

## **CHAPTER III**

**Lyons: 1844 - 1850**

**Provincial Superior of the Marists - Nov. 1844-1846**

**Assistant and Visitor General - Sept. 1846-1851**

**The Social Uprising of Feb. 1848 ff**

**La Salette - Apparitions, Miracles**

**Spiritual Director of the Third Order of Mary**

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 31/145 VI 10)

J.M.J.<sup>1</sup>

Lyons, November 11, 1844

My very dear sisters,

It's time that I should write to you now that we have more or less passed the bedlam of opening the school year. We have many students this year, over 200. I think you know that Fr. Baret entrusted his nephew Auguste Laval to me. I obtained all the favors that I could for him. I wish for only one thing, that is, that he behave well. I recommended him in a special way to his professor, because he is poor in his studies. I asked them to keep him in the third year and they did. Now he must work well, and I hope that he will succeed. But he needed to leave La Mure and Mr. Mondon's because it would have been a waste of time.

As for Auguste Artaud, he is still well. His professors are pleased with him. He is almost as advanced as Mr. Laval. He will be a good student, he is not homesick. Tell papa Artaud that I passed on the information about his [Auguste's] bed.

As for me, I have had a cold. The damp and rainy weather has caused many people here to complain about sore throats, etc., I had it, too. Now it is passing. Please keep your feet warm and dry. That is very important during this time of year. I hope that you are still wearing flannel. You need it, especially in the winter. It is a necessary expense. You will both be the better for it.

Now I have some news for you. I don't know whether it is good or bad. For me it is neither good nor bad, as a religious should have no will of his own, and should be happy anywhere. The news is that I have just left Belley and that I will now be staying in Lyons with the Superior General, to help him<sup>2</sup>.

It will be a joy for me to be with such holy people and it can only be to my benefit. So, putting aside my human feelings, I thank the Good Lord for placing me in a position where I will have more helps to perfection. From now on, you may write to me: To Fr. Eymard, Marist Priest, Saint Bartholomew's Hill, 4, Lyons.

You need not tell the parents of our students about this. They will hear of it soon enough from their children. Besides, I will not be abandoning the minor seminary of Belley for that. I will often go there for visits. I am responsible for it and I entrusted them to my successor who is one of my friends and who will care for them. So, let them be at peace about it.

I learned with regret that Fr. Bard's sister was very sick. Alas! So true is it that when we think we are happy, God afflicts us to remind us that we will find perfect happiness only in heaven. I united myself to the prayers that Fr. Bard requested. I wanted to write to him, but I didn't have the time.

When you write to me, send me the address of Mme. Reymond, Lucille, at Vienne. When you ask for it, present my respects and regards to the whole Reymond family which I love.

Remember me to Mr. Dumolins and to Mr. Fayolle, don't forget good Mme. Cros.

Could you find out whether Mr. Lesbros received a little book from me? Let's always pray for one another, that is the heart of brotherly love.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,  
Your brother,  
Eymard, Marist Priest

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<sup>1</sup> Abbreviation: Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

<sup>2</sup> He does not tell his sisters that he has been named Provincial Assistant to Fr. Colin.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Miss Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

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CO 48

**TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.**  
(V 1/8)

*Lyons, January 13, 1845*

Very dear Father<sup>3</sup>,

Finally I am putting everything aside to be entirely at your service; I have a thousand and one things to do here, so I deserve some indulgence! Add to that a miserable Lenten series to be prepared within a month and a half with three instructions a week at the Charity<sup>4</sup> which, what's more, they say is perhaps not too charitable, since it means preaching at Bellecour. Oh well, may God's grace be there! provided my health holds up.

Nevertheless, I am quite well. But I'm surely not wasting any time from 4:00 a.m. until 9:15 p.m.... In spite of ourselves, my dear Father, we miss the enclosure of Belley, the solitary walks, the beautiful country, the pure air, the peace, the solitude among your little people, and you know how lazy I am about traveling. If I did not have to go into the city, I probably would not have set foot there yet.

Your wishes to me were those of a friend and father, and I offer them daily for you, in the past and in the present, because I need to do so. If you weren't so far away, I would visit you often. I feel that a visit wouldn't hurt you; but perhaps it has not been long enough for me yet. I think it would be better to let Fr. Morcel get well-rooted. That's also Father Superior's feeling. You can speak to him about it, because he will soon be going to Belley. Let me tell you in passing, Father wants you to write to him every month when he is here, about your house, its details and personnel.

It's true that I shared your news with him. But, since it's the Rule, he wants it. As for me, I'd like it to be every day, your letters do me so much good.

I suffer perhaps more than you do about your situation. I can feel the sacrifices, prudence, patience and difficulties you must undergo. So, I assure you that my every hope is to see it finish or improve. I believe that Fr. Poncet will be true to his word, that is, that he will send all the candidates who are asking to join us to the Minor Seminary. But in that case it must not be in the name of the Diocese, but of the Society, and they must enter absolutely as novices, and not, as has unfortunately been done, to study their vocation. The test is too hard, and with such a mixture, they end by losing their vocation. A person must enter there with his decision being made. With that help and that of the Society, the Seminary will then be part of the whole because there will be a unity. I feel that we must be firm on this point, because you can see the results of our experience as well as I. If I saw Fr. Poncet, I would tell him frankly, but I believe that he feels the same way. So, my dear friend, be a bit more patient.

I didn't write a collective letter to all the teachers because I am very uneasy since I cannot send a letter that is either too serious or too light. Tell me your feelings. It's a little late, but I was waiting for an opportunity, or a lead. It might be better not to say anything.

I have just had 500 Masses registered for the college. Don't worry, we will send you some throughout the year, because I think as you do, and so does Rev. Father Superior. I do have 1000 Masses. Do you want me to send some money to Belley? Do you have some debts here that need to be paid?

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<sup>3</sup> First of 8 letters to Fr. Morcel, Marist, Superior of the Minor Seminary of Belley.

<sup>4</sup> cf. Appendix I for the experience of Marguerite Guillot at this retreat.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

I sent the altar frames to Antoine; they cost 15 francs, without including the case which I am giving him as a gift. I asked him to give them to you for me. In that case I would take it from the money I have here for you. - I had asked you 23 Masses as alms for our house; can I count on it?

I expect that we will see one another during Lent. Try to keep a few days for yourself.

I learned from the children that Fr. Morcel is loved<sup>5</sup>. If he could be a bit more direct and warlike, *alius sic, alius vero sic*,<sup>6</sup> have a style which is more manly... But I know that we must plant before we can harvest.

They are very pleased with Fr. Vachon. They put him above... they love and fear him. His way of correcting in private and almost never in public has succeeded well, and has earned him everyone's trust.

I had asked you for 30 Masses before leaving to see Fr. Gros, the Pastor at Innimont. I believe that you inscribed them. If it's [inscribed] for me, it's a mistake. They were for him.

There is nothing unusual here. Bishop Epalle is in London and will leave around January 25<sup>th</sup>. Fr Charrain and Fr. Paget are still here, waiting to leave.

The missions are succeeding, God is blessing them.

So, I think you will be pleased with me this time. This is long, so excuse this outburst of news.

And believe me ever, in Jesus and Mary,

Your brother and friend,  
J. Eymard

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CO 49

TO FR. GOUJON, S.M.<sup>7</sup>  
(VIII 1/2)

Lyons, January 25, 1845<sup>8</sup>

Thank you, dear friend, for remembering me - but I could almost reproach you for being too polite. Perhaps you think my heart has changed - no, not at all. On the contrary, the bonds which bind me to you are stronger, and you may be sure they will be eternal.

This is your last year at Brou. You must be an Apostle there - it is one of those situations which come once in a lifetime, so let us make use of everything to accomplish the Holy will of God - "*bona, beneplacens et perfecta*."<sup>9</sup>

I don't forget you in my poor prayers. I count upon yours, and I beg of you also, as an alms, a novena in honor of St. Joseph, along with some good Communions; and I trust that you will find among my former students, some who will remember their old Father in need.

All yours in SS Cordibus Jesu et Mariae,<sup>10</sup>  
P.J. Eymard

Rev. Goujon, Deacon and Theologian  
at the Major Seminary of  
Bourg-en-Bresse, Ain

<sup>5</sup> He speaks of his correspondent in the third person.

<sup>6</sup> Now this way, now really that way.

<sup>7</sup> Photocopies from the microfilm sent by the Bishopric of Noumea to the Superior-General of the Marist. The Rev. Fr. Goujon was a student at Belly when St. Eymard was Director there.

<sup>8</sup> Address taken from postmark.

<sup>9</sup> Good, loving and perfect. Tr.

<sup>10</sup> In the hearts of Jesus & Mary. Tr.

**TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.**  
(V 2/8)

Lyons, January 26, 1845

My dear Father,

You will be pleased this time: good Fr. Maitrepierre is going to see and hear all your troubles, to bring them all back to us. I am very pleased about it myself, because I can sense your situation. Every day I place you on the paten<sup>11</sup> and offer you to God and the Blessed Virgin.

Believe me, it's a great grace to be aware of the difficulties of a house. Sometimes slight faults that are known and corrected do a house more good than a constant regularity which ends by becoming imperceptibly lax. From time to time it's necessary for us to shake up, and to awaken the piety of the children a little. Lent is coming; you know that we had the custom of making a novena for the deceased. You will be needing it soon, closer to Easter.

I urge you to purchase, as soon as possible, an excellent work called: *THE REGULAR TEACHING OF THE MATERNAL TONGUE IN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES* by Fr. Gregoire Girard. (Paris, Dezobry rue des Macons, Sorbonne, no 1, 1844 in-12, 484 pages.) You will like it. Also get *DIALOGUES ABOUT EDUCATION*. It is still in print. There have already been 6 printings; total 26 cents, at Perisse.

Mr. Peyre writes to tell me that there was no mention of a 100 franc note in the bulletin at the beginning of the year. I gave one to the Treasurer, and recently another one to you, payable at the end of December. Since we had settled that the major subscription would be included from the 330 francs, I gave him the news. (Please remind the Director it must be paid.) I often see Fr. Bal. He is fine; it seems that they are pleased with our candidates from Belley at the Major Seminary of Lyons.

Please! Take care of yourself. I am feeling sleepy. Goodbye.

All yours *in Christo*,  
J. Eymard, PSM

P.S. I am sending you with Fr. Maitrepierre three money orders for 600 francs which I paid in coin to Mr. Mugniery, from the money for your Masses... And the 400... in silver.

I will draw up the bills and send them to you. You wouldn't be able to find your way through them, they are so badly written and abbreviated.

*Feb. 22 until the end of Lent - Lenten mission at La Charit in Bellecour, Lyons.*

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<sup>11</sup> I offer you at Mass.

**TO FR. BRAMEREL**  
(V 3/5)

*Lyons, April 8, 1845*

My very dear friend,

I would almost not dare write to you now, given my delay, if I didn't know your good heart.

Absent, preacher, confessor.. what else? I had almost stopped breathing except in others. But today, my first free day is for you. It's very late to reply to a letter which needed a prompt response, but today I will confirm what has happened because I believe your name is now written on the banner of Jesus Christ, and that you are happy in this divine army, and that you are longing only for the time when you can proclaim the kingdom of God. Please, my dear friend, you will be a good priest, and the priest of the Blessed Virgin; don't worry. I can understand your fears, but I prefer your love for God and your trust in his divine goodness; and God will bless such a loving heart that can love him so fervently and generously.

The month of your good and only Mother is coming. Make it well; present all your dedicated filial feelings on her altar. You need to do so to relieve your heart, and to find your good Mother once again.

But enough about that, I would still be crying with you...

What should be done about your Breviary? I had spoken about it to one of the Fathers when I left, and it was forgotten.

My best wishes to all your friends, to good Fr. Munier, whom I love four times more, - to good Fr. Delaigne, an honest heart. And so what is happening with my captain Goujon? And my Toccanier? They are sleeping as I am! At least, tell them that Belley Brou are always in Lyons for me.<sup>12</sup>

All and ever yours,  
Eymard, Provincial S.M.

Fr. Bramerel  
at the Major Seminary  
at Bourg (Ain)

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<sup>12</sup> Meaning unclear. Perhaps friends who were not writing. Goujon was a student.

**TO FR. JEAN CLAUDE COLIN, S.M.**  
(VI 2/6)

*Lyons, April 13, 1845<sup>13</sup>*

Very Reverend Father,

I am sending you this letter, as I don't know what decision to make, because I am not informed about the needs of the foreign Missions. I saw a young man who pleased me and would seem to be a good subject? I put him off for two or three days. If he enters, we will have two locksmiths; if you need one in Belley they could be helpful for the new house.

Nothing new here; many requests, but all rejected. St. Bonaventure's requested the Sunday Prayer books.

With the most profound respect I am, very Reverend Father,

Your child,  
Eymard, P.S.M.<sup>14</sup>

**TO FR. GOUJON, S.M.**  
(VIII 2/2)

*Lyons<sup>15</sup>, (May, 1845)*

My very dear Friend,

Yes, I join you in thanking our good Master for having at last enlisted you in his Holy service, under the banner of his divine Mother. If he has made you earn your vocation, you may be sure that it will be all the more precious and firm.

Thus God tests his own.

Fr. Superior asks me to tell you that the doors of the Society are open to you as a Son of the family of Mary, and so it is with joy that I embrace you as my brother, and look forward to doing so in person.

As for the way of proceeding: I think, dear friend, that a year in Belley at the minor seminary would be the surest way to impress the Bishop. There you would find much benefit for yourself, becoming thoroughly familiar with that type of ministry, which is at the root of all the others. For this reason the Jesuits send their candidates there. It would also be, for you, an active novitiate.

For my part, I thank the Good Lord that I went there myself. I can see now how important it was. However, if you feel too much distaste for this activity, you could return to Lyons.

Courage, now; the moment of victory is always the most difficult; and, before leaving the seminary, light the holy fire there for the glory of God and the kind Virgin Mary, so that it will bring forth Apostles.

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<sup>13</sup> The above dated April 19 was a postscript to a letter from Canon Allies, the Pastor of Orgon, Diocese of Aix, dated April 15, 1845. Father Eymard's was dated either April 13 or 19. (Manuscript unclear.)

<sup>14</sup> Priest of the Society of Mary.

<sup>15</sup> Date and address taken from barely legible postmark.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

I hope to hear news of you before the end of the year. I often see your brothers, who are very responsible and very good.

Yours in union with Jesus and Mary,  
Eymard, Prov. S.M.<sup>16</sup>

Rev. Goujon, Deacon and Theologian  
at the Major Seminary of  
Bourg-en-Bresse, Ain

**56**

**CO 55**

**TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 32/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, May 16, 1845*

My very dear sisters,

While waiting for a free day to be able to write to you at greater length, time passed. So today I am putting everything aside to fulfill my duty as a brother. You shouldn't be surprised to hear me speak about my duties. I have many and I can never go to bed saying: I am free. What can I say! God has charged me with a responsibility which would humble anyone who might have wished for it. So to tell you plainly, I am Provincial, that is, responsible for the direction of our houses in France and elsewhere<sup>17</sup>. So, since I must be thinking of France, and even Oceania, you can understand that the sun often sets too soon. Yet I am not alone in sustaining this responsibility. The Superior General is there to guide me. When he is not there, I need the Blessed Virgin to be my Superior General.

This new responsibility (I call it this, because among religious there are no honors, the first should be the last and servant of all), this new responsibility puts me in full view and renders all I do public. This causes me many sacrifices of temperament. Now I must be a serious, reflective man, with self-mastery in everything, because my life is a mirror. Sometimes it is difficult for me, for you know that I am naturally quite spontaneous and unaffected.

I tell you this so that you may help me by your prayers, for in the end, the merit of all I do is really shared in half with you. And so to begin with you, I unite and associate you both to all the good works and merits of the Society of Mary. I unite you especially with those of our good missionaries in Oceania where several of them have already received the crown of Apostles and Martyrs.

I didn't write this to you at first, because it was difficult for me to speak about myself. I was so humbled by it. I would be somewhat embarrassed at La Mure, especially if they came to know that I am Provincial. So, I ask you not to say it. We owe that to the humility of the Blessed Virgin. Besides my sisters, believe me, the higher we are placed, the more we are exposed and the more we feel our weakness.

Now to come to you. The news you gave me about the accident disturbed me, as I can imagine your situation. I console myself only by thinking that the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin love you and watch over you. That is my daily prayer. On Pentecost Day, I said a beautiful Mass for you. You do well to stay as you are. I thank our Lord that we did not sell the house. As for your disappointments, put them all at the feet of the Blessed Virgin and through her in the heart of her divine Son. See! When people fail us, God replaces them a hundredfold.

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<sup>16</sup> Provincial of the Society of Mary.

<sup>17</sup> He had been fulfilling this responsibility for about six months.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Have courage, love for God, and an ardent desire for Paradise!

Your poor brother in our Lord,  
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

May 25 - Corpus Christi Procession at St. Paul's, Lyons.

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CO 56

**TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.**  
(V 3/8)

Lyons, May 28, 1845

My dear Father,

I complained about your silence, and now I am even guiltier. However, it isn't [because of] bad will, I sometimes have headaches like you do.

So you are still shackled! I did expect the Bishop to create a big commotion to frighten you, because the poor Bishop must see the wound very well; these three large houses of education are pressing him; and to tell you a secret, Fr. Buyat has decided to force the issue. He came to Lyons to ask for a cell<sup>18</sup> in the Novitiate for the holidays. "That's for good," he said to me, "because I have proved my good will to the Bishop. Now, I must follow my vocation. Later will be too late; now I can still work a little."

If it were permitted to wish some misfortune to a brother, I would wish you some, enough to tell the Bishop: "I can't wait any longer." As for you, Fr. M., the habit is too strong to be healed; you only need to put some salve on the wound, without upsetting the religious discipline, because everything must be sacrificed for a life principle. Poor Fr....! He's a child. Fr. Niermont wrote to tell me that he found him totally depressed. He will see what it's like to be a curate, especially under a pastor who tests so severely. I learned that your house is doing well. However, it's necessary to keep your eye on the second division. They speak rudely there, even my little P...; and the CH... Watch over them closely, it's like oil on a fire.

Toward the end of the year, emphasize [the danger of] human respect<sup>19</sup>, the danger of bad companions, bad books, because it's really pitiful and horrible to see young men who were formerly responsible and now, alas! To mention a few, Mr. C.... Mr. L.... are lost young men in Lyons. (I am worried about J.T... I don't see him anymore.) These Gentlemen go to the cafe, to the theater. I learned that the first two go further. P.R... is on the road to ruin. How can it be otherwise, neglected as they are?

We found a lodging for Mr. O.... not without any difficulty. That poor young man might have done foolish things, if I had not been there. Mr. Dubost and Mr. Bal are acting very responsibly.

I am told that the processions for Corpus Christi were exceptionally prayerful. The people still have religion in their hearts; only the bourgeois have made a religion of their wealth and well-being<sup>20</sup>. They fear only cannons and famine!

However, I had a lovely story to share with you: next time, brother is leaving.

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<sup>18</sup> Monastery room.

<sup>19</sup> Human respect = peer pressure, Ed.

<sup>20</sup> Literally, stomachs.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Goodbye,

All yours in visceribus caritatis Christi,<sup>21</sup>  
Eymard, P.S.M.

**58**

**CO 57**

TO MLLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD  
(III 33/145 VI 10)

*Vienna, July 1, 1845*

My dear sisters,

I am writing you a few words from Vienna from the home of kind Madame Lucille who will mail it. I have just come from a brief 4-day trip. I wished that La Mure had been only two leagues away. I would have gone to see you; but you were thirty leagues away. I desire as much as you do to go see you for my annual visit, because a few days spent with you are a delightful family vacation. I can't go now because the Superior General will be absent and I must replace him for business. But be sure that my first free moment will be yours, if the Good Lord wills it so.

In the meantime, don't forget me in your prayers because I need them. You know that you are always present to me in the Lord.

Take care of yourself...

Goodbye.

All yours in our Lord,  
Your brother,  
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard  
La Mure (Isere)

**59**

**CO 58**

TO MLLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD  
(III 34/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, August 5, 1845*

My dear sisters,

I can't let Fr. Dumolard leave without a greeting for you. I would gladly have gone with him to see you if I could have, but the Superior General will be absent for a few weeks. On his return, if I can, I will go see you.

Don't forget me in your prayers, for that is the greatest sign of affection you can give me. For my part I do the same in return, because I always think of you before God. My only desire is that the love of our Lord Jesus unite and enkindle your hearts, now and for ever.

Your poor brother,  
Eymard p.

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<sup>21</sup> in the depths of the love of Christ.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

*Sept. (Oct.?) - Presided over the departure of 13 missionaries for Oceania.*

**60**

**CO 59**

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(VI 1/10 III 145)

*Lyons, October 5, 1845*

My dear Sisters,

I have your letter, and I am answering it right away to put your minds at rest. Yes, I thought I would be able to go to see you before this. It was even arranged; but the business we were hoping to finish is not yet over. In a few days we are sending 13 or 14 missionaries to the Foreign Missions in Oceania. Then we are establishing two foundations and until all that is done, I shall not be able to come to see you. It will all be finished in a fortnight, I hope.

I desire as much as you do to come and see you, for you know what I told you - that if there is still a bond attaching me to this poor earth, it is you. And the Good Lord knows my desire that we should love him with all our hearts, so that Heaven may make up for all these sacrifices and separations.

I certainly realize, my sisters, that the cross is heavy, that the divine Master is greatly afflicting your difficult lives, but be confident: love makes the sacrifices it imposes lightsome, even pleasant. Ah! how good it is to think of Jesus Savior and Judge, in his divine Heart; and to look upon Heaven from the top of the cross!

I leave you there, at the center of union and love. I shall write and tell you when I can leave for La Mure. Ever and always,

Your brother in our Lord,  
Eymard, S.M.

**61**

**CO 60**

**TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.**  
(V 4/8)

*Lyons, October 11, 1845*

My dear Father,

I cannot let the good brothers leave without writing you in haste to say hello, to recommend that you take care of yourself, live in holy joy, trust in Providence; and pray for us, who are always up to our necks with work. What a life! May God be praised! Truly, I am afraid to lose all my devotion... Because, I am fortunate when I have said Vespers in the evening!

Finally, as God wills!

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

My fond regards to all our colleagues.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

P.S. I am sending you 2 crucifixes for the Stations of the Cross. Have the confessor determine the prayers according to the Brief which reads: *Modo aliquas preces recitaverit ex arbitrio confessarii*<sup>22</sup>. Such as, the litany of the Passion, five Our Fathers and Hail Marys for the sick, a few acts of love.

Fr. Morcel, Superior of the Marist Priests  
rue de Fleurus, 3 bis  
Paris

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CO 61

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 35/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, October 25, 1845*

My dear sisters,

I was so pleased to see good Mr. Lebros. I was really touched by his visit, and by the news he brought me about you. I am hoping that my trip will take place in early November. Our missionaries will be gone by then. What delayed me, is that the ship on which they were to embark was delayed. So this time my visit to La Mure will be strictly one of affection, since I will not have the pleasure of the beautiful weather.

