary candidates. Keep him awhile yet, because if the Chartreuse dismissed him as inept, or flighty, he shouldn't be received.

I am of the opinion that we shouldn't receive any candidate who was sent away for "non vocation": that's always a bad sign.

If our Lord gave him a vocation, I would make him a professor here. But since that's only an employment, and not a vocation, we should be sure about the first question; whether he has good health, whether he is pious, whether he has good will, loves the eucharistic life, has a good spirit. If so, we will know how to use him well in the service of our Good Master.

I really would like to have something to offer you for good Fr. Leroyer. I have nothing, nor do I foresee anything for the moment. If I knew where to find it, I would let you know, but the Master must be the first to open the door.

As I reread your letter, I see that it was the night-rising which provoked the departure of the Carthusian novice (whose name you didn't mention). Then, the question is settled. Here we rise at night, you will do it, and all will do it. Therefore, we cannot go any further until we are sure about the application of that point.

I'm very happy about your brother's return to confession. In the service of the Eucharist, it's impossible to stay very long at a distance from God, with a soiled conscience.

Think about getting the volumes of Fr. Machault's books and to return the duplicate which was mixed with the others.

I really enjoyed what you told me about the way to proceed: it's only right. However, God showed you and me that we must pass through trials and we cannot always see very clearly.

I know very well that I lack many qualities a Superior should have, that what your charity calls being good-natured is rather my weakness of character and a fault. I deplore it, and if it were God's will, I would give up ever being a Superior at this very moment in order to do the kitchen, or the least employment of the house, and do so happily. It isn't that I am discouraged; no, no. I humble myself about it before God; besides, I need that. It's necessary that you should know, dear Father, and all the others, too, that it isn't because of my qualities, nor of my virtues, that the Society functions, but by the pure grace of God, and that I only spoil everything.

The experience that I had with people and the active religious life is totally deficient for this present life. A contemplative life is an ever-present mirror where nothing is unnoticed, where nature constantly breaks out on its perpetual Calvary. Oh! How often I say to our Lord: please

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

send the right Superior! For myself, I am only bad manure for the tree, or an old foundation stone, which should be hidden.

My regards to good Fr. Locudent and to the Brothers. I will be very happy to go see you, as soon as the Master's service here will be assured: that will be the sign.

You really ought to have a scale for your letters. Your last one required a 16 cents surcharge.

As the Superior really needs prayers, here, after the rosary, we add an Our Father and a Hail Mary for the intentions of the Father Superior and those recommended to our prayers. I urge you to do the same; at least it will be a prayer of gratitude as well as of charity.

Goodbye, dear Father.

All yours,
Eymard

1066

CO 1065

TO MME. BLANC DE SAINT BONNET (NEE CHANUET)^{29 30}
(VIII 1/1 VII 1)

Paris, Sept. 21, 1861

... to communicate. As for your interior dispositions, and love of God, you should not examine them - that would be like being your own guide and judging your own Communion. Rather, you must go to our Lord through a feeling of need, of desire, of hunger for him. That, dear Lady, is the best possible preparation for you.

Use the comforts proper to your position and state, without worrying over mortification or penance - that would be a temptation. You must do those which the Good Lord sows on your path - that's enough; and even there, don't make it a great issue or a concern. You owe all your attention to God, with the power of your love. Don't divide it.

There now: sleep on the bosom of divine Providence. Let yourself be guided, carried and fed by it, and you will be always well provided for.

Goodbye, dear Sister. I leave you in the arms of our kind Mother - ever watchful, ever loving, ever protecting.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

<i>Sep 24</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Solitude.</i>
<i>Sep 27</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Happiness in the Eucharistic vocation.</i>

²⁹ Fragment of a letter – The original is preserved in the SSS House in VIENNE GUMPENDORF.

³⁰ It is not clear whether this is to the mother or the wife of Mr. Blanc de St. Bonnet.

1067

CO 1066

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

(V 42/76)

Paris, September 29, 1861

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I have just finished reading your letter. I was busy until now with unexpected things.

1. You can help the fine young man according to your resources, more rather than less. It's an ecclesiastical charity.

2. You could have had your customary Masses said. In practice, be more generous than fearful, consult reason, propriety, the grace of the moment.

The peace you are experiencing is the fruit of obedience and the divine seal of God's pleasure.

Dear daughter, be available to everyone and to God's good pleasure in everything.

