

## **CHAPTER II**

### **“ROOTED IN HOLY CHURCH”**

**The Roman Tourist**

**Letter of Commendation from Pope Pius IX**

**Retreat and Vows of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament - March 2,  
1859**

**Departure of Fr. de Cuers for Marseilles**

**Discernment of Vocations**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE) & SERVANTS**  
(II 194/395 VI 2)

*Rome, December 11, 1858*

My dear daughters in our Lord,

Here I am in Rome. God has led the way and watched over me. I arrived here without any incidents or major discomfort. I didn't get seasick. My first Mass was said on Thursday over the body of St. Catherine of Siena, at the Dominicans at the Minerva. I was pleased to be able to pray over the body of this Saint, who loved our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament so much and who served the Church so well.

I prayed on the tomb of St. Peter which is venerated so much. There we can feel how living are our Lord's words: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell will never prevail against it."

Religion is so impressive and prominent in Rome. Faith is profound and alive in these people. Their devotion to the Blessed Sacrament is exceptional, but their devotion to the Blessed Virgin surpasses all you can imagine. On every street, you see statues and images of the most Blessed Virgin, sometimes even several lamps burning before them at night. Nearly every home has a picture of the Blessed Virgin in a place of honor with a lamp always burning before it.

We see and greet this good Mother almost at every step. It makes my heart happy to see the Blessed Virgin so honored and so loved.

In Rome we can feel that religion is at home and that everything relates to it.

The Roman people, about whom so much evil is said, possess a treasure beyond all treasures: a strong and lively faith and a very great devotion to the Blessed Virgin. That brings people back very quickly from a great distance.

Continue to pray much, my dear daughters, now is the time. I am well, but I feel that I need to pray very much and to stay very close to our Lord. So today I am only sending you a greeting and a remembrance in the presence of our Lord.

All yours,  
Eymard

Miss Guillot  
66 rue fg St-Jacques  
Paris

**TO POPE PIUS IX**

(0)

PETITION<sup>1</sup> presented to His Holiness Pius IX, Monday, December 20, 1858

MOST HOLY FATHER,

The Work of first Communion founded in Paris, under the name of the society of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, has as its purpose:

1. to instruct young persons and women who have not yet had the happiness of making their first Communion, to teach them their catechism, and to prepare them by a retreat in their house to receive worthily the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist.
2. to work and to devote themselves for poor churches.
3. to honor specially the interior and hidden life of our Lord Jesus Christ in his Sacramental state, by adoration and the imitation of the virtues which his love perpetuates there for us.

Marguerite Guillot, the Directress of the Work and its members, devoutly prostrate at your feet, begs you, because of your tender piety and devoted love for the Most Holy Eucharist, to give the Work and its members Your Apostolic Blessing.

January 6, 1859, this petition was returned to St. Peter Julian Eymard with the following words autographed by His Holiness,

*Die 5 Januariae 1859*

*Benedicat vos Deus et custodiat corda vestra et intelligentias vestras.<sup>2</sup>*

*Pius, P.P. IX*

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE) & SERVANTS**

(II 195/395 VI 2)

*Rome, December 20, 1858*

I have to write you a few words, dear daughters.

I saw the Sovereign Pontiff, he blessed us and granted us very precious indulgences; you have your fair share. The Sovereign Pontiff was extremely kind. He told me that he would examine my petition and its principal points, that he would give me an answer in twelve days. So now we only need to pray, dear sisters, that the good Lord may inspire His Holiness with what will be suitable. Even if we had only the Pope's blessing which he gave me so warmly for the whole Society, and the indulgences, it would already be much more than we deserve. So pray very much, God has his moments, we must wait for them. But God wants us to pray, beg, implore, him, so that we will treasure his graces. I am well. I am working for you and for everyone.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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<sup>1</sup> Presented together with the petition for a Letter of Commendation for the Society of the Blessed Sacrament. cf. Dec. 2, 1858, Doc. 784, both returned on Jan. 5, 1859. cf also Doc. 802, footnote.

<sup>2</sup> May God bless and protect your hearts and minds.

To Miss Guillot,

Thank you for your little note, I will write tomorrow. Tell Ben.<sup>3</sup> that I am praying for her and to behave herself. May God give you a love for the Beautiful feast of Christmas.

Paris

**791**

**CO 788**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE) & SERVANTS**

(II 196/395 VI 2)

*Rome, Epiphany, 1859*

Very dear daughters in our Lord,

You wished me a happy New Year in the presence of our Lord. I returned the same wishes to you here in all the revered sanctuaries I visited; near the Blessed Crib of Jesus which I kissed, in sight of the poor coarse swaddling clothes that are venerated at St. Mary Major's. In the sight of these poor cloths and the crude wood of the adorable Creche, we say: poverty must be very lovely and magnificent, since the Divine Word so honored and loved it. Then we say: I will love the holy Poverty of Jesus.