If possible, also please order me two or three pair of woolen socks for the winter, so that I can bring them back with me when I come.

I am a bit rushed, so I leave you in Jesus and Mary.

Your brother,  
Eymard p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

*Nov. 15 - Departure of L'Arche d'Alliance for the missions.*

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<sup>22</sup> "Other prayers may be recited following the judgment of the confessor." Tr.

**TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.**  
(V 6/8)

Lyons, November 26, 1845

My very dear Father,

I have just returned from a trip, it's a pleasure and a duty for me to answer your kind letter immediately. First, let me begin with [news about] us. Very Rev. Father was strong in the midst of so many [things] and such laborious business to be settled and organized. We should really thank God and ask him to prolong this grace. We are all so young, especially so inexperienced! I believe that you know that two new foundations have taken place in the past month: at Toulon Fr. Epalle, Superior, with Fr. Dumolard, Marcel and Jammes; at Moulins, Frs. Girard, Superior, Ozonam, Balmet and Carret. All those who are left with us here have gone or will go to the missions. Everyone is well; Fr. Mayet is in Belley, where he keeps going in spite of the *status quo* of his sad but very meritorious condition.<sup>23</sup> The Seminary at Belley is very numerous, Fr. Martin writes that he is very happy.

May God be praised!

And now about you. They must have told you that it would always be sufficient to have the confessor prescribe a few prayers for the crucifixes of the Stations of the Cross.<sup>24</sup> However they can be changed. It should be used only in the case of illness, travel, or the moral impossibility of going to church.

Others who are present can participate in this indulgence.

And the sermons! I thought you would tell me you already had half of Lent [prepared], at least a dozen basic stones.<sup>25</sup> When... zero! Oh, Fr. Morcel, you who are at the center of information, preachers, libraries. And then, nothing. Please! I forgive you for this time, because you had to get settled, but I am waiting. I promise to send you a big package of plans and good plans; but it will be your duty to plant and water them. As for your exercises of piety, God be praised! It seems that there is some improvement. I also advise you to write while meditating. God manifests himself in many kinds of ways. However, when the feelings of the heart arise, put your pen aside and pray.

About the vocations you mentioned, do receive those who come to you, encourage them, lead them to prayer, to consult the will of God. Then, on your side, study them as well: *multi vocati, pauci digni*.<sup>26</sup> Get information on their character, their judgment, their talent, their public behavior.

As for Mr. Pilleux, the young 26 year old, his departure from the Brothers, the motives for his departure are sufficient reasons not to receive him. In general, we should be exacting toward those who have been in other religious houses.

For the German, send him away while comforting him, as the Rule says. People who are inveterately scrupulous can hardly be used.

For the Priest of St. Sulpice, get information about him. Then you can write to tell us the outcome.

As for the point of the Rule, whether the timetable is sufficient: Yes, when we go out to fulfill a duty required by our work, such as, for Sacred ministry, Mass, confession, etc. But we should make it known and ask permission when we go out for something other than ordinary ministry, and make it known when we return. Good order and the religious spirit require it.

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<sup>23</sup> Larynx problem.

<sup>24</sup> He had the permission granted to missionaries, allowing the confessor to determine certain prayers to be said to obtain indulgences usually granted for the Stations of the Cross.

<sup>25</sup> He was expecting a dozen prepared sermons.

<sup>26</sup> Many are called, few are worthy.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

In Paris you have the same faculties we have from Rome: to give the indulgences (Bridgettine) on rosaries, crosses, medals, following the *Elencus* printed in Rome. These faculties expire June 21, 1846.

The faculties from Rome to receive vows or for impediments *ad debitum conjugali*<sup>27</sup> have expired.

That, my dear Father, is the answer to all your questions. You would do well to write to the Bishop of Belley. I don't know any particulars about the diocese; so we must write a letter [based] on former practice.

Remember me to all our dear colleagues. The thought of you is and will always be affectionate and indelibly written in my heart.

I embrace you warmly in Jesus and Mary.

Eymard, P.S.M.

*Dec. 10 - First meeting of the Third Order of Mary by Fr. Eymard.*

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**TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.**  
(V 5/8)

*Lyons, December 15, 1845*

My very dear Father,

We are sending you Fr. Thenon. He has good will, he may be helpful; help him to become a little more direct. We have just received a package of letters from Sydney: 1. from Fr. Dubreuil; under his direction the Procure will become important someday because he is very active. 2. Bishop Eppale writes that he arrived in Sydney June 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are all in good health and had a smooth crossing. He said that the rumor that Wallis was at war is false. Praise God! He said that a ship of state, the *Rhine*, is visiting the center at this time. We hope that he went to visit Bishop d'Amata and that we will have some news soon. It is making us very anxious.

New Zealand is still in a state of war.

I will stop now; they are leaving.

Goodbye in our Lord.

Eymard

Fr. Morcel  
Superior of the Marist Priests  
rue de Fleurus, 3 bis  
Paris

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<sup>27</sup> "the marriage debt." Tr.

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 1/395 VI 2)

*Lyons, December 30, 1845*

Mademoiselle,<sup>28 29</sup>

Here is your New Year's gift: the two councils of the Third Order have accepted you. They are doing so immediately, as a favor, rather than put it off another month. I hope that this title of Child of Mary, added to so many others, will make you very grateful to your good Mother, who is accepting you into her family. I thanked her for you, Mary is so kind! Well! Are the heavens quiet now? Oh! Yes, I should think so. Storms<sup>30</sup> purify the atmosphere and pass away; then the sun reappears more beautiful and brighter. The longings, grief and tears that arise from a heart which loves only Jesus, are even sweet in the mutual outpouring of divine love. Shame and suffering relieve our poor heart's sense of powerlessness. Martyrdom would make it happy. Don't you think, my daughter, that Magdalen's sighs and tears near our Savior's dead body, Mary's agony at the feet of Jesus who had died on the cross, don't you think that these were not the result of a more heroic love? And wasn't the love of Jesus, suffering alone and forsaken on the cross by his Father and everyone, wasn't that the ultimate degree of suffering love in its total immolation of self? Oh! praised be Jesus, praised be his cross!

So, be a disciple of love's cross. It's true that Jesus complained to his Father: "Father, why have you abandoned me?" Well! You may also complain, but do so lovingly, after the struggle: let it be the outcry of immolated love. When Jesus' enemy and yours attack you so violently, do one thing: let your trust in God lead you to humble self-surrender. That isn't enough either. Go further, humble yourself below everyone, even beneath the devil himself, saying to our Lord:

"Oh! you didn't give him as many graces as you've given me. He no longer has a Savior and Father as I do. He offended you only once, but I, thousands of times. I've been ungrateful, unfaithful. It's only right that he should carry out your justice. Oh, my Father, I humble myself in my nothingness. But since you are my Father, don't forsake me. Hold me by the hand. My will, my heart are yours. I leave the rest to your justice."

May the heart of Jesus on fire with love be your strength, your haven, your center, your Calvary, the resting place of your whole being. Then resurrection will come, as well as life and glory. That is my wish for this New Year. It is the most beautiful and the greatest.

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<sup>28</sup> First of 395 letters to Marguerite Guillot, his close collaborator both in the Marist Third Order, and as founding Superior of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. cf Annex 1 for her account of her first meeting with Fr. Eymard.

<sup>29</sup> Taken from a copy by Marguerite Guillot, not an original.

<sup>30</sup> Image of spiritual life.

**TO MME. MARIE EYMARD-GAIDAN**  
(A-14 F 14)

<sup>31</sup> ...No, but with this distinction;

Explicit reply:

The Church teaches the following: outside of the Church, no salvation. However, one belongs to the Church in two ways, in body and in soul as do Catholics who are apostolic and Roman. In soul only, as do those who profess in good faith what they know about revealed religion and the natural law, as do certain Protestants, and those who practice the natural law in good faith, not knowing the revealed law, such as men who follow their natural [goodness], etc.

To say that no one can be saved if they are not exteriorly Catholic, apostolic and Roman is not the teaching of the Church.

Eymard

**TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 36/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, January 1, 1846*

My dear sisters,

I am beginning this New Year by writing to you. It's only right since you are all I have in the world. It is doubly true since our love for one another is also a supernatural and divine love.

If I didn't write more often, it isn't because I forget you. Each day and often during the day you are present to me in God and it is in him that I see you. Yet, you know how much I have to do. It is true that a short note is quickly written. But when the heart wants to speak, it needs to be quiet and free. But months go by while waiting for such a moment.

My dear sisters, we are already beginning another New Year which the Good Lord is giving us in his goodness, to serve him even more perfectly, love him more purely, more perfectly, and more generously.

How often, when looking over the years, I have said to myself: "I never would have thought that I would have lived this long!" I recall that when I was ill, I used to ask God to have the joy of offering only one Mass and then I would be willing to die. And now I am in my twelfth year of priesthood. How many graces I have received since that day! If only I had used them more profitably! You also have received many graces. However, since your life is more solitary, less restless and more crucified than mine, you profited more from these graces than I. But just as things are shared in common among brothers and sisters, so I count on sharing from your supplies as [I did] at Monteynard, when I had nothing. Be generous.

Take courage, my dear sisters, be holy. After all, earth is nothing but a passing cloud, either white or black, which is hardly remembered a moment after it passes.

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<sup>31</sup> After her marriage to Jean Gaidan, Marie Eymard lived in Livorno. They had eleven children. One of them wanted to marry a young woman who was not Catholic. His mother wrote to Fr. Eymard around 1845 or 1846, saying: "Does Catholicism teach that no one can be saved unless they are Catholic, apostolic and Roman? Some affirm it. Others deny it." Father Eymard wrote the above reply.

January 5

I am a little ashamed that I didn't send you this letter [which I] began on January 1<sup>st</sup>. During these past few days I took care of so many things and saw so many people that I couldn't finish the letter.

Thank you so very much for the socks you were so kind to make for me and send me. I am still your godson making requests, but in return I try to repay you by my prayers and have others pray for you, too.

Our Father Superior General has allowed me to enroll both of you in all the prayers, sacrifices and merits of the members of the Society of Mary: be it the priests, the brothers, or the sisters. Thus, your Third Order of Mary will replace that of Saint Francis. It is quite right that you should prefer it since there is a Marist Third Order.

This is my New Year's gift; may Jesus and Mary bless it.

All and always yours in our Lord,

Your brother,  
Eymard

P.S. I was forgetting to tell you that I am doing well. My heartfelt wishes to Mme. Fayolle, a good woman and mother whom I love as a mother and to her whole family.

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

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**TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET**  
(VII 2/17)

I believe that I fulfilled your desire by proposing your [name] as we had said and you have been accepted.<sup>32</sup>

You are now your brother's sister by a double title. However, even though everything is done, you are free to accept or not and whatever you decide, my feelings will always be the same.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

Lyons  
January 28, 1846

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<sup>32</sup>Probably as a member of his Third Order of Mary.

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD  
(III 37/145 VI 10)**

*Feast of Saint Agatha*

*Lyons, February 5, 1846*

My dear sisters,

Today I cannot resist the joy of writing you a few words. I'm sure that you can guess why I prayed so earnestly to God for you, for our father, our mother and my godfather! It's such a beautiful day for me. It's the most beautiful day of my life since this is the day when I had the good fortune to be baptized. If I had died then, I would be in heaven now, praying for my godmother [who is] still on earth, weighed down by the cross, on the thorny path to heaven. But the Good Lord did not wish it and has left me until now in this valley of exile, tears and struggles. May he be blessed! All is well, provided we reach our goal at the end. Once we reach it, whether the road was short or long, easy or difficult, everything weighs in the scales only as grace and mercy from God. The essential thing is to reach it [the goal]. Pray that I may attain the goal, as I do for you. If you should reach it first, leave a walking stick behind and an open door. At least, my dear sisters, there will no longer be any distance or separation there. Who would have thought when I was twenty years of age, stretched out in bed and condemned to death by all the doctors, that I would have lived fifteen years more? If at least I had spent them well! It's so true, the Good Lord has given me many great graces. I cannot help but recognize the signs of his mercy and providence in my life - [signs] so great that I would be ungrateful if I didn't love him with all my heart and if I didn't serve him with all my strength.

My dear godmother, I owe you so much for your vigilant care during my youth and for all the religious practices you would suggest to me. Today I remember all those childhood years very clearly and I see them as a great grace. Do you remember when, sitting on my poor bed, close to you, we would sing the hymns of Marseilles to the point of tears, especially the one to Saint Genevieve, Saint Joseph and the Way of the Cross! Then, when I used to accompany you for confession (often at a great distance)? What wonderful times! I loved the Good Lord more then, than [I do] now.

Since then, so many different stages in life, so many different situations! What life is like in this world! How many people I have known and loved have already died! At least you are still with me. May the Good Lord keep you yet awhile.

I really don't know whether it is a good and desirable wish, but I find that life is so precious for a heart that is working for heaven, ruled by the love of a crucifying and crucified God! You see, I wanted to talk with you as a godson, and here I am preaching to you. I mix everything together, because a tree has roots, a trunk and branches. If these branches are not laden with fruit, at least they have flowers or leaves, to make you a bouquet: a bouquet so often made of myrtle. I surely hope that in heaven it will no longer have thorns<sup>33</sup>.

Lent is here. Do not fast or abstain. You know that it is harmful for you. Simply ask for your dispensations. My cordial best wishes to your good Pastor and his three able Assistants. It will stand as credit.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, p.s.m.

P.S. My letter couldn't leave the same day. Don't be surprised. It was because of the road conditions.

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<sup>33</sup> An image to describe his relationship to them as a disappointment and source of suffering. Ed.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

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**TO FR. FREDERIC SALVIONI (U)**

*Lyons, February 8, 1846<sup>34</sup>*

Father,

Reverend Father Colin, our Superior General, received and read with special pleasure the letter you sent him last January 16<sup>th</sup>. When he gave me the responsibility of replying to you, he asked me to tell you his great regret when he could not see you last September because of our retreat, and he offers you his fond sentiments of esteem and dedication.

Therefore, Father, in addition to the joy I had in speaking with you a few moments when you travelled to Lyons, I now have the one of replying to you. I will not hide from you all that you are losing by it. If Reverend Father Superior had been able to write to you himself, you might have more precision and details. However, I will try my best to give a satisfactory answer to the different questions you asked of him.

ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY OF MARY
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I can hardly specify when the idea of the Society of Mary was first conceived; all I know is that it was the subject of reflective prayer during a few years before its external realization. Finally in 1815, our founding fathers, who were still young, submitted their plans and ideas to their spiritual directors and to a few of their ecclesiastical superiors, obtained from them the permission to meet from time to time to encourage one another in the practice of virtue, piety and the imitation of the one whose name they wished to bear. They were then only four or five, but they inconspicuously grew to be twelve young priests or aspirants to the priesthood. From then on, their spiritual meetings became more frequent, especially toward the end of 1816. They all shared the same spirit and the most perfect charity reigned among them. The Directors of the Major Seminary of Lyons allowed them to hold their meetings in one of the private rooms of the seminary. But it was especially before the altars of Notre Dame de Fourviere, the well-known sanctuary dedicated to the Mother of God, that they often liked to meet. The priests celebrated holy Mass there and the others received Communion from them; and all, by their fervent prayers, implored heaven to bless and direct their undertaking. They offered themselves to Mary to work for the glory of her divine Son and hers, and they begged her to receive them among her children and apostles.

These blessed beginnings inspired the founding fathers of the Society, but did not overpower them. They understood that a work such as the one they had in mind, if it came from God, could not succeed without encountering much opposition and difficulties. They were priests dependent on episcopal authority. They felt that they could not and should not try to carry out their pious desires without the consent and approval of their respective bishops. Therefore, they agreed among themselves that they would present to them in writing, at an opportune time, the purpose and goals of the Society; that they would persevere in their requests to them, always with humility and total

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<sup>34</sup> Fr. Salvioni was a professor at the Major Seminary of Milan. The postmark on this letter was Feb. 14 in Milan. Previously unpublished, this letter is to be found in the SSS Fathers' archives in Rome.

submission for the approval of their project and the permission to carry it out; that they would not even take any important steps in favor of the work without informing them and seeking their approval; they even committed themselves to this and each one subscribed to it during one of their meetings.

This wise measure, which mapped out a solid plan and sheltered them from any illusion, subsequently became for them a source of blessings and the origin of whatever success they would eventually attain. They were constantly faithful to it in the midst of the delays, refusals, opposition, and humiliations of every kind they had to bear during twenty years, until 1836, when the Holy See approved the Society based on the favorable reports of our Lords the bishops of Lyons, Belley and Grenoble.

#### PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

The first article of our rule describes the purpose of the Society in general terms; I believe, Father, that I will please you by transcribing it. Here it is:

*Haec minima Congregatio, quam die 29 aprilis, anno 1836, Gregorius XVI Pontif, maximus benigne approbavit, jam ab initio nomen Societatis Mariae sortita est. Quod nomen satis indicat sub quo vexillo militare desideret in pugnis Domini, et qualis esse debeat illius spiritus. Hoc enim mellifluo Societatis Mariae nomine insignita est, ut primum omnes qui in illam admittuntur, ad quam pertinent familiae memores, intelligant se debere virtutes hujus animae matris aemulari et ex ejus vita quasi vivere, maxime in humilitate, obedientia, mutua caritate et amore divino;*

*Secundo, ut hanc angelorum et hominum reginam, in variis laboribus ad majus Dei obsequium sustinendis, tanquam adjutricem semper prae oculis mentis habentes, tantaeque ducis exemplis accensi, meritis ac precibus recreati, majori cum animi robore et alacriori cum fiducia, tam in propriam perfectionem quam in proximorum salutem, auxiliante Dei gratia, sese impendant, fidemque catholicam adusque mortem fidelius teneant et pro viribus tueantur; sicque scopum quo tendit Societas abundantiori cum fructu attingere valeant.*<sup>35</sup>

Therefore, Father, as you can see, the perfection of its members by the imitation of the virtues of the Mother of God, and the sanctification of the neighbor, credited to the power of the Queen of heaven, form the double purpose of the Company of Mary.

The Society helps its neighbor and works for the salvation of souls under the auspices of its patroness by retreats and missions which it gives here and there wherever it is requested, especially in rural parishes, by missions during Lent and Advent, by catechetics and the presentation of doctrine to the unlearned, by visiting the sick in hospitals and prisons, by the direction of schools and the education of youth and by foreign missions. These missions are therefore only one of the goals of the Society.

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<sup>35</sup> This very small Congregation, which His Holiness Pope Gregory XVI graciously approved on April 29, 1836, from its very beginning was given the name of the Society of Mary. This name sufficiently indicates under what military banner it depends for the battles of the Lord and what kind of spirit it ought to possess. First of all, it is honored by the sweet name of the Society of Mary so that all those who are admitted into it belong to it as a family. Let them understand that the virtues they ought to practice in order to imitate this kind mother, as if living of her life, especially emulating her humility, obedience and fraternal charity and divine love.

Secondly, so that those who are admitted might devote themselves to this queen of angels and men in the various ministries for the greater glory of God, they always have her as a helper before their eyes. Inspired by the example of so great a leader and revitalized by her merits and prayers, helped by the grace of God, let them devote themselves with greater strength of soul and more lively faith not so much for their own perfection as for the salvation of others. Let them hold to the Catholic faith until death and guard it with courage. Let them be able to attain the goal for which the Society strives with more abundant fruit.

## SPIRIT OF THE SOCIETY

The spirit of the Company should be that of the Blessed Virgin, whose name it bears, a spirit of humility, of simplicity, of modesty, of obedience, of zeal and selflessness. To do as much good as possible, but to do it quietly, without show, *ita ut B. Virginis Mariae vestigiis inhaerendo*, says our rule, *etsi ad quaecumque ministeria pro salute animarum sese exercere possint ac pro facultate debeant, occulti tamen et quasi ignoti in hoc mundo videantur.*<sup>36</sup>

The spirit of our rule indicates that we should be always and everywhere self-effacing, that we should offer to other clerics, especially the pastors, as much respect and consideration as possible; that, in whatever diocese we are called upon, we should consider ourselves as the auxiliary troops of the bishop. *Tanta cum prudentia ac reverentia ubique se gerant ut episcopi nostram Societatem diligant, foveant et quasi suam habeant.*<sup>37</sup> (drawn from the rule.)

## THE NOVITIATE

The duration of the novitiate is at least 18 months, after which the novice is admitted to pronounce the three simple vows of religion. During the first twelve months, he follows the novitiate exercises, and during the last six he returns to his studies if he is not a priest, and, if he is a priest, he teaches catechism to the unlearned, visits the sick in the hospitals or accompanies the priests in the missions or retreats. During the time which the novices spend in the novitiate, they rise at 4:00 a.m. and go to bed at 8:30 p.m. They spend one hour in prayer in the morning and a half hour in the evening; they have an examination of conscience twice a day, attend a presentation of Christian doctrine and spiritual conferences, spend a determined time in reading some spiritual book or the lives of the saints, practice the virtues of obedience and humility by the chapter of faults and a few other humbling duties such as sweeping the rooms, helping in the kitchen, serving in the refectory, etc. For the rest, there is nothing very difficult physically. The most essential among these practices continue after the novitiate in each house of the Society.

## WHAT IS THE PRESENT STATE OF THE SOCIETY?

In 1836, at the time when the Society was approved by the Sovereign Pontiff, the Company only had 20 priests; only four of the founding fathers remained. All the others had yielded to difficulties and had withdrawn. Among these twenty priests, five left for Oceania in the month of December of the same year with three catechist brothers. Therefore only fifteen remained.

Today, the Society has ten houses or foundations in France. It has sent ninety of its priest or brother members to Oceania; four have been elevated to episcopal dignity and are at the head of the missions in New Zealand, central Oceania, New Caledonia, Milanesia and Micronesia.

To conclude Father, I believe I have responded to the questions presented in your letter and to have satisfied your wishes, at least in part. If you would be pleased to receive some further clarifications [you] will always find [me] ready to give them, in so far as I am able.

The Blessed Virgin has always been the support and protectress of the Church, but we would be tempted to say that her motherly care has perhaps never been more favorable to mankind than in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. So many works of zeal and salvation are arising everywhere under her protection! Without mentioning a multitude of other things, is it not a new proof of her tenderness toward the people of our wicked age, if I may say so, to be seen in the appearance in our times of a society of Marist priests, that is, a society bearing Mary's name, a Third Order of the same society which already has over 800 lay brothers who make vows approved by the bishops, have their own government, live in community and devote themselves after the example of the Brothers of

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<sup>36</sup> ...in order to follow in the footsteps of the Blessed Virgin Mary, "says our rule," even if they can train themselves for any kind of ministry for the salvation of souls and have the ability, they should be hidden, even unknown, in this world.

<sup>37</sup> Let them conduct themselves with such prudence and reverence that bishops think highly of our Society and cherish it as their own.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Christian schools, to the education of children, especially in rural parishes.