I'm sorry that I couldn't write to your dear daughter. I will do so when I return from a ten day retreat which I am going to preach tomorrow.

I bless you wholeheartedly.

Eymard

1068

CO 1067

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET

(VII 10/14)

Paris, September 29, 1861

Dear Mr. Perret,

I had to sacrifice the charming journey to Sauvages, in response to your gracious invitation.

I was scheduled to preach 40 hours today and I am leaving tomorrow for La Pierre-qui-vire where I will give the retreat to the religious for a week. If only you were there! I will see your beautiful works,³¹ your lovely stations of the cross. And so, dear Sir, do you have a mission for the Way of the Cross? It's beautiful, since it leads to heaven; but be careful you may one day be crucified.

Mr. Daus has not arrived yet. I think he may have stopped in Lyons to greet you and may have had the joy of seeing your beautiful ceremony.

Everyone misses you here, also your good, devout, blind woman.

Goodbye, dear Mr. Perret, and remember your old friends who love you.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard, Superior

³¹ Mr. Perret was an architect.

1069

CO 1068

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC

(VIII 26/26 VII 17)

(L & S)

Paris, Sept. 29, 1861

Mademoiselle and dear sister,

If I were capable of feeling resentful on account of your silence, your kind, friendly letter would have done what the sun does on the morning fog. No, no, it's impossible, after such a past, to be indifferent in the future. I forgive your pen, your tardiness, - attribute it to the good intentions of one who is lazy.

You were gracious to make the enormous sacrifice of the bulletin. That equals a great victory, and the Lord has rewarded you well.

Don't worry about your restitutions: I have taken charge of that and I set you free of it - you have nothing else to do nor to give in that regard. So, no more fears.

And no more scruples about your Communions - I assure you that they have been, and are, good; I don't say perfect, but profitable and most helpful to your soul.

I should very much like to have a third House in Lyons. It nearly came to pass, but the Good Lord has put it aside for now.

Well, don't let such a long time go by, forgetting that the pen needs to express the heart's thoughts and feelings.

I leave you now, in our Lord, to go and preach.

All yours,

Eymard, Sup.

<i>Oct 1-8 Retreat to the Benedictines of La Pierre-qui-Vire.</i>
--

1070

CO 1069

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

(I 97/181 VI 4)

La Pierre-qui-Vire, October 8, 1861

Very dear Father,

I am at the Benedictines of Pierre-qui-Vire, I am very edified by their lifestyle; I had been wanting to see them at close hand for a long time.

God provided me with this grace very providentially. The Father Superior, whom I had seen in Rome and with whom I had become friendly, came to ask me to give a few days of retreat to their community. That's what I'm doing. Fr. Dh is replacing me for a few days in Paris.

Here I met the Master of Novices of the Grande Chartreuse. He gave me very specific information about your candidate. Well, he should be sent away immediately. He made vows with the Jesuits, he had made vows a few days previous to his independent decision to leave the Chartreuse, in spite of his vows. He was with the famous Rosmini, I believe that is the name, who

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

strayed away from doctrine for a time. I had written to the Chartreuse, but Providence came through even better.

I also received information about the young priest from Verdun, who was in Marseilles and who is asking for admission in Paris; this is better. He left because of fatigue. However, he will need to be studied closely.

I'm leaving here Wednesday and I'll return to Paris, where I hope to find a letter from you.

I am in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

1071

CO 1070

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE (NEE DE MONTAGU)

(V 1/52)

Paris, October 17, 1861

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

May our gentle Lord fill you with his blessings and fill your poor heart with his ardent and powerful love!

I understand that you are suffering greatly in this valley of tears, but that you find consolation beyond your present limits. When we know about Heaven and the God of the Tabernacle, we find no other happiness, no other consolation on earth. And you know how loved you are by this good Master! So you should also be proud of it and divinely noble! It is the nobility of divine love, and that one is eternal.

Be like the child who [only] feels, loves and gives thanks. Let God do the thinking for you.

Be like the pure white dove from the Ark which rests only in the holy Ark and has no other song, no other longing than the song and sighs of love. Don't look in the mirror of self-pride, you would frighten yourself; nor in the mirror of human beings, you would be afraid; nor on the scale of your merits, your poverty would make it tilt; nor in the false light of human words; but look at yourself in the kind Heart of Jesus! through his kindness which is so maternal, so tender! Then you will no longer be afraid.