Oh how touching this beautiful feast is in Rome! You see the Child Jesus everywhere, not, as in France, naked on the straw, but clothed magnificently, a royal crown on his head and exposed lying on the tabernacle.

In Rome there are three fundamental devotions: the first one is devotion to the cross. In every church there is a chapel of the Crucifix. It is the most revered chapel, and the image of our Lord is usually very large and beautiful.

The second devotion is to the Most Blessed Virgin. There is a chapel for her in every church, a painting of her, not a statue, is venerated; it is a magnificent painting before which there are always at least two candles lit. In Rome I've seen only one statue of the Blessed Virgin as an object of veneration: at St. Augustine's Church. It's surrounded with diamonds, jewels, gold watches; Rome divests itself to adorn and honor it. It's very ancient, they say that it's from the first centuries; all of Rome goes to pray there and kiss its feet.

The most touching devotion toward the Blessed Virgin is the one in Christian homes. Day and night one lamp, often several, burn before the image of the Blessed Virgin. There is a magnificent painting with a light at nearly every street corner.

The third devotion is the devotion to the Child Jesus. In France, we could never imagine the extent of it.

Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is always well attended; there are more men than women. The church that has Exposition is always magnificent. Rome is outstandingly the royal city of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I will be leaving soon, my dear sisters. I will be leaving here Tuesday, I hope, and be in Paris the following week. I will go and tell you about all my impressions and bring you the blessing of the Sovereign Pontiff.

My health is good. Pray for me, who am in our Lord,

All yours,  
Eymard

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<sup>3</sup> Sr. Benoite Richard.

*Rooted in Holy Church*

P.S. I was forgetting to tell you, dear sisters, that the Sovereign Pontiff was very kind to us and gave me all that I had asked him for the Work.<sup>4</sup> Thank God and the Blessed Virgin for it.

Miss Guillot  
66 rue Faubourg St. Jacques  
Paris

792

CO 789

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE) & SERVANTS**  
(II 197/395 VI 2)

*Rome, January 8, 1859*

Very dear daughters,

Thank you so much for your letters; they made me very happy. It's true, they told me about your crosses and disappointments: I share in them and feel them very keenly; but the Work must pass through this crucible and be purified. We must know that man is nothing and can do nothing good.<sup>5</sup> We need to learn this truth through experience.

In the Eucharistic Work, we must consider the glory of Jesus Christ above all and in everything, then the means that he wants, and use people only according to the mission they have received. In a word, to love our neighbor, life, virtues, graces, only as means to establish the eucharistic kingdom of our Lord. We may be saddened then, no doubt, to see soldiers desert the battlefield, give up their arms, try to disturb others. In that case we begin to pray, do penance, and wait for the moment to act.

Do that in this matter; let her be free to leave, she would already be gone if I had been there; for God mustn't be pleased with her conduct. I agree that the devil is in it, but so is human nature. So if she doesn't do better, let her leave, that is my prayer. Her money! The good Lord is rich and so is the Blessed Virgin. My poor daughter, that will serve as a good lesson for you and for me.

What grieves me is that I didn't receive anything<sup>6</sup> from Mme. Duhaut-Cilly. It seems that my letter must have hurt her. But when we see an obstacle, it must be overcome or terminated.

Now dear daughter, I will give you an explanation about the Blessing which I mentioned only briefly. Do you know that you received as much as we did, and that I am bringing you the Holy Father's signature; it is really beyond me. The good Lord did everything and uses everything to reach his purposes.

Let me assure you that is what consoled me most, together with our Letter. So, thank the good Lord for it, it's the beginning of graces and of a calvary of love and blessings.

Courage! Sister Benoitte. I will bring you something from this Holy City. I will repay you a little for so many prayers and crosses.

I bless you.

All yours,  
Eymard

P.S. When I pass through Lyons I will try to see all your people.

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<sup>4</sup> cf. Doc. 784 for the "Letter of Commendation" for the Congregation of the Fathers and Brothers, and Doc. 789 "Blessing" for the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

<sup>5</sup> of himself.

<sup>6</sup> any word.

**TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE**  
(IV 12/104)

*Rome, January 14, 1859<sup>7</sup>*

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I don't want to leave the Holy City without sending you a few words. It seems to me that everything is better when it comes from Rome. It is the royal city of Jesus Christ where he is the only King and Master. Oh! If the Romans knew how to appreciate their good fortune! But the revolution of '48 did a great deal of damage. It's true that people are coming back, but the socialists and wicked Frenchmen have done so much harm here! Rome is the city of faith; everything shows that faith is still very much alive: the holy Crib, the Eucharistic Table, the precious relics of the Passion at the basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem, and even soil from Calvary brought by St. Helena. It is so easy to pray at the Mamertine Prison where Saints Peter and Paul were jailed, and where still can be seen the miraculous fountain which sprang up at St. Peter's prayer in order to be able to baptize his guards and converted jailers; at Montorio where he was crucified; at St. Peter's [is] the Basilica of the World where his body lies! Rome is the venerated tomb of martyrs. You cannot take a step without finding a chapel, a church, or some monument of faith.

Dear Lady, I wish you could come to Rome. It does so much good to the soul! A person is so happy and proud to be a Catholic here!

Paris, January 29. I am here in Paris, Madame. I'm finishing my letter here, since I couldn't do so in Rome. I was weighed down with business matters on the last days.

I hope that you found your favor from the Sovereign Pontiff. Besides, should you no longer be able to get it, the testimony of the Superior of the Foreign Missions would be sufficient, and based on that testimony, his Eminence will not refuse to let you apply this Brief, since it is personal.

I didn't ask the Pope directly because it's a favor he doesn't ordinarily grant. He had just refused it to a highly recommended person from Reims, recommended even by the Cardinal. Then, since this favor was granted on the basis of a petition, there is no way of having a copy. Everyone says that you don't need it.

The Sovereign Pontiff gave us a "Letter" approving our Work, and enriched it with very precious indulgences. Dear Lady, praise God with us for it. - I am entirely at your disposal and,

I am in our Lord,  
All yours,  
Eymard, SSS

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<sup>7</sup> finished January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)**  
(V 30/76)

*Rome, January 14, 1859<sup>8</sup>*

Very dear daughter,

I cannot leave Rome without sending you a few words from the Holy City. I prayed a great deal for you and your loved ones so that God may grant their salvation through the intercession of all the saints, whose churches and relics I like to visit. Salvation is the only important thing. What can I tell you about pagan Rome? Nothing, because it no longer exists. Its capital is destroyed, its temples are overturned or changed into churches, its emperors don't have an inch of land of their own, even on the Palatine Hill. Pagan Rome has had almost the same lot as guilty Jerusalem. But how young and beautiful is Christian Rome! How vibrant and devout everything is here! It's really the royal city of Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Virgin and the Saints. It's a perpetual celebration for God and his servants. It's a reflection of Heaven!

When we go into St. Peter's, a feeling of faith, devotion, and admiration lays hold of us, carries and lifts us to Jesus Christ. Words are too inadequate and weak to express the heart's needs. How proud one is here to be a Catholic! How happy I was to pray over the venerable tomb of St. Peter! to say holy Mass in the underground chapel which has been an object of veneration throughout the centuries for every Catholic heart! What is especially touching and edifying in Rome is the great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, to the Blessed Virgin and to the Crucifix. Devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament is great here. Churches with forty hours are filled with men. Everything is prescribed in keeping with a profound faith. In Rome, devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin is admirable. Every Christian home has an image of the Blessed Virgin exposed in a place of honor. At least one lamp keeps burning before the honored image. People prefer to go without bread than to allow this lamp of devotion to burn itself out.

There is a great devotion to the Crucifix in Rome. People embrace it as they enter many churches. The chapel of the Crucifix is the chapel which everyone honors. That is because everyone has his Cross and must come to alleviate it, to place it at the feet of Jesus crucified. People cry softly there, it's the usual way these good people express their devotion. They come to cry at the feet of the Crucifix. I venerated the famous Crucifix which spoke to St. Bridget in Rome. It is kept with great respect in the Basilica of St. Paul. I didn't ask our Lord to speak to me, but to forgive me and give me love for his holy Cross.

I like to make the Stations of the cross at the Colosseum where so many thousands of martyrs poured out their blood for the love of our Lord; when we face this terrible amphitheater we pray well, with a certain trepidation about our weakness.

Paris, February 5<sup>th</sup>. - I am here in Paris, good daughter, and I am finishing my letter. I am really sorry I made you wait so long for it. My return trip was a bit difficult.<sup>9</sup> I am doing well. In Lyons, I saw your dear mother. I stayed a day longer. I would certainly have stayed a week if I could have seen your poor father. Your dear mother<sup>10</sup> and I feel that we must double our prayers and lay hold of the first opportunity to speak about a confessor. Your dear mother must surely suffer a great deal about it. I understood her reason, which is a very good one, that someone he knows would succeed better. Since your father is requesting the Pastor from his village, that is the right priest to send. He must go accompanied with all the prayers and graces which surround your father. We never stop praying and storming Heaven. I cannot believe that the good Lord will

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<sup>8</sup> finished in Paris on Feb. 5th.