It has a Marist third-order for people who live in the world, and this Third Order was also enriched with indulgences by the sovereign pontiff.

As I was writing this letter to you, a continual desire beset my soul, and I dare share it with you. It is that you should become the instrument of Providence to transplant the Society of Mary into your beautiful Italy, which is so Catholic and so dedicated to the veneration of the Queen of heaven. No doubt, you will be willing to forgive me for this avowal, and I promise you that I will importune the Blessed Virgin so that my desires may be realized.

In the meantime, I beg you to accept my most respectful sentiments with which it is my honor to be, Father,

Your very humble and obedient servant,  
Eymard, provincial

Rev. Father Frederic Salvioni  
At the Major Seminary  
In Milan  
(Lomb. Venetian)

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

*Saturday, March 1846*

My poor daughter, I am returning your book. Thank you very much for it. When I forget something, don't be afraid to remind me. It will serve as a remedy for my negligence which I asked you to correct. So then, no compliments. So now the sun is eclipsed<sup>38</sup>, and a thousand storms are breaking upon that poor reed. Oh! May Jesus, who came "not to break the bruised reed," sustain it. If he allows the wind to shake it and bend it toward the ground, may he soon lift it up toward heaven... Listen to me, my daughter, the devil also tempted our divine Master and appeared to him under various guises. He did more, he dared to carry him away; and Jesus let him do so without losing his peace, without recourse to miracles. Jesus laid him low with a few words. - When we have accompanied Jesus to Tabor, the Mount of Olives and Calvary, we must share his temptations as well. So be full of trust: Jesus confronts the demons. He restrains their rage. He is in you to struggle with you. It is true, the devil isn't alone. Our imagination, heart and body all join with him against our poor soul. Don't torment yourself. When there are riots among the people, it's useless to reason, to shout for quiet. The best thing is to let them shout alone. They will soon get tired, and then be ashamed. The devil is to be feared less when his temptations are evident. Take heart! Once the initial fear is past, put your mind at ease and stay like a child on our divine Master's heart, like little children do on their mother's breast when they are afraid. I tell you now, that I am taking the sin upon myself, if there was one. It's a temptation, that's all. You will say: but the effects were perceptible. It doesn't matter, the soul was God's. Listen to St. Paul: "Who will deliver me from this body of sin, from this body of death? The grace of God."

You may receive Communion if you can and, if you do so, you will understand that it was all only a storm.

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<sup>38</sup> images to describe her spiritual state.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph comfort you.

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
Lyons

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**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 3/395 VI 2)

*Holy Thursday, April 9, 1846*

+ I want to get this letter out of the way, my daughter, with these few lines. I'm sorry that I didn't give you permission on Tuesday to keep company with our Good Master on Thursday night - he who is so alone, sad and suffering at the grotto of the Mount of Olives. I grant it to you willingly and would even wish to be able to go with you. Then, Easter day is coming, that beautiful day which dries every tear, and restores Jesus to us so beautiful and gracious. So, I must also give you back more beautiful to that good Father, and give you a bouquet for his tender Mother. So, here it is; I am permitting you to consecrate yourself by a special vow to Mary who is so pure and gracious, making her your custodian, your protectress, in a word, your Mistress of Novices. My poor daughter, can I give you anyone better? Oh! How fortunate you are! It's reason enough to cry for joy. Our Lord will be so pleased to communicate his graces through Mary's heart, to speak to you and show himself to you there. By this vow you will go to Jesus through Mary. You will love Jesus in the arms of Mary. When our beloved Savior calls you to the foot of his cross, you will find Mary there. She is already your Mother, she will be doubly so. Oh, it seems to me that this vow of holy slavery will obtain many graces for you and much love.

It's understood that when we vow ourselves to the Queen of Heaven and Earth in this manner, it is forever. Please tell her also that I am her humble son.

Take heart! On Sunday you will say: "I have died, but my life is hidden with Jesus and Mary in God."

I want to tell you a few words about my man. This morning, at ten o'clock, he had the joy of [receiving] First Communion. He was happy, and I believe that God was pleased with his attitude. The woman was next to him. He told me that he would pray for the charitable persons who had helped him so much. Now I am going to find him some work.

All yours in our Lord,

P.S. I promised a novena to the Blessed Virgin to another woman for the healing of her child, as a reward for a sacrifice she promised me she would make. - Please make the novena.

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 4/395 VI 2)

*Holy Saturday, April 11, 1846*

I am writing to complete my letter with details about the permission given. What does this vow consist in? I believe that is what you are expecting to hear. So I'm writing to tell you, in order that you may grasp the full meaning of this offering.

I said that you would take the Blessed Virgin as your guardian and teacher. However, it will be more than that, for you have already done so. It means making her your model and rule in the vows you have taken. Do so in order to resemble this good Mother and through her to resemble Jesus her divine Son, whose perfect copy she is. In this way you will imitate Jesus in Mary. To give this vow a specific object, vow to imitate Mary's simplicity in your clothing, in your way of dressing, as obedience will determine. So when you are free to choose what you buy, don't buy any silk; I mean for clothing. Yet when you purchase something in common with all your sisters, then you may do as they do, if you can't do otherwise. But praised be Mary's modesty and simplicity!

Become a true daughter of Mary. Live in her heart more than in your own. You will find the adorable Heart of Jesus in her pure and virginal heart, three hearts in one. You know very well that it is only there that I want to find you and that you will find me.

Tomorrow your tears will cease. Oh, when will the day of our complete resurrection also come! Alas! Death takes away the chains of our mortality only in small portions. Yes, we may need many daily deaths to reach the great day of eternal life of love.

And so, may God be praised! How cold my heart is, and how it suffers at being so! You tell me so often to love him for you. But I am throwing back to you both the arrow and the flame for his divine heart. For unfortunately, I feel as if I don't have the strength to cast it toward him. However, may God be praised in everything! Provided that I may truly love him someday, that I may live and die loving him! But you will say, why me? - Well! We, then... What a letter! My soul is sad, it's true. Perhaps, our good Master will show himself to it tomorrow.

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

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 38/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, May 7, 1846*

My very dear sisters,

I was about to write to you when I received your most welcome letter. I learned you were doing well from several people from La Mure whom I had seen at different times. These reports helped to set my mind at rest about you.

Thank you for the good news you gave me about my beloved village, which I still love. If the Good Lord so wills, I will go visit you, but not yet, because we have much to do at the moment. This would make me very happy because I could compensate for such a short letter by face-to-face conversations.

I am well! Praise God. I won't give you any news about Lyons where businesses are not doing well. Oh, my sister, how many suffering families there are in the heart of large cities; what trouble, what corruption; what evils! Even with your difficulties, you are a thousand times more fortunate in our little village than in a city where things are so changeable.

However, it must be said that there are many beautiful souls in Lyons. The Blessed Virgin is greatly loved here. It is wonderful what is done for her. When the day comes and I am free to do so, I will give you more details about it. Today, all I can say is "hello" at the early hour of four-fifteen in the morning.

Greetings in the Lord. The bell is summoning me to meditation where I will pray for you. And I always pray for you because the thought of you is always present. God knows all that I ask for you.

All yours in our Lord,

Your brother,  
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 39/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, May 27, 1846*

My very dear sisters,

I am writing to give you news about myself since you so love to receive it. I understand, you love me, possibly even too much. Your love is in God and for God; such is the case since I don't deserve it.

I received news about you on many occasions from different people. I often thank God that you are doing well. I ask him that you may continue to be well and yes, very well.

Miss Reynier brought you a book from me, which, I hope, will please you. You would have preferred to have me bring it to you myself. If it were permitted for a religious to have a will of his

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

own, I too would have been happy to bring it to you and to visit with you. Then I would have gone from there to visit Notre Dame du Laus. How I long for that beautiful land of Laus where the Blessed Virgin gave me so many graces! How I would love to spend a week at the feet of this good Mother! When I think of her, my heart bleeds in thanksgiving and longing! I will go there when the Good Lord wishes; so let us be patient and always united in his holy love.

I am also writing to speak with you about something important which divine Providence may have brought about for you. Here it is. A group of good people has been formed in Lyons for iron smelting. The purpose of this association is to give devout souls, especially those who suffered losses in the bankruptcies which ruined so many families, a means of increasing their small incomes. The association offers them shares at five hundred francs. So, whoever buys one or more shares has a mortgage on the capital for the amount given with the assurance of five percent interest. Further, they would benefit from the profits of the association which could be from fifteen to twenty percent. In this way, five hundred francs could give you a revenue of twenty-five francs in interest, fifty or seventy francs of earnings, and, if you had two or three thousand francs, you would have some small annuities.

I will not go into all the details of the business because that would be too long. Suffice it to say that this was examined and continues to be looked into by very capable men who say that it is a very good deal. You might say: "How is it that everyone is not jumping into the project?" The reason is that it is not yet well known. This was done purposely so that devout people could buy shares before big capitalists took over. I have no advice to give you, no doubt, but I would so like you to be free of so many worries and able to live more peacefully! It seems to me that you could invest your money with Mr. Reymond into this venture even if the bank note is not due yet. If you sold the field which is such a bother to you and so unprofitable, and invested here, it would produce ten times more. Look into it, make a novena to Saint Ann, who is its patroness, then write to tell me what you think. Time is limited, but I will beg these men to save a few shares conditionally for you. The possibility of obtaining shares for five hundred francs will only last about ten days. I'm assured that there is no risk.

Goodbye. I embrace you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Your brother,  
Eymard, p.s.m.

Please extend my best wishes to your fine Pastor, to Fr. Rabilloux and to his joyful colleague, and especially to the Fayolle family.

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
La Mure (Isere)

**76**

**CO 75**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 5/395 VI 2)

*Saint Etienne, May 30, 1846*

Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect! May Jesus be your way, your truth, and your life! May he live in you! That, my daughter, is my wish and desire. It means that I am consenting to your wishes and your vow, willingly and freely. It is true, I did hesitate a little, but it was necessary; for one must be sure whether it is God's will. Well! may his holy will be done, that divine will which St. Paul calls good, loving and perfect. Therefore, make an absolute and

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

perpetual vow. May our divine Jesus be pleased with it in his love, may he bless it, and crown it with his grace! May Mary, our good Mother, be its guardian and protectress and may good St. Joseph be its protector and teacher. Make it under that condition (as obedience will determine), so that it may be regulated by obedience. In that way you will avoid any fear of illusion, worries of conscience or anxiety. Goodbye, my daughter. Continue to be alone with our divine Master. I offer you to him as his victim of holocaust.

May we be consumed by his love and for his glory!

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

**77**

**CO 76**

**TO A MARIST FATHER**  
**(VIII 1)**

*Lyons, July 22<sup>39</sup>*

Very dear Father,

I think that, after careful consideration, it would be best if Fr. Ducorneau were to visit his mother in Bordeaux, and that he should go as soon as possible.

I was edified by your letter, but I knew nothing of the matter. Had I known, I would have scolded you only for having sleepless nights -

(unfinished and unsigned)<sup>40</sup>

*Aug. 23 - Blessing of the chapel of the Third Order.*

**78**

**CO 77**

**TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
**(III 40/145 VI 10)**

*Lyons, August 25, 1846*

My very dear sisters,

I have been wanting to write to you and a thousand and one things came up, so that I kept putting it off waiting for a day that would be quieter and freer. Finally, today I must still write to you in haste and I have had a bad toothache for the last ten days, to expiate my sins of gluttony. Praise God!

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<sup>39</sup> The contents of this letter would suggest that Father Eymard was Provincial at the time. So the letter would have been written in 1845 or 1846.

<sup>40</sup> Written vertically at the bottom of the letter:

Fr. Foulon, a priest proscribed  
in Algiers, conf. where  
find out to whom)

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Except for this toothache, I am well and it's a good thing, because everything falls on me since the Superior General has been absent for a month. But the Good Lord comes to my aid.

You can be sure that I am not forgetting La Mure nor my sisters. If I were free, I would hurry to come see you and breathe in the good mountain air. But for the moment the Good Lord doesn't will it. We shall see later on.

Take care of yourselves and give me news about yourselves. You are also a bit lazy about writing. You are using my own sin to punish me. I assure you that Mr. Clavel, who is bringing my letter, is a charming young man, very responsible and religious. People here were delighted with him wherever he stayed.

I leave you in Mary's care and I am very affectionately,

Your brother,  
Eymard, p.s.m.

*Sept. 21 - Named Assistant and Visitor General of the Marists.*

**79**

**CO 78**

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 41/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, December 13, 1846*

My dear sisters,

I really don't know how to begin my letter. I don't know whether to excuse myself or ask your forgiveness for such a long delay. My heart was not at fault - not so - because every morning I would say to myself: "Today I will write to my dear sisters." Then, hoping for a few moments of quiet and free time, I would come to the evening with my prayers yet to be said and the next day, I would begin again with the same resolution. And I have done the same thing now for three months<sup>41</sup>. Finally, today I am angry with myself and set myself to work. I also have to say that I had hoped to visit with you and give you my news in person, but new business always kept me from doing so. If it weren't so cold, I would come see you. But I don't know what kind of weather La Mure is having, though it's brisk here.

Let's begin with me. At present I am doing well. "Have I been sick?" - yes, but only from a toothache which we can't complain about. It was neuralgia and I had it for quite a long time. It's the kind of illness that makes you forget and neglect everything.

Your beautiful letter, in October, about the apparition of the Blessed Virgin did us all a world of good. It was, I think, the first news about it in Lyons. Within a few days, all Lyons was talking about it. From all sides - at Paris, Marseilles, Savoy, and everywhere in general - everyone is preoccupied with La Salette and it has had a good effect. However, wicked people made fun of it, just as our Lord's threats and prophecies were once mocked. There is so little faith nowadays; "Long live La Mure and the countryside!" Fr. Dumolard wrote to me, our mathaisins<sup>42</sup> are worth more than many others.

As everything is misused, I think that many comments were made about the apparition of the Blessed Virgin and that wicked people may even have done so purposely. As far as our Fathers and myself are concerned, we believe that it happened. It is not surprising that heaven should be angry: there is so much evil! Men are losing their faith, women are losing the piety which is their honor

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<sup>41</sup> Actually four months.

<sup>42</sup> Countrymen.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

and happiness. Young people are old by their vices and make godless old men blush though they are less evil than the young. What remedy can we use to heal such misery? We don't know. One would think that only chastisement from heaven could bring men back to the faith and to the fear of God. Also, could it be, my poor sisters, that heaven has already begun [to act] since there is nothing but misfortune, calamity and disaster on every side? And it isn't over.

Let's always place all our trust in God because he is a Father and takes care of his children. This is the one thought that comforts me in your regard because I often say each morning at holy Mass: "My God, remember my two sisters: be their kind Father. They are orphans and you are the Father of orphans. Love Martha and Mary since you called their brother Lazarus to follow you.

Holy Virgin, I have made you the Mother of my sisters. You have to be their providence, their support, and their counselor." Such are my frequent prayers for you, my sisters. Since my heart has no other sister, it has no other love or care. In this way, I am dead to the world and I suffer when I have to deal with the world. Yet, I'm always involved with the world. Alas, how many times I've been envious of those who lead a solitary life of retreat with God alone! To speak about God and his will does not make the heart any better because of it. The heart must speak to God and to God alone in order to rest a while and renew its strength which is exhausted by its contact with people. The thought of visiting you also pleased me. I would be alone to some degree or within my family circle. To conclude, may the holy Will of God be done!

Don't enroll in the Third Order of Saint Francis. When I come to La Mure, I will enroll you in the Third Order of Mary. Our Superior General has allowed me to do this, and I don't think I can give you a better gift.

Today, my heart is unburdening itself a little. Please don't take it out on me! and do write. The Good Lord sent me news about you through several people and I'm most grateful.

Take care of yourselves. It's better to live in love and suffering than to go to Purgatory. In that way, there is more merit and love of God. What can I say, my dear sisters! Our Lord wants us to go to heaven in the same way he did. When I consider that periods of illness kept me from giving in to an altogether external life, and helped me to understand the vanity of this world, I consider it as one of my greatest graces.

Please extend my best wishes to the Pastor, to his friendly curates, to the Fayolle family and to good Mme. Cros, and believe me always in Jesus and Mary,

Your brother,  
Eymard, p.s.m.<sup>43</sup>

P.S. Tell Mr. Clavel that we hope to find a place.

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

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<sup>43</sup> Priest of the Society of Mary.

**TO FR. BRAMEREL**

(v 4/5)

Lyons, February 16, 1847

Very dear friend,

Last night as I was going through the books of Fr. Morcel, a small pack of letters fell and I saw a letter which rejoiced my heart and consoled me: yours! I kept saying to myself: Who thought about me? Where did this wonderful box of tobacco come from?... I thought you were already fighting in the plains. If I had known you were still in the Cenacle, dear friend, my heart would have guessed it was you. Therefore, I am very grateful to you for remembering me. I didn't need that to reawaken [my gratitude], no! But I needed it for my consolation.

My only regret is that I didn't find your letters sooner. I wasn't here when the package arrived. So you will soon be a priest, praise God! A good priest is a saving Joseph, another Jesus Christ. How many souls are waiting for you! How much good there is to do! Heaven rejoices at the sight of a good priest as at the coming of the Savior. So, let's not look too much at the terrible, burdening, dangerous side of sacred Ministry, but its apostolic and divine side. No doubt we must see the enemy, but only to prepare ourselves for the fight.

Dear friend, do you want to persevere in the priestly spirit? Often read the "*Selva*" by Ligouri.

Be a man of prayer, of studies, but of sacred studies. Today, there is a great obstacle in Church science, it's that people only want to know and learn about the Church history of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century with the philosophy and science of the day, and they don't dare touch the earlier centuries and the older books.

I love you, you know it. Well, because I love you, I tell you: Dear friend, keep your heart lifted high, so high that human beings cannot lay hold of it; so high that God alone will be its life, its heartbeat and its center.

You will be loved in the world; love also, but [do so] like the sun loves the earth: its rays descend and return toward it. Your sun is Jesus through Mary.

I am happy to see that you love Mary! - Oh yes, dear friend, that is what makes us live, what feeds our life. A child is dead without a mother; with a mother, how rich he is! How rich he is with a mother like Mary! Then, you need a mother, as I do! In Heaven we shall say: Our Father and our Mother who art in Heaven...

Please, have confidence and love! And then, *fac quod vis*.<sup>44</sup>

My best wishes to our elders. And believe me ever, in Jesus and Mary, your friend,

Eymard

Fr. Bramereel  
in the 4th Course  
at the Major Seminary  
at Bourg (Ain)

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<sup>44</sup> Do what you will.

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 42/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, March 5, 1847<sup>45</sup>*

My dear sisters,

It is again by letter and not in person that I come to you. I was the one who was supposed to come to La Mure to preach at the Jubilee and I was praising God for it, even though a prophet is not received in his own country. In final analysis, I thought I would make amends for the sins of my youth and visit with you in the Lord. The Good Lord did not will it. For six days now, I've had a serious head cold which prevents me from working. It's what is left of the grippe that was all over Lyons. But the doctor thought it more prudent for me not to go and preach for the moment. Now I am resting while everyone else is working.

Father Denys will receive you in the Third Order of Mary if you wish. I told him [to do so]. He is a fine priest. We have always lived together.

Take good care of yourselves especially during Lent. Your fast should be to offer your prayers and difficulties to God and work hard at becoming saints and daughters of prayer. It was to spur you on a little that I was happy to go to La Mure. Prayer! Don't neglect it. Let me know in a letter how you go about it so that I can at least tell you in writing what I would have been happy to tell you face to face.

Let me know about yourselves since it has been some time since I heard from you. Let me know about Mme. Cros, that dear aunt. Saturday night at seven o'clock I was telling myself: "I will surprise her when I get down from the coach." Let me know about the Fayolle family, which I long so much to see again - especially that good mother, the likes of whom is hard to find nowadays.

I am affectionately in our Lord,

Very dear sisters,

Your devoted brother,  
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

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<sup>45</sup> Troussier: May or March, unclear. Published in French as May.

**TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)**  
(VII 1/7)

Lyons, May 9, 1847

Madame,

I am happy to send you the spiritual Rule of the Third Order which considers you its daughter and where you are remembered as a sister. May these few words help you to love a connection for which I thank God.

I am enclosing 2 crucifixes for the Stations of the Cross. They are very precious, especially at the time of illness, because the confessor can himself determine the prayer to be said to gain the indulgences of the *via crucis*; were it even only a few acts of love of God. You must have a few practices determined once and for all, like the Stations or 5 Our Fathers and Hail Marys in honor of the 5 wounds of our Lord or the litanies of the Passion or, when one is ill, a few acts of love of God.

This condition is determined by means of a special Brief. Here are the words: "*dummodo ante eas (cruces) aliquas vocales preces arbitrio proprii confessarii statuendas recitaverint* - (provided that in the presence of these indulgenced crosses, a few vocal prayers be recited as determined by the proper confessor)."

I willingly receive Mr. Perroud as a Novice to whom I give the name of Brother Marie-Joseph.

Excuse me Madame, if I am writing to you in haste. People are waiting for me. Another time, I will choose a better time.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 43/145 VI 10)

Lyons, May 28, 1847

My good sisters,

I am sending you a short greeting with Miss Monavon, an excellent young lady whom I highly respect. I would be very happy that you make her acquaintance. However, you'll see her only in passing. She is going to La Salette. I am well except for a little soreness in my leg, but it's nothing. I saw the Mother General of the Marist Sisters and I spoke to her about Miss Moutin of Pruniere. Mother General will receive her almost gratis as a lay sister. In that way she'll be able to come to Belley.

I would be very happy to receive news from you. I like to think that you are well. Do take care of yourselves and love the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin. In heaven we will speak together for all eternity in God. In the meantime, let's prepare ourselves well.

All yours very affectionately in our Lord,

Your devoted brother,  
Eymard, p.s.m.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

## 84

CO 84

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 44/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, June 9, 1847<sup>46</sup>*

My dear sisters,

I am leaving for a two-week trip. I'm going to Bordeaux to visit our houses. I will be in Lyons in two or three weeks.

Please don't listen to all that is said about me. I'm not going to the foreign missions. I'm not even thinking of it, I am too old now.

I only have the time to embrace you. I'm leaving immediately, but be at peace.

All yours in *Christo*,  
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

## 85

CO 85

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 45/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, July 31, 1847*

My very dear sisters,

I had time only to write a few words in my last letter. Today, I want to write a little longer. So I hope that you're not crying anymore about my leaving for the foreign missions. Besides being unworthy, I am too old now. When it comes to news, don't let yourselves be taken in like that because it makes you suffer and is quite unnecessary.

If we can call a long trip one that is three hundred leagues, then I took a long trip; i.e., round trip. Traveling one league every fifteen minutes is going rapidly. It was a good trip. I visited two shrines of the Blessed Virgin where our Fathers live: at Bordeaux and at Agen. I took advantage of the occasion to place you under the protection of the Blessed Virgin so that she would be your providence, your mother, your consolation and your life, that you would be daughters of prayer, that you would continue to love our Lord more and more. If the Blessed Virgin gave you all that, how rich you would become!