Avoid counting what you give to this good Master, measuring what you lack. Throw yourself like a straw, like a piece of rusty iron into this white-hot fireplace. Oh! how quickly you would be purified there, quickly renewed, encompassed, become fire! Please, please, the most beautiful sacrifice to be made to Jesus is one's self; the most beautiful tribute is the heart; the most beautiful crown is the morning flower which opens to the rising sun and closes at its setting.

Goodbye Madame and dear soul in our Lord. I bless you and give you entirely to this great King.

1072

CO 1071

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(VII 8/17)

Paris, October 17, 1861

Dear Mother,

I am entirely at your disposal, with the sole condition that you will receive me as a member of the family. If it pleases you to invite Fr. Devay, that would be fine: [however] my heart is going [there] for you alone.

I only have time to say that I am, dear mother,

All yours,
Eymard

<i>Oct 18</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Serve our Lord in union with the Blessed Virgin.</i>
<i>Oct 22</i>	<i>Conference Servants: We go to our Lord in union with Mary adorer.</i>

1073

CO 1072

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 2/15)

Paris, October 17, 1861

Dear Mr. Amedee,

It will be a great comfort for me to go bless and baptize the first fruit of your holy union, already blessed a thousand times over, and also to pay you my first visit. The double bond which binds us produces a third permanent one; it is the eucharistic bond at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament. You are among the first there every day, as well as your worthy and devout wife, your beloved mother, all your dear ones.

All yours,
Eymard

I will be happy to see the good and lovely de Couchies family. Please offer them my respects and fond regards.

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 44/52)

*L.J.C.*³²

Paris, October 24, 1861

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

You must have received your indulgenced crucifixes. I took care of it right away. If our good Master gives me the time and strength, I would be very happy to visit your good friends in Tarare. I found beautiful souls there who hunger for Jesus. But to do something lasting would require a week's retreat: three days are not worth it. The iron is barely heated - it needs to be red-hot to make it powerful and capable of bearing the fire.

So, I would rather wait till later if necessary. Besides, I really can't do it right now. I have just preached a long retreat which tired me a little.

If I should need to go to Marseilles before the end of the year, I'll write to tell you, dear Lady, in order to know where to find you.

I praise God to know that Fr. Germain returned to St. Chamond; your children, especially Georges, will find all they need there.³³

A child becomes reasonable only after his philosophy, that is where his ideas and judgment begin to mature; he begins to see.

In fact, it seems as if our good Master is asking you to sacrifice Toulouse. Your heart would be happy there, but not your body. In the winter you need the climate of Hyeres. So you must return to the South where the sky is so beautiful and the sea so vast. It is the same sea which comes from Carmel and Jerusalem.

Dear sister, take care of your interior life; don't let the divine fire dwindle; keep your hearth alive by union with God, the ordinary offering of everything that happens, especially your small daily sacrifices. When little drops of water succeed each other, they fill the cup, become a brook and then a river. Turn everything to wood - wood for the fire. The Apostle says that everything works out for the good, for those who love God. Well, it is for his greater glory that Jesus keeps you locked in, and suffering: the interior reign of his love. Amen!

Goodbye dear Madame.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 98/181 VI 4)

*J.H.S.*³⁴

Paris, November 4, 1861

Very dear Father,

Your kind letter reached me after mine had left. Here is the reason for the delay:

³² Abbreviation for *Louez soit Jesus Christ, Praised be Jesus Christ.*

³³ The school of the Marists there.

³⁴ Abbreviation for *Jesus, Salvator hominis; Jesus, Savior of mankind.*

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

1. Your medals will reach you in time. I cannot use yours here in Paris yet, since the Aggregation isn't established yet.

I'll see whether it would be possible to place them in Tarare, where there is a good number of associates. I hope to do so.

It seems to me that the written side of the medal is very bare. That is where I'd like to see the monogram which we had adopted at the beginning: JHS. The one which is on the small hosts from the Good Shepherd seemed quite fine to me; it has a Christ in the middle. Anyway, you know what I mean.

I had another thought, here it is: to represent the Blessed Virgin holding the Child Jesus and presenting him to the world, and the Child Jesus holding a chalice in one hand, and a host in the other. This idea is well received to represent Mary as Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Consider these two ideas and tell me yours.