<sup>9</sup> Sea-sickness?

<sup>10</sup> Mme. Morel.

forsake this poor man who is the object of so many prayers. I will write a few words to your mother.

Have courage, dear daughter. Trust in the protection of the Blessed Virgin and in the infinite goodness of God.

I am totally at your disposal; don't be afraid to ask for my help.

I bless you in our Lord,  
Eymard

**795**

**CO 792**

**TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD**

(V 21/52)

*Miss Stephanie*

*Rome, January 14, 1859*

Very dear daughter,

I am writing from Rome to reply to your last letter and the pain which I caused you unknowingly. No, no, my poor daughter, it was never my thought that your conscience lacked the formation [necessary] to receive spiritual direction. Do not judge on a passing word spoken without reflection. However, to guide you surely a person must know you well, not just briefly, but over a long period of time, and I believe that the good Lord has given me this light to understand your spiritual life.

Go to the good Lord generously through love and a pure intention, considering his glory and his holy Will more than your virtues and inner state.

You must be on guard against spiritual pride and self-preoccupation with your spiritual progress. Dear daughter, work to overcome yourself in evil inclinations, temptations, faults.

Apply yourself to break your will in permitted things, even good things. Become as flexible in God's hands as fresh, damp clay. Pay more attention to the grace of love than the value of virtue and you will be as noble, free and strong as a fish in the ocean.

Do not worry about your [feelings of] hostility. They come from our selfish nature, but grace will conquer with charity. Behave toward her<sup>11</sup> as you would if you were free.

Continue to give La Salette water as you do with faith and devotion, and the Blessed Virgin will do the rest.

I really would have liked to bring you a relic of your holy Patron Saint, St. Stephen, from Rome. I could not do so; I brought you another which I will send you at the first opportunity.

I won't go into the details about my stay here, dear daughter. I mentioned them to your dear mother, in person. I will fill in the details when God gives me the opportunity. All I can say is that in Rome everything rekindles our faith, everything speaks to us about past centuries; religion can be seen in action, ever holy and beautiful.

I did pray very much for you, dear daughter, on your feast day. I really love your Patron Saint and here, St. Stephen is held in great veneration. They venerate a pebble with which he was stoned. Rome preserves everything with a solicitude that is worthy of a mother and spouse of Jesus Christ.

Paris  
February 5, 1859

Poor daughter! I am back in Paris. I blessed you when I passed Romaneche and when I saw your hill and remembered your holy chapel.

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<sup>11</sup> Friction between herself and one of the family's servants.

Don't worry about the Reserve [sacrament]; when a law or a grace has been granted, it is not retroactive, [the law] refers only to future permissions. What has been granted is granted.

I only have time to bless you and to tell you to give me some news about yourself.

Eymard

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| Jan 26 | <i>Conference Servants: Shared details of his trip to Rome, the Blessing received, his return</i> |
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**796**

**CO 793**

**TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE NUNCIO OF PARIS**

(VI 1/1)

The priests whose names follow, residing in Paris, rue faubourg St. Jacques 68, request Your Excellency to grant them personal permission to follow the Roman Calendar and that of the secular clergy - for those who have them, until such time as the Diocese of Paris adopts the Roman breviary<sup>12</sup>.

Pierre-Julien Eymard, Cyr-Amand Champion, Raymond de Cuers,  
Victor Bruno, Marie-Augustin Clavel, Jacques Eymar.

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| Feb 6 | <i>Conference Servants: Joy and confidence.</i> |
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**797**

**CO 794**

**TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL**

(V 4/24)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, February 10, 1859*

Very dear friend,

Thank you for your heartfelt greetings, for your good wishes, your friendship, and your prayers! May God repay you a hundredfold.

I sent you greetings<sup>13</sup> when I passed through Lyons two weeks ago, and I blessed you. I have just returned from Rome. I placed our little Society at the feet of the Pope, and the Vicar of Jesus Christ blessed it with a spontaneity that springs from his love for the Most Blessed Sacrament. He gave us the first "Letter", and enriched adoration with a daily plenary indulgence. So we have the blessing of Heaven and earth; now we need the blessing of its Works.

Oh! I feel so strongly that man is nothing, is capable of nothing, can do nothing without God!