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<sup>46</sup> In the French Volume II, this letter is dated June 2. Fr. Troussier assigns it as June 9, since the postmark is June 10.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

If you were inquisitive, I would tell you about many interesting places [I saw] on this trip, but I think that details about unknown places don't interest you. The only thing I can tell you is that I saw abundant harvest everywhere and this pleased me very much. It could be a proof that God had pity on us and withheld the merciful threats which he had made through the Blessed Virgin at La Salette.

Everyone is talking about La Salette. The Bishop of La Rochelle is preaching throughout his diocese about the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin. I've seen this holy Bishop. He travelled two hundred leagues to visit La Salette himself ten days ago. You must have heard about it. People also speak often about the miracles that take place by means of the miraculous water. If this water could cure you and give you good health, I would be very grateful to our good Mother for this grace.

I asked a woman from Lyons, who is presently at the springs of La Motte, to visit with you if she goes to La Mure. Mme. Masse is a very kind woman.

Write me a few words to let me know how you are doing. Also continue to pray for your brother who never ceases to pray [for you] and to love you with all his heart in our Lord.

Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

**86**

**CO 86**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 6/395 VI 2)

*Lyons, August 23, 1847*

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to you hastily, as Mistress of Ceremonies, about the cinctures for the reception of the professed. Now that I have reflected and weighed both the drawbacks and the advantages, I favor the simple cords and not the cinctures. The cinctures have something lovely about them it is true, but the cord is more religious. Those who have cinctures may keep them, but the new ones will have cords.

Please inform Miss Camus.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

Continue to pray for our retreat and especially for the Third Order.

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
Lyons

*Aug. 26-? - Fr. Eymard preached the annual retreat for the Marists.*

**TO MR. JOSEPH AUGUSTE CARREL**  
(V 1/24)

*Lyons, August 26, 1847*

Very dear Sir,

Forgive me my delay, I was visiting our houses and I couldn't answer your letter; but instead I prayed for you, because God knows all the good my poor wishful heart desires for you. Now about your letter: Don't do anything more than what you are doing and don't reproach yourself too much for the change you are being criticized for. It's the result of the current situation. Freedom of spirit, peace of heart, seeing everything in the light of the special holy Will of divine Providence over you; a childlike surrender into the hands of your very loving Father: these things will all help you remain ever calm and gracious - it must come naturally, so to speak; otherwise, they will see the sacrifice and it's necessary that they should see only the virtue of divine love.

I miss you in Lyons; but, since it's better for you not to be here, may God be praised!

The Third Order is always the object of our prayers. Do pray for it, you, the first Child of Mary, you who have shared our little trials. Heaven grant that this little mustard seed become a saving tree for many!

In the charity of Jesus and Mary I am,

Very dear Sir,  
All yours,  
Eymard, Assistant S.M.

P.S. My humble respects, if you wish, to Madame.  
Mr. Carrel  
at Amplepuis (Rhone)

**TO MISS JENNY GUILLOT**  
(II 1/3)

*Lyons, October 3, 1847*

Mademoiselle Jenny Guillot<sup>47</sup>  
Mademoiselle,

I received your letter so full of woes and I truly felt compassion for you, because I see that it crushed you and perhaps even made you sick, since you already were very weak. Courage! If harm was done, don't increase it. Bear it very humbly at the feet of our Lord and offer him your faults, just as the sick offer their sufferings.

Yes, I approve your trip to Chasselay. You needed it. Rest there a little while, and especially, get well soon from your indisposition and put your soul at peace right away by not going back over

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<sup>47</sup> First of three letters addressed to Miss Jenny Guillot, the sister of Marguerite Guillot, whose illness required constant family presence.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

the past. Leave the past where it is, in God's mercy, and turn towards your good Father, saying to him: You see my weakness, love me again as your little girl. And he will give you back his choicest graces. I am praying to our good Mother to help you and give you her motherly hand and blessing.

And I give you mine wholeheartedly.

Eymard

Miss Guillot Jenny  
at Chasselay (Rhone)

**89**

**CO 89**

**TO MISS JENNY GUILLOT**  
(II 2/3)

*Lyons, October 9, 1847*

Mademoiselle Jenny Guillot  
Mademoiselle,

Your letter really comforted me. I thank God for having placed your soul in the peace and love of God's holy Will.

Continue to be a daughter of Mary by desiring only what our Lord wants. Consequently, love our divine Jesus, in illness and in suffering, since he is placing you close to his holy cross. So put aside any spiritual exercises that could tire you, like meditation, or long vocal prayers. Even sacrifice your Communions and holy Mass on Sunday. That is Mr. Berlioz' desire.<sup>48</sup> May God's Will be loved above all and replace everything: then it becomes perfect love.

Stay in Chasselay until you are healed. But stay there like the Blessed Virgin would stay, in peace, in union with Jesus.

Have courage, my daughter, but the kind of courage which is made of trust and surrender into the hands of your heavenly Father and of our good Savior.

I bless you, my daughter, and I pray our Lord and Mary, our good Mother, to be your strength, your peace and your consolation.

We are not forgetting you in our poor prayers.

My respects to your good mother and to your sister.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

Miss Guillot Jenny  
at her mother's  
at Chasselay (Rhone)

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<sup>48</sup> the doctor.

**TO MME. JOSEPH AUGUSTE CARREL**  
(V 2/24)

*Lyons, October 9, 1847*

Madame,

Your fine husband has given me news about you and your whole family. The bonds which unite us all cannot leave me indifferent even for a single moment. So, I was sorry to learn that you are not well, and I immediately prayed to the Queen of mothers to come to your help, and I asked all your sisters of the Third Order to pray for you. It will be a sacrifice for us not to have you still in Lyons; but, Madame, you are always here for us in the little chapel of Nazareth.

Your husband tells me that he will have to precede you to Lyons for a brief time. I understand that this thought must afflict your heart; but you love the holy Will of God over you too much to be sad about it. It's only right to reason with yourself as a child of Mary; especially in your sad condition. Don't be afraid of anything, the Blessed Virgin will always be by your side.

We have just extended the circle of the Associates by allowing mothers to associate their little children to the Third Order, even when they are still carrying them in the womb, so that they may have the joy of receiving the grace of holy Baptism. So, Madame, today I am associating under Mary's name the one which Heaven has given you. Every day, say a Hail Mary and "Oh Mary, refuge of sinners and perseverance of the just, pray for us."

Also pray for me, Madame, I am leaving in a moment to give a Retreat.

In our Lord, I am, Madame,

Your very humble servant,  
Eymard, P.S.M.

Madame,  
Madame Carrel  
Amplepuis (Rhone)

**TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL**  
(V 10/24)

October 9,<sup>49</sup>

Dear brother and friend,

A greeting, a thank you for your kind letter, and a request to pray for me. I am happy to see that you found the real source of grace, of peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, that is, conformity to the holy and every gracious Will of God. What happiness can be ours if we think, desire and will only one thing: the Will of God! Often meditate upon that: it's a gold mine of love.

But I only wanted to say hello, and now I am giving a sermon! It's because I will be leaving for 10 days: excuse me and pray for the one who loves you very fondly in our Lord.

Eymard

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<sup>49</sup> Perhaps October 1847. (Troussier)

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

P.S. My expression of respect and friendship to your family and your brothers.

Mr. Carrel, at Mme. la Goutte  
Amplepuis via Tarare (Rhône)

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**TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 46/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, October 26, 1847*

My very dear sisters,

I'm sorry that you had to wait for a letter from me, but you realize that my heart isn't at fault. Rather, there are so many things that make my days so short. Besides, I took several trips and trips do me good.

What comforted me is that I met several people from La Mure unexpectedly. When I hear that you are well, that in itself makes me happy. I know that crosses aren't lacking; one comes right after the other. As you know, the way of the just is lined with two hedges. One is grace, spread all along the way, becoming like the brook, the bread and strength for the journey. The other hedge is the cross of our Lord which has many forms, yet is always the cross. As we progress, the crosses are more numerous and more crucifying to our natural feelings; but they are also crowned with a more beautiful diadem. They herald the nearness of paradise because there is no purgatory for souls crucified with our Lord. My dear sisters, I hope that your Purgatory will come to an end with your earthly journey. For it isn't the one who dies at an early age who is the most fortunate, but surely the one who reached heaven first.

Let's always remember that God alone is the strength, consolation, joy and happiness of the faithful soul.

Alas, poor sisters! get accustomed to see the world pass before you like drops of water in the brook. Let them flow, babbling, tossing and clashing. As for yourselves, sit at the feet of our Lord. When people are absent or when they try you, see it as God telling you: "I am all you need."

I really like that thought because it makes us free and always keeps us happy. Besides, no matter how perfect the persons are, they weigh so little in the scale! It's like the leaf of a tree which falls at the slightest breeze and becomes just a little dirt.

So place your trust in God. He is such a good Father! You will not lack anything because you will be happy with his holy Will. We rest peacefully when we rest on the bosom of divine Providence. We travel happily when we are carried on the wings of this gracious Providence.

But let's talk about other things. I am well, thanks be to God. Lyons is quiet. It's possible that you were frightened by some alarming news about Lyons when there was some commotion over the house of Miss Denis; the police were there and the offenders are in prison. At a distance, such news is frightening. Up close, it's hardly noticed. Godless men were saying that this house was occupied by religious sisters, that priests committed evil there and tortured the girls and what else? A mob formed because of it; they called the priests devils because it was said that there was a girl possessed by the devil. The fact is that it was all false, as the Procurator of the King declared. This Miss Denis, who employed a few women, was an unfortunate wretch. Now, people laugh at her lunacy. So, when you are told any serious news about Lyons, don't believe it until I tell you.

I saw the Superior of the Marist Sisters at Belley. They are expecting Miss Moutin. Let her try to get what she can from her father. If he has the means, let him give her what he gave her sister... Then, let her write and leave because if she waits too long, she will lose her place. Her sister has found a place with the Marist Sisters at Meximieux (Ain). She should come by way of Lyons.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

My best wishes to our acquaintances. Pray for me. I don't think I can come presently to visit you, but each day I find you in God, in whom I am your brother.

Eymard, p.s.m.

P.S. I will answer Joseph Dumoulins soon. Everyone is of the opinion that all the rights are in his favor.

I will also write soon to Mr. Reymond. We are waiting for the Cardinal to know which day Miss Berthilde will make her profession. The Pastor had promised me some water from La Salette. I would be happy if Miss Reymond could bring it to me.

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

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**TO FR. CHAVAZ, S.M.**<sup>50</sup>  
(VIII 1/1)

*Lyons, Oct. 28, 1847*

My dear colleague,

I am very happy about the wonderful opportunity our Fathers have to visit you. I am taking advantage of it to write you these few words, first to thank you for your kind letter, which brought back the happiness I experienced among you. My heart often likes to make a pilgrimage to Notre Dame de Verdelaies.

Since you left your purse at our disposal, we said: we are short 500 francs to complete our project, and our only means of doing so was to draw on the house at Verdelaies for this amount; and so, Father, it is because of you that the house of theology and the house of studies will have the advantage of studying the Holy Fathers. All the houses responded generously to this appeal.

So now you are about to begin your apostolic labors; we, who remain in the camp, will be praying for the success of all your missions, as we have a great stake in them. You must tell your missionaries to be faithful to the practices of the Society, especially prayer and examen; for if a missionary is not careful to nourish and strengthen the inner, religious spirit within himself, he will soon be exhausted in the ministry.

Then, in between missions, the few days of spiritual and physical rest which are taken in the Society, will renew their strength and their apostolic grace.

I believe that you are still joyful and happy, just as I left you. You know that when the heart is happy, suffering is nothing. Always keep your soul in Holy freedom - it is the means of accomplishing all things well: otherwise, you will be overburdened and ill.

Every time I think of you and your activities which are so numerous, I am overcome by a feeling of sadness: the fear of seeing you give way under the weight of being Superior, Pastor, Pilgrimage Director. Really, that is enough to fill three lives! Do try, as Superior, to delegate as much work as you can to your Colleagues for the pilgrimage.

That was the advice of Jethro to Moses. And there is another advantage: the pilgrimage, shared in this way, becomes more stable than if it depended on one person alone. I am well aware that confidence is not automatic, that's true; but if it is the result of necessity, they resign themselves eventually. Always keep to what you arranged for confessions, at set times. Otherwise, you could

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<sup>50</sup> Marist Superior of Verdelaies

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

not bear the pressure, you would be overwhelmed by the crowd, and your Superior's and Priest's heart would suffer for it. I have come to realize, since I have been on the Calvary of administration, that one must know how to get away, close oneself in, and sometimes be harsh - in a holy way - toward other people's demands; otherwise one cannot live - one scarcely has time to breathe.

Poor Superiors! they are much to be pitied! Everyone wants them at once, everyone makes demands on them.. let us imitate our Lord and "*fugit in montes ipse solus.*"<sup>51</sup>

It seems that your holy slavery is in fashion, and does good - so much the better! but be careful, Father, lest they call you a Jesuit invader! with the pastors in the forefront. I know you to be prudent, but you must persevere in prudence, lest the enemy of all good gain a foothold. They say there is nothing like pious women to cause jealousy and intrigue.

I must stop. I feel I am still talking to you with the simplicity and frankness which you have allowed me, since we are brothers.

So, courage, Father: the Blessed Virgin who is so kind will help and sustain you.

Say a prayer to her for me, and I am, in her maternal heart,

Your loving and dedicated Colleague,  
Eymard, Assistant, Society of Mary

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**CO 94**

**TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 47/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, November 8, 1847*

My very dear sisters,

Thank you very much for all that you were so kind to send me. You are so good to me. I can only repay you by my humble prayers. So I pray continually for you that our Lord will let you share in the hundredfold that he gives his children. I received everything: the water from La Salette, the two pairs of socks and my book.

I just learned that Fr. Rabilloux is pastor near Bourgoin. God grant that he may be happier there than at La Mure. I don't advise you to address yourself to Fr. Pillon, but rather to stay with the Pastor.

As good Third Order sisters, here is the way you can supplement for what is lacking. Write to me from time to time for your spiritual direction, on your sorrows of conscience, on your exercises of piety, on your prayer life - a separate page for each of you - and I will try to answer as best I can. I hope that Father Pillon will succeed in La Mure if he keeps to himself, if he is very discreet and especially if he is serious and modest. He is quite religious, but you know La Mure, my good sisters. To be at peace, one has to keep to oneself. So, you have chosen well.

Please extend my best wishes to the good and excellent Fayolle family, especially to our sister of the Third Order.

All yours in our Lord,  
Your brother,  
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

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<sup>51</sup> He fled to the mountains alone. Tr.

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 7/395 VI 2)

*November, 1847<sup>52</sup>*

My daughter, I am returning your notes. Keep them for me. In the meantime I approve your desire for a temporary vow of obedience, but on a daily basis.

I'm leaving shortly on the wings of that very gracious Providence.

In her company, I would be willing to go to the four ends of the world. Providence is so gentle, caring, attentive, loving! So you should also depend on it.

I have spoken about you to Fr. Colin, in case you should need him.

Farewell in God, in Jesus, in Mary and St. Joseph, and if I should go to Heaven before you, I will keep a place for you there.

Wednesday

**TO MISS JENNY GUILLOT**  
(II 3/3)

*Lyons, November 8, 1847*

I'm writing to give you a brief reply, dear daughter, before leaving for Saint Etienne, where I'll be staying about a week. Your letter pleased me, for I can see that you are working to acquire inner peace by the unfailing means of conforming your will to our Lord's, of seeing everything that happens to you as a grace from our good Master. And in fact it is very true. For then, what does it matter after all whether we please our Lord in illness or in health, by a state of dryness or fervor, of submission or devotional practices, provided he may be pleased with what we do. With these principles we will be satisfied with everything and everywhere, because we only act and desire as God wills. Nevertheless, try to do all you can to get better, and for that purpose take all the necessary precautions. Only perform the spiritual exercises which are proportionate to your strength. If your Communion don't tire you, well! do them, but with calm and surrender. You don't need to confess every week, every two weeks is sufficient. If you aren't well or if the noise or presence of people tire you, you can be dispensed from Vespers. Replace them with a brief visit to the Blessed Sacrament, if you can.

Be strong my daughter, always rejoice in our Lord's love for you.

My respects to your good mother and believe me ever, in Jesus and Mary,

Devotedly yours,  
Eymard

Miss Guillot Jenny at her mother's  
Place de la Fontaine  
at Chasselay (Rhône)

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<sup>52</sup> Fr. Troussier indicates this letter as the 10<sup>th</sup>, but the archives of the servants have the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 8/395 VI 2)

*Sunday, January, 1848*

All your crucifixes have been indulged with the conditions indicated on my paper.

I read the letter from Miss L. That good woman embarrasses me by what she believes about me. In fact, it's very humiliating to be considered to be what one ought to be, knowing it should be so, with inner humiliation as the only possible response.

It seems to me that there is no need for an Association for the work of vestment-making. I would prefer separate collections. I spoke to Miss de Revel about that. I will have her give you the money.

I am leaving at 11:30 with Bishop d'Amata. Pray for us.

Be closely united to Jesus, Mary and Joseph, all of you. And you, especially, let the winds and storms rage within you. Fire is purified by swirling upon itself and then it can melt and purify gold.

Continue your Communions in spite of the violence of the devil.

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I bless you.  
Eymard

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 48/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, January 4, 1848*

My dear sisters,

It is only right that I begin my first letter of the year with you. I wanted to write on New Year's day, but that became impossible. I wished you a "happy New Year" at the sacred Altar where I presented you to our Lord, and brought your needs and wishes before him. I prayed then as your godson, your brother and priest and your religious. Under these four titles, I was asking four graces:

1. That he would repay you for all the good you have done for me;
2. That we would always be united in the love of our Lord, our Father;
3. That we would always be worthy spouses of Jesus, consecrated to his love and to his cross which is its proof;

4. That you would always be good members of the Third Order of Mary, loving the simple and obscure life like Mary; serving God with the simplicity and modesty of piety, especially practicing holy conformity to the Will of God in and above all; pleading every day for the gift of prayer through the intercession of Saint Joseph, that gift which brings all other gifts with it.

These, my good sisters, are my wishes. Aren't they beautiful?

As far as temporal wishes are concerned, I entrust you to divine Providence which is your mother and protectress. Be assured that our divine Master will never forsake you.

I urge you to take care of your feeble health, doing only what you can do, while still serving the Good Lord well.

There is nothing new here except the extreme difficulties which are felt because business conditions are bad which is not surprising. People are so evil and so untrustworthy! Therefore, my

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dear sisters, stay quietly in your corner, earning paradise there. These large cities are really Babylons of damnation.

On several occasions I saw Mme. Robert whom Fr. Faure recommended to me. Take care not to receive either that poor ill-intentioned person or her wretched daughter - all the doors of Lyons have been closed to them by their gossiping, etc...

Good Fr. Faure should never recommend such people. I consider the mother mental and the daughter a hypocrite, although I have no proof. But she gives me the impression of being a mental case.

I was forgetting to tell you that I celebrated Midnight Mass for you. You can well imagine that I placed you very close to the divine crib.

Pray for me always. I pray more for you than for myself. I'm well.

All yours,  
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

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**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 49/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, January 27, 1848*

My good sisters,

Your letter saddened me because I saw that you were upset. I know full well that no one should embroil himself in your family affairs. You shouldn't be obliged to render an account to anyone as to what you own or should do. So stay at peace and continue to do as you always have done and as St. Francis de Sales so well said: "Do what is right and let others say what they will."

You'll never be able to silence the tongues of pietistic people. This is especially true when these people think they have reasons that justify their zealous words. What should you do? Imitate our Lord. Be silent about it, but a peaceful silence with charity. I believe that these misguided people, who are causing you heartaches, are thinking only of others' misfortunes. They pay attention only to their heart but little to their rather cutting words. Don't get so disturbed, either, by what the Pastor says. He is a man who, like the others, is too easily influenced. If he was told that you are very rich... I can understand what happened. But, unfortunately, the poor Pastor doesn't know everything.

My sisters, this has always been my advice: be simple in your confessions. If you are asked any questions bordering on spiritual direction, answer gratefully. If all they do is listen to your sins, oh well? The Good Lord himself will enlighten you at the opportune time, but don't be disconsolate. After all, you are what you are before God and God is a good Father.

Take better care of yourselves. You work too hard. Take more time for things. Pray for me. I will for you.

Your brother,  
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)<sup>53</sup>**  
(V 1/76)

*Lyons, January 28, 1848*

Madame,

I was just beginning to complain to our Lord as I was quite worried, but then, your letter came to comfort me. However, I do approve when I see you applying what you said would be your rule: the holy Will of God first and foremost in everything and in everyone.

This divine Rule of gracious Providence makes us peaceful everywhere. We are like a child in its mother's arms. So, let us truly be like children in God's hands. Sometimes his grace carries us, then we travel joyfully. At other times he only gives us his hand, then we must walk, but difficulties are nothing in Jesus' company. He often lets us walk alone, in the mud, out in the desert. Then let's call out to our Master. He was deliberately teaching us that we can do nothing by ourselves. Sometimes this kind Father seems to be letting you experience weakness and poverty in a personal way. Well then, praise him for this grace also which proves his love for you even more clearly. Oh yes. Be sure of it, my poor daughter, God really loves you quite gratuitously. Your confidence should rest in that: he wants you to know especially that everything you do is good in his sight only to the extent that you sacrifice your will for his. So I thank our good Master for his Fatherly care over your soul and life. So, please believe me, [put aside any] anxious planning for the future, desires for a freer life, were it even to practice silence peacefully, exterior recollection, or even prayer. My daughter, let our Lord choose the external form of your life as he wills. Consider all personal events as coming from his Father's heart. Remind yourself that perfect love of God means loving God in God, going to God by the shortest way, that is, the way of surrender to his holy Will at every moment. Oh, how hard it is for your heart to die to your ego in order for God to be your whole life! To help us die [to self] God turns heaven and earth upside down, he surrounds us with every kind of weakness, distractions, dryness, desolation, interior frustration, to detach us from ourselves. People and their faults, passions, demands and thoughtlessness, help us practice gentleness and patience, tell us that the center of peace can be found only in God. You see, God can be very disturbing: when we would like to pray, he has us work at things we dislike. When we would like to be in solitude, we must live in an unpleasant and profane society. Alas. Let us truly say to him: "My God, my beloved Father, your holy Will replaces everything for me and I will praise you in everything."

But I must admit that if we aren't careful to feed and maintain the spiritual life, we would soon be worn out, weak and wavering. Earth's vegetation needs the night, human beings need sleep. Sleep often on the heart of our dear Jesus as St. John did. Oh! How many things we learn in this gentle sleep of the soul's interior silence in Jesus! How courageous we are on awakening!

But, you will say, I'm so disorganized, I am out of touch with myself. Activity is forever pulling me out of myself!

I do believe that it's all true. What can you do? - Nothing.