2. The idea of the molds for altar breads is so natural that it is ours by right; and, when we have the money, we'll buy a house in the country with the Lord's field, to do our own sowing, cultivate the Wheat of the Elect, grind it and reduce it to its Sacramental form.

3. I saw several styles for a monstrance, what is referred to as a work of art is not very effective: it is lovely close up, it's a miniature. We need a monstrance which is effective at a distance, with large rays that are close. The decorations ought to be placed around the Sacred Host; as much decoration as they like in that place.

A goldsmith, Mr. Touquet, has one held by an angel which shows the Sacred Host with one hand and orders us to kneel with the other: that's an idea.

I don't like the Gothic monstrances, they are too steeple-shaped. If you come to Paris, we will see together; however, I haven't seen anything that I like.

I don't know any goldsmith in Lyons; you could see Mr. Favier's nephew, near St. Jean's (the Cathedral). He used to have lovely designs.

4. The most simple censers are the most beautiful. Mr. Touquet has some for 15 to 60 francs. Those for 60 francs are beautiful.

5. An organ with one keyboard is 200. For two keyboards, 300. There are some for 100 francs, but too small. We should have one of at least 200; shipping will cost from 15 to 20 francs, including the case.

6. His Excellency from Chambery was very kind, but nothing came of it. I wasn't aware of any offer.

Lyons should pass before Chambery.

About your last letter. -- We will pray for Mr. Bossy, I am pleased that he remains fond of the house.

I plan to give you one of our candidates, but later. Their moral theology isn't complete, they still have many things to learn before hearing confessions: they are so new! we would be exposing them if we launched them out at the moment. Remember that they have not been studying very long.

As for the young men, we can receive only one at the moment, we don't have room. I prefer to keep the two rooms we have left for two priests. As for the children from Pierre-qui-Vire, I am afraid that the eucharistic retreat I gave them caused their departure. However they hadn't said anything to me about it, and if they had spoken to me, I would have discouraged them from that idea, at least through delicacy.

I agree that when individual houses recruit members from the locality, they should have them make a good postulancy there. When their vocation is clear and tried, they can continue with a novitiate which will form and reform them.

What is least good about the houses in comparison to the novitiate is always a good thing for them. Then also, it is important that only subjects who have already been tried be sent here, because of the expenses and sad consequences.

Everyone is very happy to think of welcoming you. Please, dress warmly. During the night, use the first class [train] which is heated; the additional cost will be our gift.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

We are in mid-retreat. It seems to be going well.
Pray well. To you all *in osculo sancto* (with a holy kiss),

Eymard

1076

CO 1075

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 99/181 VI 4)

*L.J.E.*³⁵

Paris, November 6, 1861

Very dear Father,

I am answering your letter to Br. Carri. I am not ill and only had a bad infection which made my cheek swell, then it left me with neuralgia, headaches, and loss of sleep. I'm better, though I cannot go out, since I'm still a bit disfigured. It was caused by a bad tooth, which I'll have pulled when I can.

I willingly accept your 500 Mass stipends. However, in order not to strip you too much, take what you think might help you.

We don't receive any Mass stipends in Paris, just one or two a week. Poor people don't have anything to give for them: and these are the people we know.

For an author in moral theology we have taken St. Liguori, presented by Fr. Smith, Redemptorist. It is more methodical than other compendiums.

Winter is beginning, we are also beginning to light the fire in the large room.

Goodbye, very dear Father, spare yourself a little, especially your head, because it brings on all the rest when illness settles there.

My fondest regards to all the Fathers and Brothers.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

P.S. -- I was forgetting to tell you that we finally received Fr. Clavel's library. The general works on Sacred Scripture and the ecclesiastical sciences are good. One more lovely gift from the Good Lord.

1077

CO 1076

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 120/145 VI 10)

L.J.E.

Paris, November 10, 1861

Very dear sisters,

I am so embarrassed for having left you waiting so long for an answer from me. It would seem that I am becoming lazy. It isn't the case, because I think of it every morning when I plan my day.

³⁵ Praised be Jesus Eucharistic.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

There is so much unexpected business, people who come, and so nightfall comes without my having done what I had planned to do.

Paris is not a city, it is a world, a kingdom. We don't have time to breathe, especially now that people are beginning to know us.

I am fine, and from time to time I hear that you are well also, I do thank the Good Lord for that as I have only you on earth. At our age, we no longer make new friends, we go back toward our past.

You also have your worries. I can see by your letter that the rents are very unpleasant.