And so, praise or blame, love or rejection, are all nothing without God. It was very difficult for me to sacrifice everything for the God of the Eucharist, especially the true friendship of the Society

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<sup>12</sup>His Excellency the Nuncio granted the above permission on January 31, 1859.

Ph. Meglia, Auditor

<sup>13</sup> I greeted you from afar.

*Rooted in Holy Church*

of Mary. But now our Lord replaces everything for me, and I bless the situation, the instruments, which led me to such a great grace.

For your part, dear friend, go to God like rays go toward the sun. Always look toward this divine Sun as does the moon, so that you may receive its light and the fire of life.

Continue to receive Communion. That is the strength and life of the Christian. May the dust of the road not hinder you, may natural impressions not trouble you. Your heart belongs to God and that is enough. "I found a man according to my heart," God said about David.

Have a great love for your family; that is the duty and the grace of your state of life and don't look to an angelic state<sup>14</sup> as a model for yours; you are a father, a husband, a brother.

I'm sorry to learn that Mme. Tholin is ill. Is that beautiful soul like the fruit of autumn?<sup>15</sup>

Dear friend, may God bless your wife, your children, your business, your health, your life. That's my bouquet of wishes for this year.

Goodbye in our Lord.

All yours,  
Eymard, SS

P.S. And your address? I have forgotten it.

**798**

**CO 795**

**TO MME.NEGRE**  
(VII 1/1)

*[Paris], February 10, 1859*

I am very sad to learn that Miss Rose is not well. I do hope this wound won't have any sad effects. It was divine Providence which let this dear daughter be near her father during his last moments. That is the greatest consolation a child can have. I am waiting [to receive] news from her.

Since my arrival, I have hardly had time to turn around. I hardly saw the Ladies, our neighbors - they certainly have their trials.<sup>16</sup> - God wills it. - Please, dear mother! do remember me before God and pray for me. My trip to Rome was blessed. The Holy Father gave us the first "Letter" with precious indulgences. The ground has been blessed, but now it must be cultivated. - That is the essential thing.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,  
Eymard

My respects and fond regards to good Mr. Teissier, to the family, to Marius and to your dear Rose.

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<sup>14</sup> Image for religious life.

<sup>15</sup>Ripe for heaven. Ed.

<sup>16</sup>The community of Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

**TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)**  
(I 26/181 VI 4)

Paris, March 8, 1859<sup>17</sup>

Very dear Father,

I am returning the two signed contracts. They lack only your signature and God's blessing.

This morning I was fortunate to see Bishop Mazenod; His Excellency was happy that this contract was made and signed, and the great question of a foundation settled. He said to me: "We were waiting for you at Marseilles." "I will only go," I said, "when everything is ready; Fr. de Cuers is preparing things. When everything is ready I will go and begin exposition with a retreat preached in the chapel." - "Fine, fine," he said. That is all that was said with the Bishop; and this fine and devout Bishop is proud and happy to see adoration finally begin in Marseilles.

As for the conscience matter regarding the Mass, Fr. Champion says there is no problem; in that case we can accept the stipend for the second Mass as for the first. So good Father, live from the altar.

In well-formed Congregations, each house writes once a month, except in extraordinary circumstances; that is the ordinary Rule. As for us, since we are beginning, we should set every two weeks as a principle, except again in extraordinary cases for which there can be no rule.

A priest is presenting himself, I am studying his vocation. He is from Var; his imagination and piety seem a bit exaggerated to me. Ten years ago he committed a fault "*contra mores*"<sup>18</sup> for which he has done penance; he has been saying Mass for four years. We saw him at Marie Therese. He has a youthful face (44 years old), gray haired, he is very pious. But his past would incline me to refuse him. What do you think?

Mr. Eymard<sup>19</sup> still holds to his own ideas, I am afraid that he will end up sacrificing his vocation to them. No middle course; either totally given to the Work or leave. The good Lord knows that we are working only for him; to maintain a principle is to strengthen ourselves.

We are praying our good Master very much to give us what we lack to labor for his Work, and we are praying very much for you, dear Father. I am tenderly united to you in our Lord.

Eymard, Sup. S.S.S.

**TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)**  
(IV 27/75)

Paris, March 8, 1859

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I received the sad news about Mr. Giraud's death. There is a very consoling side to it! I mean, salvation and Heaven. So then, we must cry as one does on a Christian grave where the just one sleeps until the day of Jesus Christ. Oh! How minuscule life seems! The goods of this world are like a wave in the sea which die on the sands and rocks. The good Lord loves us so! to have shown

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<sup>17</sup> French edition lists another letter to de Cuers on Feb. 21, 1859, more likely Feb. 21, 1860.

<sup>18</sup> An immoral act.