Gradually ignore your imagination, your mental activity, your irritated heart. Hand them over to our Lord one after the other; catch them in the nets of his holy Will.

It will happen without strain, clamor, or disturbance, like people do when they want to catch fish. Then, the miraculous catch will happen. My dear daughter, imitate the angel Raphael in your contact with others: notice, the Angel leaves heaven, his place of honor near God's throne and

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<sup>53</sup> Firts of 46 letters to Josephine Gourd. Mme. Gourd was received privately by St. Peter Julian as a Servant of the Blessed Sacrament with the name: Sr. Joseph of the Blessed Sacrament. In fact she never entered the Servants. St. Eymard corresponded with Mme. Gourd and her daughter Stephanie until his death.

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comes to this sad earth. He takes on a poor, humble, servile way of life alongside young Tobias. He serves him as his master. He never seems hurried. He does each thing calmly and with a free heart. Why so? Because God wills it, God sent him for this very thing. So the Angel is happier to bring his message than to do his own will in heaven (if that were possible). But notice that, while living as a man, he continued to eat his own invisible divine food: he fed upon the sight of God and the fulfillment of his holy Will. That is how he found heaven on earth. I will let you make your own application.

That was for your soul. [Now,] I also want to tell you to take care of your body. I'm afraid your aren't taking care of yourself. Prudence must season all the virtues. As for myself, my health is adequate to my tasks; thank you; but I need to do the very things I am writing to you. My poor soul is also suffering from such an external and active life. Oh! Pray for my needs; you know that providers often keep nothing for themselves and are then reduced to seeking alms.

I believe you have been told about your poor mother's illness. It really upset me, especially to know that you were far from her, I had prayers said for her and your husband immediately. On Tuesday and Wednesday, our meeting days, I recommended them to the Third Order. They are all making a novena for both soul and body. As for me, knowing what your intentions would be, I am also making a novena of Masses in honor of the blessed Virgin and St. Joseph. Oh what a blessed illness [it would be] if its fruit were salvation! I do so wish it! Let's not be discouraged, Jesus has done everything to save a soul.

Madame Nicod is still very weak and sick. She may die from it as she has hardly eaten anything for nearly forty days. She has typhoid fever, but she is very resigned. However, she is suffering because of her children.

Oh my, such is life! When shall we get to Heaven!

Well now, I must stop. This has been too long, but it was to imitate you and show you how much I want to encourage you. All yours in the divine Heart of Jesus, where I can leave you and find you.

Eymard

P.S. We've just received news from Oceania and we [have] a new martyr: it's Brother Blaise. As he was dying and they were trying to comfort him, [he said]: "Why are you upset? We are only exchanging this life for a better one." At the sight of the peace and joy which were evident on his dying face, a Protestant cried out: "That is the true religion!" and became Catholic. All the missionaries of New Caledonia were nearly martyred with a Bishop. It's just by a miracle that they are still alive. They had to leave the island. - Pray.

Madame Gourd, at Nice  
c/o the Superior of the Visitation convent  
(to be given personally.)

**TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)**  
(VII 2/7)

*Lyons, January 28, 1848*

Madame,

Forgive my delay in answering your letter which I was so happy to receive. I was waiting for a free moment, in order to write to you calmly, that is why I delayed until today, the 28<sup>th</sup>. -- If it's too late to wish you a happy New Year, I will at least wish you a good Feast of St. Francis de Sales, that dear Saint! whose name you bear and whose spirit you wish to share. This spirit is so gentle, so even-tempered, so tenderly loving. Oh! I often pray to this good Saint to make you ever kind, kind as he was, like our kind and tender Mary, like Jesus. I see that our Lord really loves you, that he finds his delight in your house of Nazareth. Consider yourself as being at his service. This thought will give you confidence and courage. Let me tell you my complete thought, very simply; in return you must very simply tell me your feelings about the Third Order.

Reflecting one day on the purpose of the Third Order, that is, about the individual sanctification of members, joined among themselves only by spiritual but precious bonds, it's true, I felt this was incomplete, much too limited, and especially, too dependent on the center of the Third Order, that is, on meetings and conferences; that something more total and constant was necessary. Besides, as the Third Order was effectively making religious of its members, it needed more effective means. My answer was as follows:

The Third Order must follow the development of the church. In the church, there are ordinary Catholics, others are more devout, finally, others are perfect: I mean the religious who are submitted to a perfect rule.

Therefore, in the Third Order, we could have: secular members and regular members. These [latter] would live with a rule adapted to their vocation, as similar to religious perfection as possible. I have been reflecting on this thought for a long time in prayer. Finally I set to work. I prepared a little rule for a house of the Third Order. Each member would have his responsibilities, etc., under obedience to the Rule. I say obedience to the Rule, and not to persons, to avoid the danger of arbitrariness. This was tried in one specific house; it is truly a house of Nazareth. If our good Master is drawing you in this way... He is offering it to you, but first, I need to try it in a few families; how to harmonize the duties of the husband and wife, of father and mother between them.

It would be appropriate to make the Father the head, the Superior of the Third Order house. Yet it could result in great slavery for the mother. I see drawbacks to naming the mother as the Superior; what do you think?..

I will always respect the rights of each one and so I would like the vital principle of obedience applied to set duties rather than to persons. So, we need the head of the family who would be the Father, but I would place the Mother as head within the house to apply its internal Rule: here again, [give me] your thoughts and your prayers.

Now, I come to your letter:

1. On mortification. -- We need both interior and exterior [mortification], for it is like a preservative salt. - Interior mortification consists in denying our selfish will; external mortification, in vigilance over our temperament and senses, and this is in order to nourish our interior recollection. However, we need an easy, gentle watchfulness, which is loving and not bitter or angry, as is a humiliated self love. Our resolve to practice mortification must be limited to our current actions and not to certain days and months, because our senses don't understand why. They are like a day-old child. On fast days, the Way of the Cross would do some good.

2. My dear sister, let your soul fully imbibe the love of Jesus. When we owe much, we love much. Jesus repays everything and this love is merciful towards our neighbor: A mercy of indulgence for strangers, the mercy of a doctor for those who are close to us.

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3. You do well when you go to Holy Mass to wait to say your prayers in the Church. It enables you to gain an extra moment near Jesus Eucharistic who has such love for us.

4. If you have "*The Spirit of St. Francis de Sales*," you could reread it fruitfully. Rodriguez "*On Esteem for Perfection*," Volume I, and then his treatise on ordinary actions would be [even] better. But vary your reading.

5. Oh! I would almost reproach you for having put aside your little monthly retreat. Come now, do it on your first free day.

This week I received news about Mme. G.<sup>54</sup> She is fine, but her husband is not well. It seems that she is occupied with her dear patient who hasn't lost his appetite. This dear Lady doesn't know that her mother is very ill. Tuesday and Wednesday I asked all the Sisters to begin a novena for her mother. Oh! if faith and conversion to God were its outcome, how happy I would be! I am also doing it. Your heart has already accepted to do the same.

Mme. Aline has been better,<sup>55</sup> I am told, for the last two days. I saw her on Sunday. Poor mother! Her children still need her... It would call for a miracle.

I am astonished, my dear sister, that I have written so much (unusual for me), but I feel like I am at Bramefaim where we forget both time and the hour.

My affectionate respects to dear Mr. Perroud. If he comes, we will receive him on the first Saturday of February.<sup>56</sup>

All yours in Jesus and Mary.  
Eymard

P.S. Your priest-brother is well.

Mme. Perroud  
at Bramefaim, at Pommiers  
via Villefranche  
(Rhone)

102

CO 101

**TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD**  
(V 1/52)

*Lyons, January 29, 1848*

Mademoiselle,<sup>57</sup>

I am writing to thank you for your two letters. The first brought me comfort, the second, sadness. Write to me. Give me good news about your dear mother whom I respect as my own.

I hope that Jesus will hear our prayers for her health.

I am including her in our novena for both your dear mother and father.

Now I want to refer to your first [letter]. I am thanking our Lord for treating you as his tenderly loved child, not by giving you sweet feelings, consolations, but opportunities to practice generosity, and consequently to struggle against your poor human nature. So, my daughter, be faithful, always faithful to your practices. Our body is in good health when it has a definite and

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<sup>54</sup> Probably Mme. Gourd.

<sup>55</sup> Her sister.

<sup>56</sup> As a Tertiary member?

<sup>57</sup> First of 52 letters to Stephanie Gourd. This relationship was to continue until the end of Fr. Eymard's life.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

consistent schedule. It's the same for the soul; faithfulness is the proof of love for God. So then, I urge you to learn to perform each thing perfectly according to its nature, and in order to do so, learn the specifics of each thing. Consequently, from time to time do your meditation, examen, and spiritual reading on meditation, examen, Mass, Communion, purity of intention, etc... for the very simple reason that we should begin by benefiting as much as possible from what is at hand and is the daily nourishment of our spiritual life.

Then, my daughter, always go to the Good Lord very simply, with the surrender of a small child.

In your meditations, learn to converse with Jesus and Mary as you would converse familiarly with your dear mother. Learn how to give our Lord a detailed account of your soul, of your life.

Tell the Good Lord what you are thinking, what you want, what is upsetting you. Oh! how happy we become when we discover this interior conversation with our Lord. We carry our treasure [with us] everywhere. He becomes the center of our heart and life. There is no happiness on earth without Jesus. Therefore, no other way than to live with Jesus, our spouse, our Father, the life of our soul!

Thank you, my poor daughter, for praying for me. It's a true charity, I am very needy.

Yes, at Nice they are frightening you about the republicans in France and the plans of the radicals. Don't believe any of it, because France is very quiet. And then, Mary is watching over France and St. Michael is its patronal angel.

Here people ridicule the ghosts of fear created to frighten people.

I am, in our Lord, my daughter,

Your ever devoted,  
Eymard

**103**

**CO 103**

**TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD**

(V 2/52)

*February 3, [1848]*

This morning I received your sorrowful letter, poor daughter. I am writing to tell you my heart sympathizes with your grief and sadness.

I am also very sad and I cannot help weeping over your dear mother. I also feel like I am losing a mother...

My soul is miles away by her bedside with you. Oh! We are inclined to tell the Good Lord to leave your good mother with us for a while. I am having others pray for this as much as I can, and I am also constantly praying.

Our united prayers saved your mother [before]. She was healed then. Oh! Will Mary our tender Mother not hear our prayers again? I know your mother would go to Heaven, and Heaven wants her, she is so good! Oh! Poor daughter, consider yourself blessed to have such a mother! Be her daughter for both reasons. You have been fortunate to know her so closely, to appreciate her spirit of charity, self-denial, generosity, and conformity to the Will of God in all things. You have a saint before you. But why should I speak to you about your poor mother as if you were to lose her? This illness may last only a few days! God grant that it be so!

It is an act of charity on your part to write some news to me about her, and I join with you to say: Oh my God, give us the grace to submit to your holy Will!

Make a vow to the Good Lord in honor of St. Joseph for your mother's healing. For example, to recite his litany during six months, to make an alms to the poor each week, one Communion each month for the souls in Purgatory (or something else).

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

I have just learned that Mme. Nicod is dying, that she will not pass the night. She is dying like a saint, calm and serene. Alas! her Calvary has been long! Her beautiful soul will soar to Heaven, the goal of her life.

Take care of yourself a little, my daughter, and if you think it is advisable, tell your mother about our prayers here. I wrote to her a week ago. Please look at the letter, you may read everything.

I am, in our Lord,  
All yours,  
Eymard

**104**

**CO 104**

**TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET<sup>58</sup>**  
(VI 1/10)

*St. Etienne, February 20, 1848*

Excellency,

I have just accompanied Bishop d'Amata here. He is leaving for Clermont. He is going to bid his farewells. He is leaving from Toulon on March 20 on the Egeria, a State warship, with 13 missionaries.

I have received neither letters nor packages for your Eminence. As soon as I have something I will address it to you in the form we agreed upon.

I had a long conference Saturday with a man who formerly had a high position in Switzerland. Here is the gist of our conference - In Switzerland, stand exclusively on Catholic ground, [position] - on the question of Catholic freedom, - but as a general and not as a specific question. - Do not concede any principles, for one concession leads to another, no one can diminish the principle of Catholic freedom. As for the question of religious Groups, he would like to have some, but he considers it as a consequence to be settled prudently (for the Jesuits, the ground is too hot).

This excellent statesman, although protestant, gave me a few references. I enclose them with my letter.

The coach is leaving. My most profound respects.

Eymard

P.S. This advisor prefers specific questions. He can be helpful. When I left, Father Colin asked me to present his sincere regards and to tell you he will be upset with Your Excellency if you pass through Lyons [without stopping].

The members of the PP. received the note with gratitude.

Forgive this letter - I am leaving for a fortnight.

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<sup>58</sup> The first of 10 letters to Bishop Luquet, the papal Nuncio in Switzerland, who had close ties with the Marists.

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 50/145 VI 10)

*St. Etienne [St. Stephen], February 28, 1848*

My dear sisters,

I'm writing you a few words so that you will not worry. I'm spending a few days at Saint Etienne [St. Stephen] to visit our houses here. My health is good, - the city is at peace, - and leaves us alone. This morning we received a letter from Lyons from our Superior General who informs us that the city is quiet, that civil order rules there. This was also verified by many people. We have just received news from Paris. Peace has returned after so much tragedy.

Let's put all our trust in God alone. Nothing will happen to us other than what is willed by divine mercy. We have been assured that there is no opposition to religion nor to the priests.

I embrace you in the Lord, very dear sisters.

Your brother,  
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

*March (date?) - Attacked by a group of rebels in the city.*

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 9/395 VI 2)

*March, 1848*

You are chiding me and I am still sick. I've been quite sick since Friday. May God be praised! I will be a little more indulgent toward the sick.

It seems that your reasoning is also a bit sick. I was consoling myself with the thought that you were calm, charitable, humble, and resigned to all the little trials that God sends! Are you going to let yourself become the plaything of so many little childish passions? Please! Don't let your personal pride make you so sensitive. You know very well that, if you are first in my desire that you should love God, you ought to be last in your own eyes and in the eyes of others. Why should you care what others think, provided you know my thoughts or rather those of obedience? Oh! Die a little then, for self-will is still too much alive in you.

I'll ask our Lord to let you become his little one, and especially to remove from you all the cunning<sup>59</sup> that makes me very sad, because it isn't very pure.

I'll be able to see you only on Thursday, because I'm not receiving anyone yet...

I had lost my voice, but as you see, my pen is my scalpel. Let's say: a Father's scalpel.

Continue your Communions.

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<sup>59</sup> French: malices.

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 51/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, March 7, 1848*

My good sisters,

I received your kind letter and want to express my sincere thanks. In time of need you both always have shown the heart of a mother toward me.

Nothing happened to us here in Lyons<sup>60</sup>. Religion and priests were respected everywhere. In Lyons all the church ceremonies took place as usual the following Sunday. We even noticed that there were more people.

It's true, gangs of workmen burned all the looms they could find in religious communities, but they didn't harm the sisters. It was an old grudge, because they thought that work was done there at a cheaper price.

It was a crime on their part as they were violating every law, but the authorities are taking proper measures.

Everyone hopes that our new republic will not be like the first one. It has begun well and everyone recognizes that divine Providence intervened.

Now, we must pray well so that the Good Lord may lead everything to a good end. I just received news from Paris today: everything is calm there. They write and tell us that such a courteous and friendly revolution has never been seen before, as if it were a family of brothers. There is no red flag in Paris, no flaunting of the title of citizen, as is happening to the poor people in the provinces. Good order and ordinary relations have been resumed,

Lent is beginning. Take care of yourselves, love and serve the Good Lord well. "Do what is right and let others say what they will." Let that be your motto.

I embrace you in Jesus and Mary.

Your brother,  
Eymard

P.S. Kindly inquire from Fr. Girolet whether he took care of the six Masses I had mentioned to him. Give him my regards, as well as good Fr. Pillon<sup>61</sup>. I will write to him shortly.

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

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<sup>60</sup> He speaks of the Revolution.

<sup>61</sup> Parish priests.

**TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST**  
(IV 1/52)

*Lyons, March 7, 1848*

Madame,<sup>62</sup>

I have just arrived from a rather long trip and my first concern is to answer your letter which expresses such trust. I begrudge Fr. Cariet for having won such a high level of trust toward me from you. Oh! Madame, God humbles me by using me for a work which is entirely his and placing me in front of his beloved children. I like to remind my good Father that when he saves his children, he will also one day pity the poor servant who led them.

Well! You want me to share a few thoughts with you. To begin with, because of the spiritual bonds between us, I am happy to share in your merits and sufferings. Our natural feelings lead us to pity those who suffer. Therefore, I hope that your health will improve and I pray that it will. But grace understands suffering, and love makes us love and desire it, because the essence of love in this life lies in immolation and suffering. - Oh! My sister, I know that you also judge it so. In heaven Jesus' cross is his scepter and throne of glory.

But ordinarily, when one is feeling ill, the soul seems to follow the moods of the body. Don't worry about it: it's a struggle but not a surrender. So, your aridity, your inner sufferings, also come from God's infinite kindness. It's because he wants you to cling to him alone - so that you may love him more than his gifts of consolation.

It seems to me that the best thing to do would be to center yourself on the holy Will of God for you. Make it your life, your joy and your hope. Oh! how happy a soul feels when it watches or sleeps under the vigilant care of this special Providence!

But St. Francis de Sales would have us do nothing in a tense or hurried manner. Let us follow the attraction and movement of grace within: that is the principal criteria: so then, let me know what this attraction [of grace] may be.

I recommend myself to your prayers and, in the humility of our Lord,

I am, Madame,  
Your very humble servant,  
Eymard, P.M.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> Father Eymard addressed 52 letters of spiritual direction to Mme.Tholin-Bost at Tarare and at Amplepuis (Rhône) and 28 to Antonia Bost, her sister.

<sup>63</sup> Marist Priest.

**To MISS ANTONIA BOST**  
(IV 1/28)

*Lyons, March 7, 1848*

Mademoiselle,<sup>64</sup>

I am writing in answer to your welcome letter. It brought me joy, in our Lord, because I believe that you are, or at least will one day become, a disciple pleasing to his heart and Mary's. I thanked Jesus and Mary for having chosen you both<sup>65</sup> as sisters in the Third Order and so Providentially. How wonderful is God's love gleaning some of earth's exiled ones here and there saying: "You will be my family, my Cenacle, my Nazareth in the midst of the world!"

My dear sister, I'm sorry that you are so far from the center<sup>66</sup>; but the will of our divine Master which is to be adored and loved above all things wants you to be where you are. However, a single spirit must bring us together from all sides into the heart of Jesus through Mary.

This spirit is simple like Mary, like the spirit of the child of the gospel. This spirit is modest like Mary's modesty, a modesty which makes her appear ordinary, which covers her like a mantle; so that when the world sees her pray, work, pass among them, they say: She is an ordinary woman from Nazareth.

This spirit is considerate toward its neighbor, subordinating external piety to the duties of one's state in life, making virtue seem more pleasant than strict. How kind Mary was toward her neighbor, putting aside her own will for the sake of charity and sacrifice. How patient she was in trials, gracious and considerate in the house of Nazareth.

The spirit of the Third Order is more interior than exterior. That is why it leads to prayer and recollection; because activity, light and heat are the natural effects of fire, and when a soul is united to our Lord, it certainly knows how to discover and fulfill his holy Will.

My daughter, become a good child of Mary and a worthy emulator of your sisters, for they are very pleasing to our Lord.

You asked me how to correct yourself of your self-love, your moodiness, your touchy attitudes toward your M... Alas! I must tell you that it is by accepting yourself as you are, by going to our Lord like a poor person in rags, saying: "See how poor I am! But you are rich and you are my Father..." Oh! Jesus loves the poor so much that he calls himself their King!

Then, if you really love this divine King, you will also love not your imperfections and sins, but the humiliation they bring, as well as being treated as a poor one.

Continue your correspondence. May Jesus always be its soul! Continue to go to holy Communion like a child. Let trust bring you courage: speak from the simplicity of love and let an immense desire to love be your preparation.

I leave you and bless you. On your part, pray for me, so that Jesus may live in me.

It is in his all divine love that I am,

Your ever devoted,  
Eymard

Miss Antonia Bost  
at Tarare (Rhône)

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<sup>64</sup> This is the first of 28 letters written to Julie-Antoinette (Antonia) Bost at 2 rue du Mange, at Rennes

<sup>65</sup> She and her sister Mme. Tholin-Bost.

<sup>66</sup> Lyons, the center of the Third Order.

## 110

CO 110

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 10/395 VI 2)

*April 1, 1848*

Thank you, my dear daughter, for [showing] so much interest. What can I say? When the Good Master wants us to stay at home and sometimes in bed, we must do so, because it's for our greater good. May he be praised!

The illness I've had for a week consists in spells of dizziness that get hold of me, and I come close to falling. That is why I don't dare go out.

My great misfortune is to have too many doctors; but the principal one is our Lord and your prayers. Ask that I may do what the Good Lord wills.

Concerning the dismissal of the girls, don't take that responsibility on yourself, in case something unpleasant should happen. Let them be free to stay or leave until Easter. The prudent view is that it seems reasonable to advise them to return to their family, but it would be good if that should come from them.

That's my feeling. I share your feeling to keep one of them.

May the Good Lord bless you all and keep you always in his holy care. Be at peace, my good daughters<sup>67</sup>. Mary will protect you well and cover you with her motherly mantle, I promise you.

All yours,  
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
April 2 - Visit to the workmen at the factory.

## 111

CO 111

**TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 52/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, April 4, 1848*

Very dear sisters,

Your kind letters really touched me. I never doubted your love for me. Rather I would reproach you for having loved me too much, since it is that great affection which caused your great sorrows. But I must also say, that I always shared them as a brother. And the Good Lord knows that I love only two people in this world, with this natural Christian love, and that is you.

I am continuing my letter today, Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>, I was unable to finish it [before].

I don't know how time passes so quickly, but I almost always reach evening without having had time to turn around. Then my migraine headache has come back these last few days. It had left me alone for so long! You know, with a migraine a person cannot do anything.

I see that some people have been frightening you about Lyons and about us<sup>68</sup>. However, I can assure you that we have been left totally undisturbed. We haven't received even the slightest insult. On the contrary, a guard was placed at our door. We go into the city very simply in our cassocks and it almost seems that the cassock is respected more now [than before].

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<sup>67</sup> Addressed to Marguerite and her sisters?

<sup>68</sup> News of the Revolution.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Two days ago, I went with one of my colleagues to visit a work site where there were eight hundred workers. We were wearing our cassocks. They welcomes us with respect. We went there to thank the workmen who brought us a flag.

So, my dear sisters, don't be so alarmed, and especially don't believe all the exaggerated tales that are circulating. Lyons is calm. The workmen are going back to work. We trust that God will take care of everything. It is admirable to see the fervor and piety of the Lyonnese toward Our Lady of Fourviere and in all the churches.

It is true that business is not doing well at all. If things were to continue this way, it would be most unfortunate.