In fact, I am very sad to think that there would be a cafe in our paternal home; I assure you that would be enough to stop me from going to see you, or at least from staying at La Mure. I beg you, don't do it, include in your restrictions that it cannot be, under pain of withdrawing your part of the contract. Think of all the evil which takes place or is read about in a cafe! I would rather close the house.

If you are contradicted, justice is on your side.

I don't know when I will go to Marseilles, but when I do, I will try to save two days to go see you briefly, were it even in winter. It isn't for the village that I go, but for you.

Tell the fine young Bianchi that I will study his question when I go to La Mure.

Winter is here, take care of yourselves and watch out for changes between heat and cold, keep your feet very warm. - Our houses are going well and the Good Lord is blessing them; we are eighteen.

I bless you, dear sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

1078

CO 1077

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 100/181 VI 4)

L.J.E.

Paris, November 12, 1861

Very dear Father,

I received the 500 francs; they will be used as you specified.

It was very kind of you to inquire about my sore tooth, it's almost better, and it wasn't extracted. I could feel this problem coming on for a long time, I was surprised by the cold weather, the pain flared up suddenly. I used the creosote incorrectly; it caused a burn and swollen lips and it irritated an old swelling, which was itself caused by the swelling of the gums. Then I lost the sleep I needed and then had a fever.

Trying to be brave, I never gave up Holy Mass, and now I am back to my daily work. However, I had put everything aside, especially my correspondence; now it's over.

Good news! A fine 54-year-old priest, Fr. Auger, from Chartres, is here. He is devout, straightforward, simple, generous, experienced about community life, and above all a man of the Blessed Sacrament. His retreat is over, he is leaving to go for his trunk. (He is poor, therefore a good vocation; he could have been very rich.) His official date of entrance will be on the feast of the Presentation, the 21st. Let us thank the Good Lord, I think he will be the Novice Master I've

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

been asking from the Good Lord for such a long time. I feel I need one, I will form him well to start.... We had many little crosses, the porter nearly died, vomiting blood, like Br. Eugene, our courageous sergeant major. Both are better, we are expecting Br. Eugene around the 20th; he had to go home for his health, which was considered to be a very serious matter. Now he is better, thanks be to God! I really suffered over all that.

The house is functioning well; we will increase our night adorations, we'll be able to continue until 2:00 a.m.

The Englishman is doing well. He is a serious and solid person. He will be a good vocation; see how the Good Lord has pity on our weakness!

My sincere regards to all, Fathers and Brothers. I would really like to come see you, but I must get these novices underway; I am also teaching. I don't know where time goes: unexpected visits steal our time; people are beginning to know us; many are coming for information: the seed is being sown. There are so many people in distress right now!

Goodbye, dear Father. Stay on duty, as you did formerly on your ship. Keep your eye above the mast, and your heart strong against storms from the devil and the world.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

I requested a dimissorial letter from the Bishop for Brother Carri in time for Christmas.

<i>Nov 15, 18 Conference Servants: Explanation of the Rule. On adoration.</i>

1079

CO 1078

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 31/52)

L.J.C.E.

Paris, November 19, 1861

I am now all yours, dear daughter; it's high time. I always read your letters with great interest. You do well to write to tell me all your thoughts and passing moods. That is how the soul gradually reveals itself, as well as its grace.

There is a great universal and eternal principle that we must always keep before our eyes and in God's presence. I mean, to belong fully and always to God, to know how to belong to God as one's goal, and be totally given to the present will of God as a means.

Belong to Jesus like the virgin of his heart, the servant of his Sacrament, the apostle of his love.

Belong to Jesus using means freely but with unity of purpose.

You love your present state of life as being the best one, since it is the one which his divine Will desires for you at this time.

Belong to Jesus like the Angels in Heaven, rejoice in his service, in the joy of his service, in the simplicity of self-giving without soul-searching, at least rarely. The flame which issues from the hearth does not return to it, it continues to rise because another flame pushes it. It neither has time to return, nor the impulse to do so: be the same, dear daughter.

You really could be a bit more exact about your little practices of devotion, when you have some time left.

There is something further to be done in your adorations: the movement of the flame toward Jesus; apply your imagination a little more to his holy Humanity when you are totally distracted and scattered, it will lead you wonderfully to recollection.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

Yes, confession every two weeks is ordinarily sufficient. However, if a major feast falls during the interval, you could advance it in order to be purer for that feast.