<sup>19</sup> No relation.

us the vanity of this world and given us his kingdom of Love. You should consider yourself very fortunate, dear Madame, because Jesus Christ is your wealth, your joy and your glory; have no other. For a long time now our Lord has wanted you to be entirely his by the sacrifice of everything, even of yourself! What a beautiful and lovely sacrifice which brings its own joy and reward.

We have certainly prayed and are still praying for the soul of your deceased friend, just as you requested.

I am truly sorry that I've been behind with you again, dear Madame. We've just finished our long Retreat, which concluded with our vows. Oh! What a beautiful day that was when for the first time we gave ourselves to the perpetual service of our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament! We could really feel that this little Cenacle was the result of the protection and kindness of Jesus upon us, and each one thanked him for this call and his blessing.

I remember and I will always remember your kind and lovely hospitality, dear Madame. You are my director of hospitality.

Give me news about yourself. Here we are under the influence of the gentle and loving graces of the retreat.

May God protect and guide you.

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

**801**

**CO 799**

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

(V 31/76)

*Paris, March 8, 1859*

Dear daughter,

We are praying day and night, calling on the Father of mercies. I continue to offer that holy Mass daily. All the merits, prayers and adorations of our retreat were and will be for this dear soul.<sup>20</sup>

Oh no! God will not let him be lost. He will save him in his infinite mercy. On the 19th, St. Joseph will make the decisive attempt. What we are requesting is a great grace, a miracle, heaven itself.

Dear daughter, you can see that God in his goodness has already shown remarkable protection by preserving him from misfortune, to save him from imminent death at that very moment. God was watching over him with his kindness. His low morale may, in addition to the illness, also be the fruit of the devil. When the patient is sleeping, sprinkle a little holy water on him [as a protection] against the enemy of salvation.

My daughter, when the time of grace comes, it will be simple for God to restore his morale, to make it clear and strong once again. No, that isn't an obstacle. We see this grace daily among the sick. I saw it myself, two weeks ago, in a sick man healed by the grace of the Sacrament. Don't have so many regrets about the lack of attempts, dear daughter. It isn't your fault nor your mother's. The time hadn't come yet. So many prayers and penances have been done since! These graces are accumulating around your dear patient.

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<sup>20</sup> Her father.

I don't know about the vow, whether it concerns your freedom or money. I would so wish that on St. Joseph's day, you would go to Lyons and there, with a daughter's embrace, you would tell your father what you want. Ask him to do it to please you and the Blessed Virgin.

You could also bring in the Pastor if he wants to attempt it himself. This kind of surprise sometimes succeeds.

Be sure that a great struggle of grace is taking place in your patient's heart.

I am all yours, poor daughter; you know how happy I would be to prove it to you.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**802**

**CO 801**

**TO FR. WICART, VICAR GENERAL OF LAVAL**  
(VI 2/2)

*Paris, rue fg. St. Jacques 68, March 14, 1859*

Dear Vicar-General,

I have been back from Rome for several weeks, and I waited for the fruits of our retreat so as to be able to tell you about so many graces received.

The Supreme Pontiff received me with the most fatherly affection, and listened very attentively to the story of this little Work from [the time of] his first blessing received in Toulon to its beginnings in Paris. His Holiness wished to see the testimonial letters from the Bishops - among the first were the two so dear to our heart, for which we are still so happy to praise God. To explain our project, His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris had written the following lines at the end of our Petition:

*“Piam hanc sodalitatem nobis bene notam, et hactenus de Sancta Ecclesia bene merentum propter suam erga Sanctissimum Eucharistiae Sacramentum pietatem eximiam, et zelum animarum quem exhibet in omnibus circumstantiis; humillime Sanctissimo Domino nostro Pontifici maximo et dilectissimo Patri Commendamus.”<sup>21</sup>*

*Parisiis die 2 Decembris 1858 - + J. M. Cardinal Morlot, archbishop of Paris.*

After praising the Work and admiring the progress it has made in so short a time, the Holy Father promised me he would attend to the request after Christmas. On December 20<sup>th</sup> I had the privilege of having my audience, and on January 5<sup>th</sup>, His Holiness himself signed the Letter of Commendation as follows:

Pius PP.IX

“Dilecte Fili, salutem et apostolicam benedictionem. Placuit nobis plurimum studium tuum quo te praestare triennio antea audivimus, ut adorationem et cultum Sacramenti Augusti maxime in Gallia augeres et tuereris. De quo et nobis coram locutus es ac quorundam Episcoporum Galliae exhibuisti laudum consignata Litteris testimonia. Faxit Deus misericordia sua ut susceptae a te curae et sollicitudines in hunc finem, qui amplissimam apud omnes meretur laudes, proficiant.