I am astonished that Communism should be known at La Mure! It is something contrary to reason and common sense. That is why they are beginning to deal with it properly.

I don't think that looting will prevail, because honesty and respect for good order would unite people against something so revolting.

Besides, the Good Lord is watching over us. I trust that good will come out of evil.

My respectful regards to Mme. Fayolle and to all her dear family.

Always all yours in our Lord,

Your brother,  
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

**112**

**CO 112**

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 53/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, April 25, 1848*

Very dear sisters,

I am writing to give you news about myself. I am well. Lyons is peaceful, Holy Week and the holy day of Easter were spent very well without any incidents. The elections were very peaceful. I went like the others, it is a duty for every good citizen. Sometimes a single vote can be decisive in favor of a good representative.

Do we hear of difficulties? Yes, every day. Nothing will ever stop the [discussions] for and against. Will there be a battle here? I don't think so, because people are tired of anarchy. They want order and security. If there were some disturbance, it would be only limited. Besides, my sisters, God and Mary are watching over us. All our trust lies in that.

Don't be terrified. God will take care of his own and I assure you that one is more secure in the city than in the country.

My respects to the Reymond family. I saw Miss Berthilde; she is situated in the country. Tell them not to worry about her. She is fine.

I embrace you in our Lord.

Your brother,  
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

**TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET<sup>69</sup>**  
(VI 2/10)

Lyons, April 30, 1848

Excellency,

We were worried about you, because we had not received any news. Thank you for having written to us. I would have written to you but I no longer knew where to address my letter.

So many changes [have taken place] since you passed through Lyons! God alone is stable and eternal. In the midst of this passionate agitation, there is still something consoling; it is that some good will inevitably result for religion from this shock. It will be freer in the [political] arena - it will know its enemies better, - and better appreciate its true friends. A dormant faith is awakening - we are surprised to find so many Catholic combatants and hearts that are so generous - Buechez-Bastide... they will replace the old moldy Utopians whose only religion and political power seemed to consist in placing obstacles to the development and progress of faith.

Our elections are good; they are proceeding in order, propriety and freedom. It is true that we have prayed so much, especially in Lyons; a single publisher printed and sold 30,000 copies of 40 or more prayers, fastings, alms, etc... The enemies of good order are beginning to be afraid. Arago, our Commissioner, left Friday to go into hiding. The public intends to take him to court. He is accused of having withdrawn large amounts of money, - of having misappropriated or embezzled 500,000 francs, etc.; now he is lost, rejected even, by the workers. So go the men who follow their passions.

Lyons is quiet. In spite of a thousand and one rumors, we can see the hand of God stemming the revolutionary tide. We, ourselves, have been quiet. Through prudence we have reduced the personnel in our houses. As to your affairs, I haven't received the chain you mentioned. I think it was delayed in Paris, as well as your letter. I did some investigation in Lyons. No one knows about it. Mme. Marteau is in great difficulty like everyone else. We even fear that in the end she may be ruined by the crisis. In order not to lose everything, your Excellency, we would advise you to accept the equivalent of her debt in vestments. That is the most prudent way. I am waiting to hear what you wish to do about this. If Mr. Favier, the goldsmith, cannot wait, Fr. Poupinel will be able to advance him something if you think it is suitable.

I sent all the Briefs to their address; what should we do for the payment?

They say that everyone preaches about his own saint. When I received that package, I hurried to see whether my request was included... I am waiting... but your Excellency, please obtain it for me, as it was granted to some of our missionaries with this clause: *modo exercitum consuetum viae crucis, aut aliquas vocales preces exarbitrio benedictis statuendas recitaverint.*<sup>70</sup>

There are so many sick people who cannot recite the 20 "Our Fathers", "Hail Marys" and "Glory Be's", and I know a Pastor who obtained this faculty without any [required] number. It's true, he had a friend in Rome, and a Marist devoted to the Missions of the Holy See would certainly have a filial right to this favor. I think it probably should be requested through the Propaganda. Please forgive me, your Excellency, for so much trouble, but all the merit will be yours, and I will have thousands of the Stations of the Cross done for you. My first names are Peter Julian...missionary.

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<sup>69</sup> Papal nuncio in Switzerland

<sup>70</sup> They shall make the customary exercise of the Stations of the Cross, or recite some vocal prayers determined by the choice of those approved by the Church. Tr.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Please receive the respectful and ever dedicated sentiments of Reverend Fathers Colin, Lagniet, Poupinel, and with them I dare say that I am,

Your Excellency's  
most humble and devoted servant,  
Eymard, Assistant S.M.

**114**

**CO 115**

**TO MR. PERROUD**  
(VII 2/2)

*Lyons, May 7, 1848*

Dear Sir,

I've just returned from [visiting] His Eminence, who has very graciously granted the favor to have Holy Mass celebrated in your chapel and to reserve the Blessed Sacrament there. I told him that the Bishop of Amiens goes to see you every year, like our Lord went to Bethany to see Lazarus and his sisters. I even added that in case of danger, His Eminence would find a very devoted and secure shelter there, -- that your house was like a convent -- The Bishop listened to these things with fond and paternal [affection].

The permission granted is a general one, as you will see. So, you won't need to refer to the conditions mentioned in my Petition.

So your house is now a religious house of the Third Order of Mary. I will now prepare a little schedule for a family of the Third Order and bring it to you, please God.

Excuse me, I am being rushed, but I am and will always be,

Dear Sir,

Your loving and devoted Father,  
Eymard, A.S.M.<sup>71</sup>

**115**

**CO 114**

**TO CARDINAL L.C.M. DE BONALD<sup>72</sup>**  
(VI 1/1)

Excellency,

The Perroud family from Pommiers, a respected and devout family, has offered the hospitality of its home to the Society of Mary, which accepts it gratefully. A Marist priest is already in residence there. There is a very suitable home chapel in the house.

Your Eminence had granted permission to celebrate Mass and to keep the Blessed Sacrament when there would be an approved priest in residence there. As this permission has expired, we ask that, in your kindness, you continue the permission in favor of this holy family and of the Society of Mary.

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<sup>71</sup> Assistant of the Society of Mary.

<sup>72</sup> Cardinal of Lyons

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

We are asking for this grace with the consent and desire of the Pastor of the parish.

With the most profound respect, I am

Your most humble and obedient Servant,  
Eymard

Assistant of the Society of Mary

Lyons, May 7, 1848

Granted

LCM de Bonald

Archbishop of Lyons

## 116

**CO 149**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**

(II 11/395 VI 2)

*Saturday, May 12, 1848*

My dear daughter, I am sending you the minutes for Tuesday, and I am happy to tell you that you have no need to be forgiven. I really wouldn't remember for what, other than for your great dedication to the Third Order.

I thought about the errand you asked me to convey to Fr. Lagniet. Would you know that I had forgotten the second one you mentioned in the confessional, and I thought it concerned only the first one. When I saw that you were upset, I still couldn't understand why. What can I say? It was one of my thousand distractions.

I really would like to receive news about Miss Claudine. about you, and about the whole house. Write to me at the hospital of St. Etienne [St. Stephen].

I'm still praying for you. May our Lord ever be your way, your truth and your life, and may you rest in him!

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

I was forgetting to tell you that my health is adequate for my work.

Miss Marguerite Guillot

9 Place Bellecour

Facing the Rhone,

Lyons

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 54/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, May 27, 1848*

Very dear sisters,

Miss Monavon, whom you saw at La Salette, has agreed to bring you my letter and to visit you. Thank you for your kind letters. You have no idea how happy they make me.

Several people also gave me news about you and I believe that you received some indirectly about me. That's why I wasn't writing to you right away.

We are well in Lyons. As I told you, don't believe all the exaggerated or alarming news you hear. Current news is filled with lies. The times are evil because we are in the presence of so many passions and almost under their power. The future would certainly seem dark if we didn't have divine Providence to protect us and Mary, as Queen of France.

That is what gives me confidence and [the thought] that evil men will do no more than the devil [can do]; they will threaten, they will seem ready to destroy everything. But God will bring their wickedness to a halt.

As for the mortgages you mention, I advise you to leave things as they are. They are just as secure.

The daughter of Mr. Moutin is a Marist Sister at Meximieux, department of Ain. I believe she is well, but what is sure is that she is there and very happy.

You tell me that you need to re-immerser yourself in God's love. Alas, we all need it and more than ever. I do approve your idea to make a little retreat of recollection at home. I often recommend that here. This is how [to do it]:

The first day, our concern is to obtain contrition by meditating on our sins in the morning, and on death in the evening, so as to bring us to expiate our sins more quickly.

The second day, it is to obtain the knowledge of our sins.

The first meditation is to identify the principal obstacles within us against the fulfillment of God's holy will upon us. It is often negligence or pride.

The second meditation is on what the Good Lord wants of us, as can be seen in our present state of life.

The third day is on God's love.

The first meditation is on the love of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

The second one is on heaven, the object of our hope.

During the day, we make the Stations of the Cross, keep silence a little more, and take some rest.

These few thoughts are meant to help you, but its purpose is not confession, but recollection with God.

I will write to Fr. Pillon. I had begun to [do so]. Take courage! Leave the world alone and it will leave you. Yes, I am a Christian republican, that is, I want to be independent from creatures and love and serve the Good Lord without them... to use them only insofar as the Good Lord wills. Do the same and you will be very free and peaceful.

All yours in Jesus Christ,

Your brother,  
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

June 10-17 - Retreat at Notre Dame du Laus.

## 118

CO 118

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 12/395 VI 2)

*Notre Dame du Laus, Saturday, June 10, 1848*

I am writing, dear daughter, to give you a little sign of life from my dear retreat at Laus. I am finally here, happy once again to see this holy chapel where I have so many memories and from which I expect so many graces.

You can imagine that none of you are forgotten here: you in your illness, your sisters, all your dear ones, and all the sisters of the Third Order. Here, one is so close to Mary, we can ask for anything.

I need to tell you that our Good Mother is leaving me with poor health [during] these days, especially my head and ears. You can imagine my natural feelings, but I rejoice over it, because I see it as a promise of graces from our Lord.

I am sending you the minutes of the single women's meeting. As soon as possible, please pass it on to Madame Champin, rue Saint Jean No. 5, so that she may read it at the married women's meeting as well.

I am happy to send you the paper which I have just moistened with blessed oil from the lamp burning in front of the miraculous chapel of the Blessed Virgin. This is the oil which has and is still accomplishing many authentic miracles. I've read the accounts about them. All the Missionaries of Laus, myself and my sister who is with me, are making a novena for you, reciting the "*Veni Creator*"<sup>73</sup> and the litanies of the Blessed Virgin each day. Unite yourself to us and apply to your pain the oiled paper which I am sending you.

I bless you, my daughter, and your sisters as well.

Pray for me.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour  
Facing the Rhone,  
Lyons

---

<sup>73</sup> Come, Creator Spirit.

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)**  
(V 2/76)

*Notre Dame du Laus, near Gap, June 15, 1848*

Dear Madame,

I am writing to you from the place of pilgrimage of my youth where I first came to know and love Mary. I have been wanting to come here for a long time to be quiet at the feet of our Good Mother (that is the favorite popular name for her here), I've been here now for nine days. I don't want to leave this place without writing you. I feel that a letter written at the feet of Mary will be better.

What can I tell you, my dear sister? That I can't thank the Blessed Virgin sufficiently for hearing my prayers for you. I was complaining to our good Mother that you were so sick. I didn't want heaven for you yet.

I prayed to our good Mother for you daily, for Miss Stephanie personally, for your husband, and for your poor mother.<sup>74</sup> Oh! If my prayers are as effective as my desires, you will be heard. I feel a gentle comforting confidence that it will be so.

It would make you so happy, my poor daughter, [if you could] pass through Gap on your way back to Lyons, and from there come to visit Notre Dame du Laus which is only two leagues away! You would receive great graces there. That's my wish for you.

Our good Master has really tried you. It's the first sound of the bell for eternity. Let's prepare for our departure.<sup>75</sup>

In the meantime, while I was here I understood more than ever that our Lord wants you in a life of self-denial and spiritual poverty, but also of total surrender into his hands like a little child. The small daily trials which happen are wings sent by him to help you put aside your old self and give your nothingness to Jesus. Let yourself be divested, let everything be taken away, in order to belong entirely to God.

Goodbye my daughter, pray for me. I'm sending you paper moistened in oil, in the oil of the lamp which burns in the sanctuary of Notre Dame du Laus. The blessed Virgin promised Sister Benoite<sup>76</sup> that this oil would work all sorts of healing for those who use it with faith. Use it for some of your patients, but do so with a novena to Our Lady of Laus.

I bless you in Jesus and Mary.

Eymard

Madame, Gourd, at Nice

---

<sup>74</sup> for their conversions (except Miss Stephanie).

<sup>75</sup> death.

<sup>76</sup> the missionary of Laus.

**TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD**  
(V 3/52)

*Notre Dame du Laus, June 15, 1848*

Miss Stephanie,

My dear daughter, I am writing to thank you for your welcome letters. I was so relieved with the news about your dear mother! [Your letters] were not fruitless, since I had prayers said for her everywhere.

Now I have been feeling sad on your account.

I was told that you had been very ill and that you still are. My poor daughter, this is how our Lord comes to visit his children from time to time, to tell them that this life is only an exile, a Calvary, to make us desire Heaven, our beautiful, eternal Homeland. Did you desire to go see the Good Lord face to face already, and Mary, our kind Mother? Oh! You may have to carry your cross on earth a little longer and prove by your sacrifices that you want to love Jesus above all things, as he deserves.

Love our good Master dearly, my dear daughter, and suffer for his love; work for heroic self-denial of the will, convinced that whatever we accomplish with gentle self-denial is infinitely more pleasing to God than any other action which may appear to be more perfect. I entrusted you to our good Mother and I asked her in your name that she love and lead you as her beloved daughter.

Pray for me, my daughter, as I pray for you.

Eymard

Miss Stephanie Gourd  
Nice

**TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET<sup>77</sup>**  
(VI 3/10)

*JMJ*

*Lyons, June 26, 1848*

Excellency,

I am writing to inform you about the matters you entrusted to me. Everything is working out for the better.

Mme. Marteau, whose debt toward Your Excellency amounts to 707 francs 50, including the cost for the protest, will send 17 chasubles worth 600 francs to Fr. Charrier, the procurator for Foreign Missions. Fr. Charrier will put these 600 francs toward your debt with Mr. Favier, the goldsmith. Fr. Poupinel has already advanced 107 francs 50 to Mr. Favier. Therefore, the matter is settled..

I haven't received the total of the expenses for the Briefs yet. I will ask the Milles. Lespinasse and Robert again.

---

<sup>77</sup> Papal Nuncio to Switzerland.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

I've just received your gold chain. I will hold on to it for you, or if you still feel the same, I will ask Mr. Favier to take it back. It would be too bad, however, because you might really like it in certain circumstances.

Lyons is calm. We hope that the Blessed Virgin will continue her protection over our city, which is so visibly and universally recognized. Fourviere is always full.<sup>78</sup> I won't mention Paris. We hear only about its horrors. Not much is said about insults heaped upon the clergy. It's true that we still don't have all the details.

Now that you are in Rome, I dare remind you about my desire to have the faculty for indulgences on the crucifix for the Stations of the Cross like our Apostolic Missionaries, with the clause: *modo pium viae crucis exercituum consuetum, aut aliquas vocales preces ex arbitrio benedictis statuendas recitaverint.*<sup>79</sup>

We obtained these faculties through the Propaganda and did so quite easily.

I am embarrassed to cause you so much trouble for something which I know was granted to secular priests. What urges me to make this request is that during my visits I am often asked for these indulgenced crosses, and then, it's one of my devotions. I would be happy to spread it, be its advocate, for you are very influential.

Therefore, Your Excellency, I will ask you again to obtain a privileged altar for Fr. Laurent Cat and Fr. Pillon, Eugene, priests of the diocese of Grenoble. The latter would also like to have a Brief to indulgence medals and rosaries.

Give us news about yourself. You know how happy it makes us. Call on us as you would your own children. Fr. Colin is fine. We have been peaceful, and have even continued our house of theology.

And so I dare say that I am, with the most profound respect, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and devoted servant,  
(Pierre) Eymard  
Assistant of the Society of Mary

P.S. Bishop d'Amata is in Clermont waiting for the departure of a ship of the Society of Oceania. We have 4 new martyrs in Melanesia; three priests and a catechist brother. It is both sad and consoling.

## 122

CO 123

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
**(II 13/395 VI 2)**

1848<sup>80</sup>

Mademoiselle,

If you have any linens ready, kindly give them to our brother.

I don't know where we left our stoles. If it were at your house, please also give them to the bearer of this letter, and give him news about yourself for me.

I hope that our dear Blessed Mother has completed her deed. I am well enough.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

---

<sup>78</sup> the Basilica.

<sup>79</sup> They shall piously make the customary exercise of the Stations of the Cross, or recite some vocal prayers determined by the choice of those approved by the Church. Tr.

<sup>80</sup> Perhaps July.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour  
Facing the Rhone,  
Lyons

## 123

**CO 124**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 14/395 VI 2)

*1848<sup>81</sup>*

1. I cannot send you the candlestick cases, we have hidden them.<sup>82</sup>
2. Neither Fr. Poupinel nor I will say anything about Saturday. So, silence.
3. Miss Cesarine can associate 53 more persons. I dispense her from a second rosary, the first one will be enough.
4. Please send us some linens, amices, purificators, a few surplices, two or three albs, the chalice. Tonight we will open our chapel and it will stay open.  
However, I will be going to St. Paul's tomorrow and the next day.  
Praised be the Lord for his visit,<sup>83</sup> its effects, and his love towards you! You will soon receive the same favor again.

## 124

**CO 125**

**TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 55/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, July 12, 1848*

My dear sisters,

An acquaintance told me about this kind sister who will bring you my letter. She is on her way to La Salette. She is coming from a great distance especially for that, so please give her hospitality on the way.

Lyons is very quiet, everything is falling in place; so be at peace.

My ear is a little better.

All yours,

Your brother,  
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
La Mure (Isere)

---

<sup>81</sup> Perhaps July.

<sup>82</sup> Perhaps in safe-keeping against revolutionary invaders.

<sup>83</sup> Holy Communion at home.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

July 16 - Received authorization to bless crucifixes with the same indulgences as the Stations of the Cross, and to determine the prayers to be said. This is a privilege he used extensively throughout his ministry.

## 125

CO 126

**TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET<sup>84</sup>**  
(VI 4/10)

*Lyon, August 15, 1848*

Your Excellency,

I am writing to thank you for the precious Rescript you kindly obtained and sent me. You will have the largest share in the prayers to which it will give birth.

I saw the Head-coachman. Everything is settled for 1000 francs as he had said.

The Marteau matter is concluded. Father Poupinel, who offers you his profoundest respect, found a way to withdraw the 107 francs 50, so your chain is entirely paid for. I now have money left over; that is, 49 Fr. 20 for the Briefs you had sent.

I had forgotten to say, when asking you for the Briefs for indulgences for a privileged altar for Fr. Cat and Fr. Pillon, priests of the diocese of Grenoble, that these gentlemen would cover the necessary expenses gratefully.

We will be happy to see you again, Your Excellency, because we love you like a Father.

Bishop D Amata's departure has been delayed again. The government had promised it to him for the month of August, but now he has been delayed until the month of October. Poor Bishop! What a disappointment and what sacrifices!

Nothing new here. We are quiet; people are blas. Nothing stirs their interest now. They wait for the future coldly, but good people pray a great deal. Notre Dame de Fourviere is filled with pilgrims. Commerce is still lagging.

Please receive the respectful sentiments of devotion of one who loves to call himself,

Your very humble and obedient servant,  
Eymard, Assistant S.M.

## 126

CO 127

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 15/395 VI 2)

*Thursday, September, 1848<sup>85</sup>*

Mademoiselle,

Kindly give Madame your sister a few notebooks (4) for the profession tomorrow along with the printed card for the profession.

So you are now on the cross. Be there with Jesus and like Jesus.

I bless you.

---

<sup>84</sup> Papal Nuncio to Switzerland.

<sup>85</sup> The postmark read Sept 19, which was a Wednesday - the year is doubtful.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

## 127

CO 128

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 16/395 VI 2)

*Tuesday, September 8, 1848<sup>86</sup>*

This is only a short greeting during your illness. I fulfilled your errand this morning. I hope our good Mother will hear us.

On the cross, love is red as blood, crowned with thorns, forsaken by God and man. That is its throne... it is a triumphant love for both God and man.

Here is the purpose of my errand: please give the bearer of this letter twenty printed "Rules" with the box of seals and two lithographed notebooks.

All yours in our Lord,

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Lyons

*Sept. 8 - Miraculous healing of Marguerite Guillot during a novena to Our Lady of La Salette. cf. Doc. 145.*

## 128

CO 129

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 56/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, September 12, 1848*

My very dear sisters,

I am writing to thank you for your good letter and the news that you gave me. The only thing that interests me is to know that you are well and that you are not worrying too much, in spite of your difficulties. There are so many conflicts and difficulties in life that, in order to make the most of them we must, so to speak, become accustomed to them and do as St. Paul teaches. Consider them as light temporary crosses which will form our eternal crown in heaven.

As for me, I manage to keep up. The Good Lord always gives me the strength I need. May he be blessed!

I am writing to you somewhat hastily, for in two hours we will begin our general retreat and I will have to speak there.

Miss Moutin de Prunier is still a Marist Sister at Meximieux (Ain); she is well. I think that she must have written to her parents; I sent her the message.

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<sup>86</sup> The date is doubtful. September 8, 1848 was a Friday. Troussier

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

The religious mentioned by Mr. Fayolle is at Belley (Ain). I was told that she is a bit tired and that a trip to Voreppe would be very good for her. A visit from Miss Marchand at Belley would settle everything.

I don't have the relic for Fr. Girolet yet, but I'm not forgetting it. Please remember me to him. I love that dear priest more than others.

I received my book through that valiant religious. Thank you.

I haven't finished the little rule yet, but you can count on it.

As for my portrait, I can't say anything yet - you have me.

Miss Guillot, of whom I had spoken to you and whom I venerate, whose home I love like our own, is better... thanks to a novena to Our Lady of La Salette. I had made her promise to go to La Salette should she be healed, and then to spend two or three days with you. You will enjoy meeting her. She is simple and kind, let me say, almost like you. She has asked me to say hello to you in her name as well as her three sisters.

My regards to the respected Lesbros family and to good Mme. Fayolle.

All yours *in Christo*,  
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

*Sept 13-19 - Annual retreat of the Marist Community (Fr. Maitrepierre).*

**129**

**CO 131**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
**(II 17/395 VI 2)**

*Lyons, October 7, 1848*

I agree willingly to your trip. May God, Mary and the holy angels accompany you and bring you back happy, holy and well...

There is no need for me to entrust you with my errands for our Good Mother!<sup>87</sup>

I am writing to my sister. She will wait for you at the coach which arrives at 6:00 p.m. The three of you will lodge at her house just as you would at home, in simplicity and poverty. You will find a cordial welcome there.