1. As for the faults that lead you to criticism, to fault-finding, to speak too much about others, my daughter, watch this tendency carefully and then try to discover the natural or supernatural reasons for it; then tell me about them. There is something there that you need to watch, but be totally open with your mother.

2. As for your physical needs, yes, yes, that's a little corner where [human] nature hides, where the devil slips in. It's a very special grace to have observed it, and especially to understand it.

As for external penances, don't get upset when God gives you some. When there are none, impose a penance upon yourself for the faults you have committed toward your neighbor or for laziness in deferring your spiritual exercises, putting them last.

Be especially aware of spiritual laziness or independence of soul and mind.

Have courage, there is an improvement. There is a good wind. I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Nov 22	<i>Conference Servants: The right of adoration.</i>
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1080

CO 1079

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

(I 101/181 VI 4)

A.R.T.

Paris, November 28, 1861

Very dear Father,

I am writing to give you some news about us. Everyone is fine. Brother Eugene returned and is back at work. A young scholastic came and is moving forward with young Ratons, whose approach seems to be very eucharistic.

Fr. Auger, from Chartres, hasn't entered yet, he is bringing his secular affairs to a close. I received the dimissorial letter for Brother Carri. The three deacons are preparing themselves as well as they can. Dear Father, you promised to come to the ordination of Brother Carri; you must keep your word: it will make us all very happy to see you again, especially myself. It seems like a century since I saw you. However, I would deeply regret it if the cold or the trip would make you ill.

In order to provide a solid beginning for the novitiate and the novices, I decided to give them an 8-day retreat, beginning Sunday night at 5:00 p.m. and closing on the 8th. We have 9 novices. Brother Pilin, a deacon, will make his three vows; Brothers Henry Billon and Eugene the sergeant major, and Brother Ren, the porter, will make the vow of obedience.

I really recommend this retreat to you³⁶ and to the prayers of the whole community: it's the hope of the Society.

The Work of First Communions is progressing and spreading. Last Monday, we had the baptism of an English Protestant woman; today the baptism of a Jewish woman, Rodriguez Henriquez, of Spanish origin. On Sunday, the wedding of an ex-military man married civilly since 1852. In a week, the First Communion of the mother of six children. A twenty-year-old soldier is getting ready: that's my portion. Fr. Carri is even better [at it]. So, *Deo gratias*.

³⁶ Literally: to your mementos.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

Nocturnal adoration is growing; we are able to go until 2:00 a.m. So, every six hours.

(The Jewish lady gave us a beautiful ciborium made in Trojan form.)

Then, the ordination on the 21st, and after that, New Year's visits...

However, I must still finish the Manual. In order to do that, I would need to lock myself up or go into hiding for a week.

Oh yes! The royal soldiers of the Blessed Sacrament must not cling to their pet ways, their conditions, and opinions; and if possible, they should be without defects, at least external ones.

So, I told Fr. Dh that when he returns, he will have to give up his tobacco. Apart from the fact that it isn't appropriate in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, it's so dirty and bad-smelling.

Dear Father, would you believe that I've come to the point that I can barely support anyone using snuff near me! And to think I had that fault for 24 years.

Goodbye, dear Father. Regards to everyone in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

<i>Nov 29</i>	<i>Retreat Servants: Purpose of a retreat, how to become virtuous.</i>
<i>Dec 1-8</i>	<i>Retreat to the new SSS novices.</i>

1081

CO 1080

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

(I 102/181 VI 4)

L.J.C.

Paris, December 9, 1861

Very dear Father,

It's a sacrifice for everyone not to see you here in Paris. It would be a celebration for everyone, because after all, we love you as a Father, a brother, a tender friend. However, I hope it is only a postponement.

You ask me to come see you. I surely would like to see you all, and speak with you personally about so many things. People are coming, and everything has to be well established; since we can't live on our traditions, we have to base ourselves on real principles and hold to them like an anchor of salvation; our life depends on it.

So then, I will come to see you for Epiphany; I will arrive on Saturday night, January 4th, God willing. However, don't do anything special about my arrival. Give me the pleasure of reaching you (incognito).

I will bring all your errands; send me a note with the things you want, I won't forget the two reams of stamped paper.

Our retreat was very edifying: everyone participated. It closed on Sunday night with a consecration to the Blessed Virgin.