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<sup>21</sup> “We recommend this pious society, which is well known to us and thus far well thought of by Holy Church for its outstanding devotion towards the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist and its zeal for souls which it shows under every circumstance. We recommend this most humbly from our Most Holy Pontiff and our most beloved Father.”

*Rooted in Holy Church*

Tanti hujus boni auspicem esse det Apostolicam Benedictionem, quam tibi, dilecte Fili, hinc discedenti, effuso paterni cordis affectu amanter impertimur.”

Data Romae, apud S. Petrum, die 5 Ianuarii 1859, Pontificatus Nostri anno XIII.

Pius PP. IX<sup>22</sup>

His Holiness added another most precious grace to this one! A plenary indulgence daily for the practice of adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament exposed. The Holy Father even wanted to make this more extensive, but, so as not to minimize the value of the Indulgences for the 40 Hours in Paris, I asked that this one be only for us and the Associates, as the Pope had wanted it to be for everyone.

This, dear Vicar-General, is my blessing from Rome, confirming the first one given us by His Excellency, your brother<sup>23</sup> and our first Father. It now depends on us to live up to so many graces.

Everyone in Rome, even my friends, scared me by saying that I would have to stay at least six months; and they all joined me in blessing God that it was all accomplished in a fortnight.

I have no need to tell you, dear Vicar-General, how much I prayed for you and for His Excellency. My thoughts were with you everywhere I went; one never forgets the beginnings of one's journey.

When we arrived in Paris we went on retreat, in order to set to work seriously and in the right spirit. God has wonderfully blessed these Holy Exercises. The pioneers made their vows, and two whose vocation was doubtful and not very generous, have left us - a priest and a brother - so there are ten of us left. We would be more numerous if we were true adorers.

I still look forward to your friendly visit, which would be an opportunity for us to express all our heartfelt, cordial and religious gratitude for your warm friendship towards us. Your name is kept along with His Excellency in our diptych - that is all poor folk can do.

I am counting on you to kindly express my gratitude to His Excellency and tell him about this joy. Coming from you, it will be all the more earnest since you love us.

Dear Vicar-General, allow me once more to sign myself,

Ever yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Mar 15</i> | <i>Conference Servants: Dominant thought of religious orders, motto.</i> |
| <i>Mar 18</i> | <i>Conference Servants: Feast of St. Joseph - silence.</i>               |

<sup>22</sup>

Pope Pius IX

Beloved Son, Health and Apostolic Benediction!

We were greatly pleased to learn three years ago the zeal with which you promoted and established, especially in France, the worship and adoration of the August Sacrament. You yourself told us of this Work at the time, and you also produced testimonial letters of praise from several French Bishops. May God, in His mercy, reward with success the care and concern you take to realize a purpose so worthy of the highest commendation of all.

May the Apostolic Benediction, Beloved Son, which on your departure we lovingly grant you with all the affection of our paternal heart, be a happy omen for so great a good!

Given at Rome, at Peter's, January 5, 1859, the 13<sup>th</sup> year of our Pontificate.

Pope Pius IX

<sup>23</sup> Bishop Casimir Wicart, Bishop of Frijus, known to St. Peter Julian when he was a Marist.

**TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER**  
(VII 11/19)

*Paris, March 20, 1859*

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

This letter which you are anxiously expecting (and which I was continually deferring, as I did not know how to resolve this important question) will reach you and perhaps hurt you because, after careful examination, I do not think it would be prudent for you to join Miss Guillot, at least for now. These poor women have just had such a bad shake-up, and are still under the weight of that sorrow; they must be given time to emerge from that trial.<sup>24</sup> My dear daughter, you can understand that they are suffering great poverty, since those who had something have left, and so they must begin as saints begin. However, in your case, your health requires some care and a special diet; you would suffer there and if you were to become ill, they would blame themselves.

I surely hope for God's blessing now, because he will act alone, and if this little Work comes from his heart, it will overcome and will be founded solidly on poverty, humility and the pure love of God.

I did not want to accept new ones; besides the departure of these 5 has discouraged some persons. I praise God for it.

We are going to make a foundation in Marseilles with the subjects which divine Providence sends us, and I will be obliged to go there shortly as it is only right that the Superior become a father by the sacrifices and sufferings of foundations.

You are always very dear to us and your sisters love you; accept this separation as coming from God and wait for the time of grace.

Pray for us; this departure of Mme. [Duhaut] Cilly really hurt me. It is a great trial for everyone, but there are times when we must cut and prune to the quick to find life.

Believe me ever in our Lord.