Here is your itinerary:

You will arrive at Grenoble at 6:00 p.m., at Grenette Place. From there, lodge with Mr. Jarrillot, close by on Boissieu Street. It isn't a hotel. He offers only lodging and sends out to a restaurant next door for whatever is needed. You will be well there.

Nearby, you will take the coach for La Mure, (from Pelloux or the one from Lyons). It leaves at noontime. Reserve the section in the morning. On route, don't let your sister get off for the hills,<sup>88</sup> so as not to get overheated. The mountain air is too harsh.

Bring the food you need from here to Grenoble.

I give you all your permissions.

If you need help in Grenoble, go to Miss Marsallat and use my name. She makes church vestments at Notre-Dame Place,

You could send your ex-voto afterwards. However, if you have something ready, so be it.

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<sup>87</sup> Pilgrimage to La Salette to thank Our Lady for her healing.

<sup>88</sup> To lighten the load for the horses?

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Go with obedience, and return happy.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
Lyons

**130**

**CO 132**

**TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 57/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, October 8, 1848*

My dear sisters,

I am writing a few words to you to tell you about the trip of Miss Guillot, Marguerite, to La Salette. She will be accompanied by her sister and one of her friends. She will arrive at La Mure Tuesday night in the coach from Pelloux, or else with Mme. Seymat.

Miss Guillot wanted to leave her friend at the inn in order not to disturb you. I am telling you so that you will not separate the Trinity.

I hope these good women will be willing to spend a few days with you. Receive them simply without ceremony; otherwise they will run away.

Miss Guillot is afraid of eggs, fatty bouillon and cabbage. She likes noodles, milk products, veal and lamb.

No need to give you news about myself, I am well.

I embrace you fraternally in our Lord.

Your brother,  
Eymard

P.S. Recently I saw Sister Moutin: she is well and prudent. They are pleased with her. I hope that her sister will be able to share her happiness some day.

Miss Eymard - Julien  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure d'Isere

131

CO 133

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 58/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, October 24, 1848*

My dear sisters,

I am coming to thank you for your letters, to tell you that I am well, and that I will be leaving for a few days. I am going to visit one of our houses. The good Miles Guillot are thrilled with their trip, and I, that you have met them. They are so kind!

People are working in Lyons; business is picking up again. Things are very peaceful. Let us trust in God and in Mary.

The winter is here, take care of yourselves. It is my best time. I will stop now, for I am leaving in a few moments. Pray for me, I do so continually for you.

Your brother,  
Eymard

Miss Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure d'Isere (Isere)

132

CO 134

**TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET**  
(VI 5/10)

*Lyons, November 15, 1848*

Your Excellency,

The transaction for your carriage was concluded yesterday. I reimbursed the 1000 francs that had been loaned to me for it. I thanked the Gentleman Garel-Forax in your name for their good offices on your behalf.

I still haven't received the box you informed me about from Switzerland. As soon as we receive it we will address your books and reliquaries to Mr. Charge in Marseilles. As for the chalice, gold chain, and cross, our Procurator for the Missions has just sent his shipments. Besides, our Apostolic Vicars wouldn't take on such an expense. The following means would succeed better: Mr. Favier, the goldsmith, will take back the chalice with hardly any loss. He will try to sell the chain and the gold cross at the first opportunity. He told us he wouldn't make any others before [it is sold]. He observed that the loss would be too great to sell it for the weight of the gold, and that if Your Eminence needs money, he would advance 400 francs on it, while waiting for an opportunity to sell. He observed, however, that if your objects remain a year and more, he would ask for the interest.

Eminence, I am waiting for your answer. I still haven't sent your small sum to Langres. I am expecting to have an opportunity soon.

I had asked a favor from Your Eminence for my Pastor, Mr. Laurent Cat, (Diocese of Grenoble), the privilege of a portable altar for his curate, Fr. Eugene Pillon, with a Brief for the

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

indulgences of St. Bridget. If it's no inconvenience to you, it would please them. They will pay all the expenses.

I recommend myself very humbly to your Masses and beg you to receive my sentiments of most profound respect and entire devotedness from one who dares to call himself, Your Eminence,

Your very humble and obedient servant,  
Eymard, A.P.M.<sup>89</sup>

P.S. Very Rev. Father Lagniet offers his profound respects to Your Eminence. He asks whether you would kindly obtain the faculty to enroll with the scapular of Mt. Carmel for his Pastor, Jean-Marie Joannet, the Pastor of Apinac, Diocese of Lyons.

Nov. 26-? - At St. Maurice to compose Rules for the Third Order.

## 133

CO 135

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 18/395 VI 2)

*St. Maurice, November 29, 1848<sup>90</sup>*

Mademoiselle,

The Good Lord is keeping me here for another week: may his holy will be done! It goes a little against my will... I would perhaps prefer to work for the dear Third Order. Everything was ready, but His Excellency the Cardinal couldn't come to confirm our children tomorrow and he postponed Confirmation for a week. God has his plans, I adore and love them.

These days I will recollect myself and compose the "Rules" for the Third Order Virgins. Pray for that. In this way, I will be working for you.

The Good Lord has blessed this retreat; thank him for me.

Continue at your usual pace.

I ask our Lord to be all in all for you and to take the place of everything for you.

I often present you to our Lord and his Holy Mother.

Continue to be the disciple of God's good pleasure.

In our Lord, I am

Humbly yours,  
Eymard

P.S. Kindly put out the alb and the appropriate vestment.<sup>91</sup> My respects to your household. I am tired, but that's all.

(Urgent)

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

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<sup>89</sup> Assistant Marist Priest.

<sup>90</sup> The date is the 26<sup>th</sup> and not the 29<sup>th</sup>, as printed. (c.f. Archives of the Servants and Fr. Troussier.)

<sup>91</sup> Alternate translation: the alb and the clean vestment.

## 134

CO 136

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 19/395 VI 2)

*Sunday, December, 1848*

Mademoiselle,

Would you see Miss David and console her, or at least enlighten her? I believe you would be doing an act of kindness. I hate to think that this good woman is suffering because of me. I told you how much I esteem her, and how far I am from what she believes!

I thank the Good Lord for it all. It's a lesson, a grace, and one more link to God alone.

I thank you kindly for having told me all that. I never would have guessed it. I never would have thought it.

All yours in Jesus,  
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

## 135

**TO FR. MELIN, PASTOR OF CORPS<sup>92</sup>**  
(VI 1/1)

The document is deleted because it is the same letter found in Volume I Doc. #377 (CO 375)

## 136

CO 137

**TO FR. MELIN, PRIEST-ARCHPRIEST OF CORPS**  
(VIII 1/1 VI 2)

*Lyons, December 8, 1848<sup>93</sup>*

You will not attribute my delay to indifference, I know, but to prudence; and, I admit, it has perhaps been too human. It is not, Father, that I had doubts about the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary at La Salette. No; but I examined, I saw, and I believed. And all those who do the same will believe, for the logic of the facts is in harmony with the evidence. It is a question of opening one's eyes to see. Miss Guillot's cure<sup>94</sup> is one of these facts, able to convince the strictest

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<sup>92</sup> Extract of a letter accompanying the account of Marguerite Guillot, written November 21, 1848, about her healing through the intercession of Our Lady of La Salette, September 8, 1848.

<sup>93</sup> Extract from a work by Mr. Rousselot: "New Documents on the Apparition at La Salette" (p. 192)

<sup>94</sup> LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS CONCERNING LA SALETTE - Forward

I. In Volume VI of the French Letters can be found:

examiners... [Here Father tells the story of the cure, and adds:] But one must admit that something was lacking in this irrefutable miracle. What was it? Everything that should have made it extraordinary; that is, the outward change as sudden as the inward one. True, that seemed to be lacking. But it must be said, to the glory of God, that it was the condition which the sick lady herself had made. She didn't want to be cured too suddenly, so as to avoid the publicity and the crowds which follow an extraordinarily miraculous cure. I agreed with her prayer. But God soon revealed his work. Helpful precaution soon became useless. She was healed without going through the weakness of convalescence, and soon the miracle was broadcast abroad...<sup>95</sup>

## 137

CO 138

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 59/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, December 18, 1848*

Very dear sisters,

Excuse me for such a delay in writing to you. I was so busy and then I went on a few trips. Weeks and months seem to fly away like hours, for me.

I have been well, except for a few migraine headaches. But I am very sick one day, and the next day [I am] on the run, preaching in good health. Lyons is very quiet, and the silk trade seems to be picking up.

I think that things will get better. Never trust false alarming news; some people make it a game, and often a kind of politics.

Write to the good Miles Guillot. They love you like sisters. I am sending you a little note that I have had for some time. I'm leaving tonight for Belley. I expect to stay there until Sunday. I'm going to visit one of our houses.

Miss Guillot will send you your pictures. Pray for me, I do so every day for you.

Your brother,  
Eymard

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(1) A letter to Canon Melin, Priest of Corps, dated December 8, 1848 (simple extract) page 119. This letter is attached to the account of the cure of Miss Marguerite Guillot, written by her on November 21, 1848.

(2) The account of this cure, dated March 24, 1849, (Doc. 145) addressed to Canon Rousselot, Vic. Gen. of Grenoble, and 6 other letters to the same: 1851: January 29 (Doc.244), March 6 (Doc.250) and June 24 (Doc.262); 1852: July 21 (Doc.270); 1854: June 29 (Doc.461) and July 16 (Doc.462).

II. In Volume VIII of the French can be found:

(1) The integral text of a letter to Canon Melin of Corps.

(2) Two letters to Canon Rousselot, of March 8 and 10, 1854.

(3) A letter to Miss Louise de Brissac (end 1859 or early 1860).

III. In the "*Bulletin des Missionnaires de N-D de la Salette (B.M.S.)*" Mr. Louis Bassette published: *Notre Dame de la Salette et le Bienheureux P-J Eymard*. (Year 1956: nn. 562-565. 1957: 566, 568-571. 1958: n. 572.)

IV. In the APPENDIX (French unpublished) four other documents can be found which were transcribed in the copy of the CURIA.

<sup>95</sup> The certificate from Doctor Berlioz, given by Fr. Eymard, is dated November 7, 1848. Fr. Eymard later drew up a testimony on March 24, 1849, which he sent to Fr. Rousselot, Vicar-General. For this text see Doc. T.S. p. 574.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

P.S. I'm very happy that you are taking Melanie. She will be very helpful to you, she is such a good girl!

Miss Eymard-Julian  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure d'Isere

*Jan. 5 - Visit to the House of Moulins, then to Paris.*

## 138

CO 139

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 60/145 VI 10)

*Moulins, January 15, 1849<sup>96</sup>*

My very dear sisters,

How late I am to wish you a happy New Year! At Christmas I had expressed my very best wishes for you, by saying Mass for you; by offering you to the beloved child Jesus as his two favorite servants! On New Year's Day, I went up to Notre Dame de Fourviere early in the morning, to offer Holy Mass there and to pray for you. So if I didn't write you sooner, it's because I was absorbed by so many things that I didn't have the time or the peace of mind to do so. So now I am writing to you from Moulins where I have been for seven days, visiting the two houses that we have here, a house for the missionaries and the Major Seminary. Next Monday, I'm leaving for Paris where we have a foundation which I shall also visit. In Paris I'll go say Mass at Notre Dame des Victoires for you. Don't worry about my health, travelling doesn't tire me too much and I am taking good care of myself. Write to me in Paris at the following address: To Fr. Eymard, rue Montparnasse, 5, in Paris, and ask Mme. Faure for her son's address and Mme. Dastarac for her brother's. I want to go see them. I will stay about a week in Paris.

Also pray very much for me, my good sisters, in order that I may be a saint and that I may cooperate with God's graces and with the great duties of my holy state. How much good I could do, with God's grace, if I were truly interior, truly united to our Lord, truly filled with his Spirit of love! Come, my good sisters, this is a New Year, one more year, followed perhaps by death, and then heaven. Ah! That beautiful heaven, that eternal heaven, let us work closely with our Lord and let the world amuse itself, and bustle about, while it forgets us. God alone is enough for us.

Your brother,  
Eymard, p.s. Marist<sup>97</sup>

P.S. I didn't have time to write to the pastor so please present him my respectful and loving regards, as well as Fr. Pillon and Fr. Ripert. Ask them if they have any errands [I could do for them] in Paris, and I shall do them gladly.

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

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<sup>96</sup> The postmark is January 13<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>97</sup> Priest of the Society of Mary.

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 20/395 VI 2)

*Paris, January 18, 1849*

I am writing, my daughter, to give you news about myself, and to thank you for yours which made me very happy. I was worried about all of you, especially about you.

My health is good, the same as in Lyons. The Good Lord blessed my visit to Moulins, I pray that he will bless the one to Paris. Also pray to him for that intention. I probably won't be in Lyons at the beginning of next week, I'll arrive only at the end of the week and I'll go to see you first.

Until then, continue to be united to our Lord. Remain very humble and simple in his Sacred Heart.

If there is anything burdening you, you could speak to Fr. Colin.

Saturday at 7:30, I will offer Holy Mass at Notre Dame des Victoires. You know that you will all be with me on the paten.<sup>98</sup>

Paris is very quiet. I don't know why there are so many alarming rumors in the departments.<sup>99</sup>

I will bring you St. John of the Cross.<sup>100</sup>

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
in Lyons

**TO A MARIST FATHER**<sup>101</sup>  
(VI 1/3)<sup>102</sup>

*[Paris, January 1849]*

I have just returned from Meximieux, where I preached a Retreat to the Professors, and dear Father Lagniet is leaving me a little space to greet you affectionately; to tell you that I still remember Verdelaix and still love you as a dear brother. So please think of us too and our problems, for we are in the Capital City.

My regards to all our Fathers,

Eymard

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<sup>98</sup> Offering ourselves to the Lord.

<sup>99</sup> Political sectors of France.

<sup>100</sup> Presumably, the book.

<sup>101</sup> Anonymous Marist

<sup>102</sup> The lines were written at the end of a letter from Fr. Lagniet to an unidentified Marist. The beginning of the letter is missing. It was written in Paris as the text indicates: "in the Capital city." Fr. Eymard visited the Paris Community in January 1849.

141

CO 141

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 21/395 VI 2)

*Moulins, January 31, 1849*

Mademoiselle,

I am finally here at Moulins. I left Paris Monday. When I left things were calm, in spite of the foreboding rumors which had spread through the streets on the preceding evening. I hope there won't be any serious consequences from it all. An evil which is foreseen is paralyzed as it were. Then also, the Good Lord is there. In Paris there are many holy persons devoted to God's justice.

I am leaving for Lyons tonight and I hope to arrive there by boat tomorrow at one o'clock.

You may be wondering how I am. Today, the same as usual, yesterday, not well. The coach ride and a migraine headache had left me weary.

I leave you now in the Lord. I'm going to pray for you and your family at Holy Mass.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

142

CO 142

**TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 61/145 VI 10)

*J.M.J.*

*Lyons, February 5, 1849*

My good Sisters,

Here I am back in Lyons and I'm over the fatigue of the long trip. I really prayed for you every day at Notre Dame des Victoires, as I had promised.

What can I tell you about this trip? There would be too much to say: I can't forget the feelings I experienced January 21, on the anniversary of the death of Saint Louis XVI, on the very square where he was guillotined by his children. There is still great sadness on that day, especially in Paris. I also visited Versailles and the apartments of Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette. Alas! What sad memories!

I also went to venerate the famous Carmelite house where so many bishops and holy priests were killed during the Revolution. One can still see traces of blood from that horrible massacre. I kissed them respectfully and asked the Good Lord for faith, courage and love like theirs.

But what made me very happy was to be able to visit and venerate the Sainte-Chapelle, built by St. Louis, where the precious relics of the Sacred Crown of Thorns and a large part of the True Cross were kept until the Revolution. In this magnificent church I said to myself: Here is the place where so many saints have prayed, it is the most venerable place in France. All the kings and great ones came here to pray. And yet, my good sisters, when we have seen all these beautiful royal palaces, all that is richest on earth, we still say to ourselves: Everything is vanity, everything passes, heaven is worth more.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

There are some beautiful souls in Paris and much prayer. Every day in one of the city churches, there is perpetual adoration and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament day and night. Women are the adorers during the day, and men at night. I believe that so many prayers will touch the heart of God. We have already received so many signs of divine protection! I believe you know that Providence has outwitted all the bloodthirsty and revolting plans of the Red Republicans.

Lyons is very quiet. Don't believe any alarming news that might be spread about. It is only a spectre of fear, or despair's cry of weakness. I was very glad to see my old friend, Fr. Faure. I wasn't able to see Mr. Cros.

Lent is here. I urge you to really pray and sanctify yourselves, but to take care of your health. You could keep Melanie with you. Pray for me.

Goodbye in our Lord,

Your brother,  
Eymard

I'm not forgetting that this is the feast of St. Agatha, my Baptismal day, when you brought me to the church. I will repay you for it by saying Mass.

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

**143**

**CO 143**

**TO MR. BETHFORT**  
(VII 1/3)

*Lyons, February 24, 1849*

Dear Sir,<sup>103</sup>

One of my colleagues is going to preach the Lenten station at Chalon. I am asking him to go and present you my heartfelt respects. He is pleased to become acquainted with you.

Dear Sir, I was so sorry I could not meet you and your fine wife at the time you suffered misfortune. Her heart was sharing in it and I would have liked to make it lighter.

Please transmit my respects to Mme. Bethfort as well as her dear Mother on my behalf.

And believe me ever, dear Sir,

Your devoted and loving,  
Fr. Eymard

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<sup>103</sup> A lawyer at Chalon-sur-Saone.

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 22/395 VI 2)

*Lyons, Friday, March 9, 1849*

My daughter, I've just received your letter. Since I couldn't see Mr. Gaudioz,<sup>104</sup> I'm writing you a few words. We would prefer to have a monstrence.

Ever since Monday I've been looking for a moment to go see you. The Good Lord hasn't willed it. Instead I prayed for you very much and especially suffered a little. So, you see, things happened as you said they would, not to the same degree, perhaps, but just as effectively.

I can understand your soul's deep sorrow and the unfavorable circumstances (but contrary to my will and even contrary to my intention), I can understand your condition a little better and I even believe I know what the cure might be.

I pray that your poor heart may find relief and be united to God.

This news will make you happy: Mr. Champin, a doctor, signed the report for La Salette.

Don't think that you made me sad: no, when a mother hears her child suffer and moan, she loves it even more.

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

**TO CANON ROUSSELOT, VICAR GENERAL OF GRENOBLE**  
(VI 1/6)

REPORT OF THE HEALING OF MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT

We, the undersigned, Assistant of the Society of Mary, in Lyons, attest in accord with our conscience before God and as an eyewitness, that Miss Guillot (Marguerite) from Lyons, Place Bellecour, no. 9, was miraculously healed through the intercession of Our Lady of La Salette.

Ill for the last 10 years, Miss Guillot was in continual pain and could neither work nor walk without exposing herself to excruciating pain. Her pain increased intensely on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1848. She was obliged to remain in bed. Soon the illness became alarming. Mr. Berlioz, her doctor, judged that it would be prudent for her to receive the Sacrament of Anointing, and I prepared the patient for death. Long exhortations were not necessary. It was the good news she had been waiting for, for a long time.

But God wanted to heal her for the glory of La Salette. The doctor declared that the resources of his science were henceforth inadequate, so we addressed ourselves to the Blessed Virgin. The whole family made a novena to Our Lady of La Salette. The patient joined in. Each day we recited the rosary; we attended Holy Mass, and made one Communion for this intention.

Day and night the patient drank water from the miraculous fountain, and each time she took some, she felt some relief. We were hoping and trusting, when on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the novena, the patient seemed to be in an agony after a terrible attack lasting 12 hours.

But the next day, the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, was to be the day of the miracle.

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<sup>104</sup> Her brother-in-law.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

It was 7:00 a.m., the whole family was at Holy Mass, praying fervently, but also with resignation. What was not the surprise of all the patient's sisters and my own as well, to find her up, dressed, walking, acting as if she had never been sick. She had been healed suddenly during the Holy Sacrifice. What tears of joy, what gratitude toward our good Lady of La Salette.

The healing did and does still continue. She has never felt better.

She went herself to fulfill her vow at La Salette soon after. She will be a striking and evident proof of the truth of the miracle of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin. I am not the only witness of this fact of the power of Mary, and I am happy that I was its weak but very grateful instrument, and I am ready to confirm it with the full authority of my faith.

Lyons, March 24, 1849

Eymard, Assistant general  
of the Society of Mary

Reviewed for the verification of the signature of Fr. Eymard, assistant of the Society of Mary,  
Lyons

March 24, 1849

L. + S.  
Grange, Vicar General  
I approved the miracle as witness.

Marcel, Priest  
Champin, Medical Doctor  
J. E. Berlioz, Medical Doctor  
Gaudier  
Barillot  
L. Vachon  
Gaudioz (Claude)

**146**

**CO 147**

**TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(II 23/395 VI 2)<sup>105</sup>

*Easter, March, 1849*<sup>106</sup>

To his sisters from La Mure on their arrival in Lyons.  
Hello my dear sisters, you are welcome. What a resurrection!<sup>107</sup>  
I can't see you this morning. I will see you after dinner at 1:30 p.m.

All yours,  
Eymard

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<sup>105</sup> Although written to his sisters, this letter is presented and numbered in the French Volumes among the letters to Miss Marguerite Guillot.

<sup>106</sup> Troussier remarks that the letter was dated "Easter, 1849, March." However, Easter was April 8 in 1849.

<sup>107</sup> Reference to Easter Sunday.

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)**  
(V 3/78)

V.J.

*Holy day of Easter, 1849*

Madame,

I have a free moment and I am seizing it to wish you the grace of our Lord's Resurrection and tell you that today especially you and your family have been present to me, because your loved ones are dear to me, and I desire what you desire<sup>108</sup>, and ask our good Master for it. I hope that all your desires will come true: have confidence! Our good Master lets us pray a long time because he wants to give us a great deal.

Goodbye my good sister, it is 10 p.m. I am tired, because today I preached the next to last Lenten sermon at the Charity. <sup>109</sup>I preached on the love of our Lord which makes us holy and generous. Alas! If only I could be the first example of it! So now, I will leave this until tomorrow; it will have my first moment.

I am finishing my letter now, afraid that it might arrive too late.

I've often asked for news about you, because I was very sad. Since you left I travelled a lot. I went to Paris, then to Belley, and then I have been at the Charity, since the beginning of Lent. The Good Lord has been very kind. He blessed his word spoken by his poor servant.

The Lenten services were well attended in Lyons. There has been a return toward Religion, not phenomenal as far as sacraments are concerned, but at least, people are going to church. However, there is still so much evil among the people and among the wealthy class! These latter are the worst. Alas! Those poor people who should have opened their eyes to see Heaven's anger now would [willingly] kneel down before a man who promises to defend them in case of danger.<sup>110</sup>

Miss Guillot's health is weak, she has not been well, but not bedridden. God loves her next to his cross. Our Lord doesn't forget you either, Madame! So be very generous! Welcome our good Master under any disguise with whatever graces he approaches you. He is ever Jesus, Savior and Father.