In the morning at 9:00 a.m., we had the solemn profession. Brother Pilin made his vows. Brothers Eugene, Henry Billon and Ren the porter made their vow of obedience. A retreat does good. I will have to give you one, for a few days, but only as a family.³⁷

Fr. Auger, from Chartres, is encountering a thousand difficulties in coming. Pray for him, he is very unclear and had refused everything. Then a debt of 1600 francs arose and brought everything to a halt for the moment.

³⁷ Private, not public.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

I am writing to the Superior of Pierre-qui-Vire; I hope everything will work out. Your rich young man had too many possessions, and such do not come for the Master. The rich class is always the laziest and the greediest. "Woe to you rich!" So, we shouldn't count on the one who holds on to things with both hands.

Goodbye, dear Father. Fond affection to everyone.

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

1082

CO 1082

TO COUNT DE CUERS

(VIII 1/1)

L.J.C.

Paris, rue fg St. Jacques, 68, Dec. 10, 1861

Dear Sir,³⁸

I have been wanting to make your acquaintance for a long time. Your whole family is so dear to me, and so worthy of esteem, that I naturally desire to know the person who worthily bears the name of head of the family and its virtues. Your dear brother was so happy to visit you last year!

I thought I would please you by sending you the photograph of your good and saintly brother.

In order to get it I was obliged to pose for it with him. You know his modesty and especially his humility. I would have liked to erase my part of it, but that was impossible - so please look on me as a faithful friend beside your dear brother.

If you come to Paris, I trust that you will stay here with your brother, for we are all one family.

Kindly believe me, in our Lord,

Dear Sir,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I have to visit your dear brother at the beginning of January, so I shall attend to your business matters.

1083

CO 1081

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 35/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, December 10, 1861

Madame,

It has been so long since I have received news from you! This silence reproaches and worries me; you must be ill.

I didn't have one moment to work on my little Manual.

The number of adorers is increasing, and I'm responsible for everyone.

³⁸ Brother of the Rev. Fr. Raymond de Cuers, SSS

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

I must go to Marseilles at the beginning of January. I'll stay there a brief month in all. Then, I'll return to Paris. I would be happy if you could come and spend the Christmas holidays with us.

Finally, I have the last retreat which I gave; must I send it to you? I didn't have time to reread it. It's understood that you shouldn't copy it yourself; that would be enough to send you to bed sick.

Waiting for news from you,
I am in our Lord,

Madame and dear sister,
All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1084

CO 1083

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 43/76)

Paris, December 11, 1861

Dear sister in our Lord,

1. If the pastor appeals to you, grant it on condition of referring the matter to the responsible party. That is right and appropriate.
2. You did well to give alms to the poor traveler: necessity has no law.
3. You may still continue pious enrollments for adoration.
4. Put aside your adoration when the usual time for retiring has come and you haven't done it, either because it was impossible or because you weren't able to find the time. In that case, as a penance, say five Our Fathers and five Hail Marys in reparation with the adorers.
5. Make your adorations during the journey when traveling.
6. Dear daughter, go to our Lord in keeping with your state of poverty before him. Put aside your poor mind and place your heart at his feet.

I bless you and I am, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1085

CO 1084

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(VII 9/17)

Paris, December 12, 1861

Dear Mother,

On Saturday night our candidates for ordination will begin retreat. The ceremony will begin at St. Sulpice on Saturday, the 21st at 8:00.

So we are joyful and happy to expect you. You are the mother [of the candidate].

Please tell me if two or three of you are coming so that I may have the rooms prepared.

If, unfortunately, you should come alone, Miss Guillot has a room at your disposal.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

You shall be distinguished and eminent, dear Mother, on the day of the ordination. They will say about you what was said about the blessed Mother of Jesus.

Yes! you are fortunate to be the mother of a Priest of Jesus! of a religious of the Blessed Sacrament, the Prime minister of the Great King, the Sacramental Father of Jesus, who joins into one the power of the Father, of the Son, of the Holy Spirit and of Mary.

As for me, how happy I am to have this bond of spiritual kinship with you, to have your son as my son!

How magnificent and kind the Good Lord is! so we will never adequately praise, love and serve him or have him praised by everyone.