All yours,  
Eymard, S.S.

**TO CANON BRUNELLO, MARSEILLES<sup>25</sup>**  
(VIII 1/1)

*Paris, March 26, 1859*

Very dear and beloved Father and friend,

Well! Your zeal for our Lord has won the day! Fr. de Cuers leaves Paris this morning for Marseilles, provided with all authorizations for the foundation and rich with the grace of and trust in God. God will bless this first foundation, as it is beginning so well. It was on March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Annunciation, that the Bishop signed our authorization; it was from that day that the foundation began, and so it is yours: you must be, not only its Father, but its St. Joseph.

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<sup>24</sup> Departure of Mme. Duhaut-Cilly and 4 others.

<sup>25</sup> Director of "*Oeuvres de la Jeunesse*" in Marseilles.

*Rooted in Holy Church*

With great joy and consolation we are beginning in Marseilles, that good City which we had chosen to be our cradle, and which, instead, was to be our first battlefield.

I envy Fr. de Cuers the grace of going off to begin in poverty, suffering, and weakness - this little cenacle of the great King.

When all is ready I shall go there (I promised His Excellency I would) and spend some time there, God willing.

I embrace you most affectionately in our Lord, my dear Father.

All yours in Jesus Christ,  
Eymard, SSS

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**TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)**  
(IV 28/75)

*Paris, March 29, 1859*

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I pity you and bless you. Your condition makes me both suffer and give thanks to God; it is the death toll of worldliness and the ego, in order to live in God with a life which finds its treasure where it cannot be stolen or altered.

All the inner feelings and sorrows you are experiencing are graces and only means of uniting yourself more and more to the Sovereign Good. Don't waste your time with life's flowers, dear daughter, don't count the thorns, nor the stones on your path. Pass over them quickly and come to our Lord with your feet in blood. Don't look at them; don't complain about them. Find strength in the love of Jesus Christ and in the true proofs of his love; that is, the cross, detachment from human beings, immolation of oneself to his greater glory. Then you will feel a new life within yourself, an ocean of peace, a need to suffer in order to give something to divine love, a bit of wood to throw into the fire. Don't look so much at the weather, dear daughter, nor at the clouds. It would prevent you from doing anything worthwhile. Go higher toward the sun which stays in place and does nothing else but give its light and heat to everything which turns around it. Oh! How strong and happy is a soul rooted in God!

Your dear daughter wrote to me. I am taking care of her business with God first and then with people.<sup>26</sup> This fine daughter would like to be nearer to you. I also desire it because it would be a great comfort [to her]; let us hope for that.

I really hope that when you go to the countryside you won't do as you did last year - you were so busy with your leaves and cocoons. I hope you will give us some signs of life.

Please pray for us. We are establishing a foundation in Marseilles; I may be obliged to go in a few months. Nothing new here except that we are very happy. In a few days you'll receive a notice about our Work. Please give one to Miss Monavon, remember me to her and tell her that my last visit increased<sup>27</sup> my esteem for her a hundredfold.

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

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| <i>Mar 23</i> <i>Conference Servants: The Annunciation.</i> |
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<sup>26</sup> Literally: with men.

<sup>27</sup> Literally: multiplied.

**TO MR. ROSEMBERG<sup>28</sup> AND FAMILY**  
(VII 1/9)

*Paris, March 29, 1859*

Madame,

I praise God for the blessing of Abraham upon you, not for the future Messiah, but for Jesus Christ to whom you are giving children, disciples and saints.

I would have been very happy to accept the blessed and holy suggestion to be the godfather for this latest flower from the good Lord, but illness has taken three soldiers off the battlefield. So they must be replaced at the feet of the throne of the Great King. And so, the eucharistic service is holding me captive, but what blessed chains! They are worth more than gold and diamonds. Love forms and bears them, at least, that's my hope.

I would have been very happy to see dear Mr. Rosemberg, and to embrace him, but the good Lord doesn't will it.

I have been wanting to see good Mr. Dupont<sup>29</sup> for a long time, but the good Master is holding me back, so I make up for it a little by a few prayers at his feet for all my friends.

I am happy to have met your fine sister. I see her every two weeks. The good Lord is blessing her. He is so good!

I leave you in the hands of his divine goodness. My fond regards to dear Mr. Rosemberg.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, SSS

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| <i>Mar 30</i> <i>Conference Servants: End of the month of St. Joseph.</i> |
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<sup>28</sup> A Jewish convert and music teacher at Tours, on Rue de la Sellerie.

<sup>29</sup> Mr. Leo Dupont, known as the Holy man of Tours, for his devotion to the Holy Face and the cures effected at his home.