May God pour out his love and blessings on the little girl I baptized, on her devout and gracious father and mother whom I married,³⁹ on all of you, whom I love greatly in our Lord, in whom I am, dear Mother,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior SS

Mme. Chanuet, mother
at Lantignie, via Beaujeu (Rhone)
Address correction:
Mme. Chanuet, mother
rue St. Helene 18, Lyons

1086

CO 1085

TO MISS ZENAIDE BLANC DE ST. BONNET
(VII 2/5)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, Dec. 12, 1861

Mademoiselle,

I am pleased about your letter.

The Good Lord has given you a tangible proof of the truth and holiness of the path [you are following], which I really hope you will always follow.

It is the right one - it gives you peace and peace comes only from God. God gives it only to the soul who is in harmony with his grace and faithful to his will.

It is the only one for you, at least for the moment - it gives you interior freedom.

St. Paul said: where the spirit of God is, there is freedom.

Spiritual freedom comes when a soul [has found] its energy of love.

Keep your freedom in your affections and actions.

Let the divine will of the moment be the pivotal point of your activities. Don't precede the winds from Heaven, wait for them, and when they come, always be ready to do the will of God at the moment, prepared to leave everything aside when God wills it.

I perceived the freedom of your affections and the prudence of your heart.

Always be the same.

Light the fire of divine love in your heart in the morning in order that it may last all day. Your meditation should accomplish this task, look for the wood, light the fire - then, from time to time during the day, rekindle it with a few simple acts of love, drawn from your duties, sacrifices or spiritual joys.

³⁹Children and grandchild of Mme. Chanuet.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

I will give you my meditations, but wait a little while. I must go to Marseilles for January 6th, I will pass through Lyons around the 3rd. I don't know whether I will have time to come to see you on the way down, as I expect to say Mass only at Aynay, then leave again, but when I return toward the end of the month.

Here is my address in Marseilles: (7 rue Nau)

I bless you, dear daughter, in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

Dec. 14-21 - Retreat for SSS candidates to Ordination.

1087

CO 1086

TO MME. TESNIERE
(VII 1/2 III 2)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, December 14, 1861

Good Mme. Tesniere,

Since you left we have received no further news directly from you and yet Mme. Irlande has written to you, and you promised to give news about yourself. I received some several times, but if I knew how to scold, I would scold you a little.

But as I knew that you were on familiar ground and among good acquaintances of mine, I felt peaceful about it.

Chichery⁴⁰ is not in Paris, but Paris has many problems at this time. Everything is going so badly, all we hear are complaints and difficulties. There, you have peace, the country; let God be close, too, and especially his goodness. We must reach the point of submission to the service of our Good Master because you have suffered so!

Make the most of your suffering, since the Good Lord is sending it to you. Be like a little religious in your cell.

I believe that your dear son is fine. I was given good news about him a few days ago from the Chaplain, Fr. Deuth, who came to see me in Paris. He is fine and they are very pleased with him.

Goodbye, dear Madame, believe me ever in our Lord,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard SSS

<i>Dec 17</i> <i>Conference Servants: Respect - Bearing.</i>
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⁴⁰ Perhaps a political figure?

1088

CO 1087

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 103/181 VI 4)

Paris, December 17, 1861

Dear Father,

Come in the name of God, under the protection of the Blessed Virgin, in the company of St. John.

Your letter, which I have just received, fills us with joy.

However, take the second class coach and dress warmly, especially your feet.

I bless you wholeheartedly and I am expecting you.

Eymard, S.S.

P.S. I'm sending my letter to the station with the hope that it will leave tonight.

1089

CO 1088

TO MR. DE BENQUE
(VII 1/4)

L.J.C.

Paris, December 18, 1861

Dear Mr. de Benque,⁴¹

We are certainly praying for your intentions as the Work needs it. I am astonished that Fr. Le Rebours has not obtained [permission]. He is so close to His Eminence. But the devil has his part against it, and poor human nature its fears. You will succeed because the honor of God is involved.

Good Father de Cuers has led me to expect his visit Saturday morning, the day when three priests will be ordained for the Society.⁴² Please pray for them a little. If he arrives, I will let you know immediately, so that you may come at twelve, or at 6:00 p.m., to share in our fraternal meal.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard SS

*Dec. 21 - Ordination of three men to Priesthood in the Society; Fr. de Cuers came for the occasion.
Dec. 31 - To Angers in view of a projected foundation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.*

⁴¹ President of the Nocturnal Adoration in Paris.

⁴² Saturday, Dec 21st at St. Sulpice.