You need to consider the holy Will of God always as the highest perfection to which all other means of salvation must be submitted.

Do make this your divine center, live by his holy Will. Walk in the brightness of this ever shining light. Be sure that our Lord's gracious Providence protects and leads you. It is like the cloud of the desert for the Hebrews.

You will be coming to Lyons soon. I praise God and I hope to be here and free to see you. My thanks and regards in God to Miss Stephanie. Believe me ever, Madame.

Your ever devoted,  
Eymard

P.S. I am finishing the Lenten exercises Sunday. I am feeling a little weak, but our Lord has been my strength, as I was sick at first.

Madame  
Madame Gourd, at Nice (Italy)

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<sup>108</sup> The conversion of her husband.

<sup>109</sup> Church in Lyons.

<sup>110</sup> Political leaders.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

May 25 - Blessing of Our Lady's statue at Valbenoite.

## 148

CO 152

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 24/395 VI 2)

Vaulx, June 1849

This is to thank you, my dear daughter. It was kind of you to hold Nanette's letter to you for me. May the holy will of God be done! Nevertheless it would be a great sacrifice.

I'll be in Lyons, Friday morning. I am at the rectory of Vaulx-en-Velin via Villeurbanne.

Don't torment yourself, please! Have trust.

All yours,  
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

## 149

CO 150

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 28/395 VI 2)

Lyons, June, 1849

Monday, 6 o'clock

Mademoiselle,

I am better; a little tiredness confined me to my room.

I wanted to go see you, but I'll put it off until tomorrow morning because of the late hour, supposing that you will not go to St. Regis until evening. Don't worry. Everything will go well.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 62/145 VI 10)

*J.M.J.*

*Lyons, June 3, 1849*

Very dear sisters,

I'm coming to thank you for your very kind letters and to tell you how much they please me, especially when I learn that you are well. I was very sorry to hear about Nanette's burn. My God! Is it possible that such a bad accident nearly crippled her! Do be careful.

I'm pleased that you were happy about your trip. I thanked the Good Lord for it. You asked me whether I'll be going to La Mure soon. I don't know, because I'm still very busy. Then also, it's a costly trip. But if the Good Lord gives me the opportunity, I will thank him and go see you with pleasure. Don't be worried about us in Lyons. I promised to write to you if anything serious ever happened.

Lyons is very quiet. Don't judge by hearsay or by the newspapers. In Lyons we laugh at all these rumors.

The good Miles. Guillot are better. They have had great trials, but they are so good. They were deeply touched by your offers! I have been traveling since Easter, but I'm well.

Continue to pray for me, my dear sisters, and believe me always, in Jesus and Mary.

Your loving brother,  
Eymard

P.S. Tonight Fr. Pillon's brother is leaving for Chatte; he is better. He had good care. Nevertheless, it will still take time. My regards to Father.

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

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 63/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, June 9, 1849*

Dear sisters,

Oh! I was so sad to hear about your illness. I was rushing to leave for a trip and I only read Nanette's letter on the coach. What could I do but recommend you to the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin.

I hope that you will be better soon. My first thought was to go see you and cheer you up.

Have someone write to us often. The good Miles. Guillot are very grateful for news about our dear Nanette.

Then, to tell the truth, it almost seems as if crosses of every kind are following you: Nanette's burn; my God, what bad luck!

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Don't worry about Lyons, nor about a thousand false rumors. Everything is quiet. Cholera is the only thing that is causing great losses in Paris. Our Superior wrote that in one day fourteen hundred people had died.

May the Good Lord preserve us from this scourge.

Farewell, my good sister, have confidence and be prudent.

All yours *in Christo*,

Eymard

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

**152**

**CO 154**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 25/395 VI 2)

*La Mure, June 16, 1849*

Mademoiselle,

As I promised, I am writing to give you news about myself. I arrived safely, though a bit tired because of the coach.

A few days of rest and I will be back to form.

I found my sister weakened by the attacks of fever. They were longing to see me. My arrival surprised them, and since then, she seems to be better. Today the doctor was satisfied with his patient.

However, it seems that she was dangerously ill four days ago. Blessed be God! I hope she will be better soon. I would like, my dear ladies, to receive similar news about all of you, for I was sad when I left you, seeing that you were suffering so much and still so crucified...

If my prayers are heard, you will soon be healed, and if I go to Notre Dame du Laus, my prayer will be more efficacious there. I haven't settled anything about my trip to Laus yet. If I were to go there, I would stay only a day or two. When I return I'll write to tell you when I am to arrive in Lyons.

Have courage! My dear Ladies, do like the Blessed Virgin at the foot of the cross, stay on the cross with love, with our Lord, and make acts of love for everything, even your sins. My sister asks me to tell you how sad she is that you are ill; her gratitude for your friendship and prayers, her thanks for everything. Nanette says the same.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 26/395 VI 2)

*La Mure d'Isere, June 17, 1849*

Mademoiselle,

I'm writing to give you some news about us. I am the same as usual: quite well, better than in Lyons, except for a cold. My sister is the same as usual. She is continuing to improve ever so slightly. The doctor has hope, although she is not out of danger yet.

There are two complicated illnesses. The first is a chronic illness which you know about, and then, there was also an onset of pneumonia which is healing now. My sister is deeply touched by the fact you remembered her and she is offering her sufferings to the Good Lord for you (keep this to yourselves). I will leave tonight for Notre Dame du Laus. I'll spend only two days there, but [the thought of it] already makes me happy. I'll work for the dear Third Order, and I would like to put the finishing touches on it at this shrine of blessings.

You can imagine how I'll pray to our Good Mother for you and your dear sisters; for you, so that you may always be a good child of the Blessed Virgin: simple, calm, resigned, loving our Lord always, everywhere, in any condition, in any sorrow, because it is all part of God's will of love and grace.

I bless you all in our Lord and I am, in his love,

All yours,  
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 64/145 VI 10)

*Notre Dame du Laus, June 19, 1849*

Dear sisters,

I arrived safely at Notre Dame du Laus. This morning I had said Holy Mass for you at 7:00, as I had promised you. I am fully confident that the Good Mother of Laus will heal you and that you are already much better.

If I don't arrive Thursday, don't worry about me. I would then arrive Friday. It is so good to be here!

Your brother,  
Eymard

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

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 27/395 VI 2)

*La Mure d'Isere, June 23, 1849*

Mademoiselle,

I've just returned from my beloved place of pilgrimage! No need to tell you that you all had a big share in it. Tuesday I said Holy Mass for you so that our kind Mother would console and relieve you from so much pain!

I was happy at Notre Dame du Laus, it's so good to be there! However, let me tell you something, in case you should go there someday. I find some of the missionaries too comforting. They seek out the pilgrims too much. It seems to me that I wouldn't care for so many contacts. We go there for the Blessed Virgin. Yet, it's surely kindness on their part. I was able to break away from them.

I did a great deal of work there for the Third Order. This time I hope that the Good Mother has blessed her Work.

When I returned, I found my sister very weak. She had had a serious attack the previous night. They thought she was dying. Today I said Holy Mass to the Blessed Virgin for her, and she seemed to be doing better. May the Good Lord be praised! My sister asks me to convey to you all that sisterly affection can express, and say how touched she is by your good wishes.

Nanette's dedication is admirable.

I'm asking the Blessed Virgin to heal my sister quickly, because I want to leave for Lyons. I won't be there for the next meetings<sup>111</sup>: so go to the countryside and enjoy yourselves, be calm, happy and trusting.

As for you, I have forgiven you; but you should be more prudent. So, obey the doctor's orders; that is what the Good Lord wills. When you can do so prudently, receive Communion. I grant you that permission wholeheartedly.<sup>112</sup>

Find the loving will of the Good Lord within yourself, around you and within you, concerning himself with you as if you were the only one in the world.

Look! Go to our Lord without your body, without your soul, leave them at the door like servants, and be ever united to his love with your will.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

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<sup>111</sup> of the Third Order.

<sup>112</sup> The frequency of Holy Communion was decided by one's confessor in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 156

CO 121

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 29/395 VI 2)

*Saturday<sup>113</sup>, June 24, 1849*

Mademoiselle,

I am hoping to go and bless Mr. Gaudioz<sup>114</sup> store tomorrow, at 1:30 p.m. I'll leave here immediately after dinner.

Please give our brother one of the altar cloths that you have. We have none.

My health is the same as usual. This week is good, I hope, in the sight of God.

All yours,  
Eymard

Miss Guillot  
Lyons

## 157

CO 158

**TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 65/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, July 1, 1849*

Very dear sisters,

I arrived here in Lyons safely. I found the good Mles Guillot distressed. We forgot to write to them. They thought something terrible had happened. Write to them or to me.

I am praying that the Blessed Virgin who brought you relief, dear sister, will heal you completely, in order that you may serve the Good Lord better in the future and obtain his holy glory.

I embrace you in the Sacred Heart of Jesus and close quickly in order not to miss the mail.

All yours, in Jesus Christ,

Your brother,  
Eymard

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

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<sup>113</sup> In 1849, June 24 was a Sunday. Troussier.

<sup>114</sup> her brother-in-law.

**TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST**  
(IV 2/52)

*Lyons, July 6, 1849*

Madame,

Finally I am writing to make up a little for so much forgetfulness (no, I didn't forget you), but for my too lengthy silence. Let me confess that I brought your sister's letter with me to Paris, to Moulins, and on all my trips, in order to answer at length. That letter on parchment paper came back with me without returning the pleasure it had given. - I had even promised myself to see you when passing through Tarare. The Good Lord didn't will it; so, as you can see, I was constantly thinking about my reply.

And now you are coming to Lyons: I will expect you on that given day. I am delaying a departure, saying: the Good Lord doesn't will it.

I would have been very happy to see Fr. Cuvier, but I had to sacrifice it: may the holy Will of God be done! All I ask from him is that I may not be an obstacle to such a generous desire for good.

Madame, I join with all your friends in thanking the Good Lord for giving you good health; now may he preserve it and grant you continued improvement.

Now, about your request for the minutes of the Third Order conferences. I am pleased to tell you that I've just engaged a woman, Mme. Franchet at Quai St. Vincent 63, Lyons, to take care of it. She will see that you get the minutes after the conferences, and in her pleasure to oblige you, she could later provide you with past minutes. I hope, by this gesture, to deserve your indulgent forgiveness.

Later on I will see that you get the Rules of the Third Order, so that you may judge whether it is fitting to show them to the Associate Pastor. However, let us proceed prudently and discretely, so that the enemy of every good and of the interior life may not provoke a thousand and one obstacles. Silence is the soul of great things; it even shackles the devil. How happy it would make me if I could hope that someday you will owe part of your crown to the Third Order. But even now, I count on the charity of your prayers and those of your sister as well, if I may include her in my feelings for you.

When you wish to write to me, I would prefer if it were through a third party, Mr. Carrel or Mr. Franchet, who would deliver your letter personally to me. This is because I am often absent and I don't want conscience matters to be read in my absence.

I am in our Lord,

Madame,  
Your very humble servant,  
Eymard, P.M.

Mme. Tholin-Bost  
Tarare (Rhône)

**TO MISS PAULINE JARICOT**  
(V 1/1)

*Lyons, July 6, 1849*

Mademoiselle,<sup>115</sup>

I learned that you were in Paris for the sake of the Work about which you have reflected for such a long time, and which God has put through the crucible of trials.

May our Lord always be your strength and your reward, as he was the only goal of your generous sacrifices!

Mademoiselle, great works are always founded on the soil of Calvary, you know that well, you have already drunk so often from the chalice of the Olives! It seems that the Work you are planning for the good of the Church follows its painful phases.

But have confidence! So many prayers, so much suffering, so much love cannot remain sterile.

I would be happy to be able to show you, other than through my prayers and desires, how much I share in your situation. But I am convinced that in Paris, the city of all great works, you have found all the heartfelt understanding and results which you had hoped from its faith and generosity.

May Mary, whom you have so loved and led others to love, be your guide and your success; and may we have the consolation of seeing you return among us happy and blessed!

Mademoiselle, please receive the respectful and devoted sentiments of your very humble servant,

Eymard, P.S.Marie<sup>116</sup>

P.S. Our Fathers are on rue Montparnasse No. 5.  
Miss Jaricot  
Paris

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 66/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, July 12, 1849*

Very dear sisters,

I come to thank the Good Lord with you for the improvement you told us about in your letters. How pleased we were by this good news! We hope you will continue to improve, and that we shall soon be able to thank Heaven for perfect health.

Monday, I went up to Notre Dame de Fourviere and said holy Mass there. I prayed to the Blessed Virgin for you, and I hope that she will hear me. The whole Third Order prayed for you; how many Communion were offered for your healing! So then, I thanked those women for their interest in you. For your part, my dear sister, take advantage of this state which is so painful to human nature. When we are sick we can neither meditate nor pray for long, nor does the Good

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<sup>115</sup> The only extant letter to the Foundress of the Propagation of the Faith.

<sup>116</sup> Priest of the Society of Mary.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

Lord expect it. But from time to time it is good to offer our Lord our sufferings, our sorrows, our uselessness... this offering is very pleasing to God and will obtain great graces for you.

The Milles. Guillot are a little better, news of your improvement made them so happy!

I am the same as usual, thanks be to God. Lyons is quiet.

I am sorry that my departure made you ill. You know how I like to stay as long as I can, but it was time to return and to see our missionaries leave for Oceania. A few of them left the day after I arrived. I embrace you in our Lord.

Your brother,  
Eymard

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

**161**

**CO 162**

**TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET**  
(VI 6/10)

*Lyons, July 27, 1849*

Excellency,

I have just seen your name in a newspaper. So! May God be praised! He protected and saved you in the midst of so many storms. How many prayers we offered for you, Excellency. Because you have given us the privilege of calling you a friend of our Society, we could not help but be overwhelmed with grief, especially by the fact that even our letters weren't reaching you. I hope this one will have better luck and will tell you how happy we are to be in contact with you again.

I had written to you, Your Excellency: (1) that we had received your items from Switzerland, your books, etc... (2) that Mr. Favier, the goldsmith, planned to sell your gold chain, that he had sold your little chalice; (3) that if you needed money, you could draw immediately on Fr. Poupinel, our Procurator for the Missions, or on Mr. Guerin, his banker, for the amount of 400 francs plus the 60 francs for the chalice and the 17 francs for the Briefs which you kindly sent me and for which I am very grateful.

Your Excellency, do not overlook my desire to serve you. I would be so happy to be able to help you.

We eagerly wait for news about you, and news about our dear Father Theiner, about whom we are very worried.

All our priests ask you to accept their respectful regards. Very Reverend Father Colin is absent and his respects are known to you.

Your Excellency, I have the honor of being, with most profound respect,

Your most humble and devoted Servant,  
Eymard,  
Assistant of the Society of Mary

P.S. Father Lagniet, the Provincial, wishes to ask Your Eminence to obtain through the Propaganda a Brief [with the faculties] to give the indulgence on the Crosses for the Way of the Cross with this clause: modo pium exercitium consueta recitaverint, aut aliquas vocales preces ex arbitrio benedictis statuendos recitaverint.<sup>117</sup>

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<sup>117</sup> They will piously make the customary exercise of the Stations of the Cross, or recite some vocal prayers determined by the choice of those approved by the Church. Tr.

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 67/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, August 20, 1849*

My dear sisters,

I believe you must have received the case of oranges, rosaries and books that we sent you. I had put a short letter in it. I hope you received everything. Please tell me about it in your next letter which I am anxiously waiting for.

I really thank the Good Lord for this slight improvement of our sister's health. I ask him with great confidence that it be promptly restored!

This situation makes me very sad, because I am only afraid, dear Nanette, that you will soon be in her place. So spare yourselves, since the good people of La Mure are charitable enough to offer to help you.

Please present my respects and gratitude to kind Mr. Telmat. I owe him a lot for myself, so my debt will be doubled.

I am well and always very busy, to the point of not even having time to write.

I am in our Lord,

Your brother,  
Eymard

P.S. I said Mass August 10, at the chapel of St. Philomena for our sister, and I hope that this good saint will heal her.

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

*Sept. 8 - Captain Marceau was received into the Society of Mary. He was a convert and directee of Fr. Eymard.*

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 68/145 VI 10)

*J.M.J.*

*Lyons, September 10, 1849*

My dear sisters,

We are going on retreat tomorrow for eight days. Pray that I may make a good retreat. I need it greatly.

September 11. - It will be a rest for me. I will really pray for you. Mr. Reymond gave me news about you, and about several other people when he returned from La Salette. May the Good Lord be blessed and thanked! I am happy to hear you are feeling better. When will I hear that your health is perfect! I am well, thanks be to God.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

I don't know yet when I shall go to the South. It will be in the fall.  
Farewell, my good sisters, the bell is ringing for our retreat [to begin]. I must leave you.  
All yours,

Your brother,  
Eymard

P.S. I said Mass August 10, at the chapel of St. Philomena for our sister, and hope that this good saint will heal her.

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
La Mure d'Isere

*Sept 17-23 - Annual retreat of the Marist Society (preacher unknown).*

**164**

**CO 215**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 30/395 VI 2)

*Thursday, September, 1849<sup>118</sup>*

Mademoiselle,

We've just finished our retreat. I'll still be here tomorrow morning. If you and your sisters wish to see me, come around 7:00 or 8:00 a.m. I am in our Lord,

All yours,  
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

**165**

**CO 169**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 31/395 VI 2)

*La Mure, October, 1849*

Mademoiselle,

Thank you for your letter which I received yesterday. I left Thursday morning on the coach from St. Dominic's. So you will need to have someone claim your parcel of oranges for which I am also grateful.

As for the relics, it was wrong on their part not to have given you the ticket. However, they thought you would recognize the brother.

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<sup>118</sup> The postmark indicates September 19, which was a Wednesday. Troussier.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

I was very sorry about the trouble it gave you. You can be sure, it was caused by the brother's southern temperament.

My sister and Nanette are elated about the beautiful things which arrived safely. May the Good Lord repay you for it! They were happy about it, but their first words were to express the hope of seeing you for a month next spring: from here we shall go to Notre Dame du Laus. May our Lord keep you and guide you always in peace and devoted love for him!

Goodbye in our dear Master. I'm feeling fine and I will be leaving in a few hours.

Eymard

P.S. I wanted to deposit two notes with you: one of a thousand francs for Mr. Jamot's painting, rue St. Helen, and another for two hundred francs as Third Order money made out in your name... On the 200 francs, one hundred francs were given to me by Madame []<sup>119</sup> for a charitable work she knows about (a woman in need to whom I have given only 50 francs at this time). In case of death... you could find out her intention. My respects and devoted regards to your fine sisters.

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

*Oct. (date?) - At Laus to write the rule for the Third Order of Mary.*

166

CO 166

**TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET**  
(VI 7/10)

*Lyons, October 14, 1849*

Your Excellency,

I am writing to tell you that I am shipping your case of books from Dromet and Co. on Rome St. at Marseilles, to be sent to you in Rome. These gentlemen will inform you the day they arrive.

In addition, you will find 3 more books. The 1st is the book by Mr. Pinart for Bishop Durattie. We are happy to send it to you. No payment needed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is the travels of Mr. Fulchiron, which Your Excellency wanted to have. Mr. Mulsant, whom I had the honor to present to you, asks if you would accept them as a gift. He had some difficulty obtaining them. The 3<sup>rd</sup> work is by Mr. Mulsant. He would like, through you, to pay his respects to His Holiness. In Lyons you kindly promised him that you would. Mr. Mulsant is a very devout author. At every opportunity, he sustains the Catholic cause in the midst of numerous learned [Associations] of which he is a part. - In return, he would be happy to receive the signature of the Sovereign Pontiff. If, in his generosity, His Holiness would give him some honor, it would certainly be well applied, because I understand it is a delicate question.

I also wish to present to your kind attention the request of a good priest from the diocese of Lyons, Fr. Poulat, the pastor of St. Jean de la Buissiere. - 1<sup>st</sup>, the privilege of a privileged altar for the deceased; 2<sup>nd</sup>, the faculty to receive people who want to receive the scapular of Mt. Carmel; 3<sup>rd</sup>, the faculties to give indulgences or Bridgittine rosaries, etc. He would be happy to pay for any needed expenses.

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<sup>119</sup> A name has been crossed out here in the original.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

All our Fathers are well. Very Rev. Fr. Superior, Fr. Lagniet, as well as Fr. Poupinel, ask me to convey to you their sentiments of esteem and respect. In these same sentiments, I am happy to be, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and devoted servant,  
Eymard, Assistant S.M.

P.S. We will be happy to receive news about you.

## 167

**CO 167**

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 69/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, October 15, 1849*

Dear sister,

I cannot leave Lyons until Thursday. I hope to arrive at La Mure Thursday night. What is keeping me here is the Superior's absence. I have to replace him.

I will not be able to give you much time, but I will be very glad to give you all that I can.

I was happy to learn that you are much better. May the Good Lord be blessed! and his holy Mother.

In the meantime, I am,

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

P.S. I will bring your errands with me.

## 168

**CO 168**

**TO MME. GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)**  
(VII 1/8)

*Lyons*

*October 15, 1849*

Madame,<sup>120</sup>

In the hope of seeing you come to Lyons from one day to the next, I kept deferring my reply; I had even begun. But today, I am giving in to guilt, I feel like you must be planning a well-deserved reproach. And yet, I often went to visit you spiritually. It seems that you really love your solitude, your woods, your little paths, the silence and calm of nature, and that you forget the world there.

It is so good to be with God alone and in God alone!

And so you will come back to us fully spiritual and, I also hope, in good health.

I will not have the pleasure of seeing you when you arrive. I'm leaving for the south the day after tomorrow. I am going where there is cholera. Well, Madame says, perhaps cholera will lay

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<sup>120</sup> The first of 8 letters to Mme.Galle.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

hold of Fr. Eymard when he visits and send him to Heaven! At that price, what a beautiful trip! I would almost invite you to come and join me. But no! I am not worthy of Heaven. Unfortunately! May God in his divine mercy grant me purgatory. That would be a great grace for such a wretch!

There, at least I would love the Good Lord while suffering, desiring him, yearning most ardently to possess him.

However, do pray for me. It's a comforting thought because you will be showing the same charity I wish for you.

Goodbye, my dear sister, and may our Lord always watch over you in his holy love for Christian youth.

Eymard S.

P.S. My ever devoted respects to your dear Mother and friendly greetings to Mr. Paul.<sup>121</sup>

Mme.Galle  
at Mme. de Villedieu  
at the Tower of Salvagny near l'Arbresle  
(Rhône)<sup>122</sup>

**169**

**CO 172**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 33/395 VI 2)

*Lyons, November, 1849*

Mademoiselle,

I've just learned that someone is leaving for La Mure on Monday.

If you want to send your pictures, send them to the following address: Mr. Buisson, carpenter, or Madame Borel, rue Plat d'Argent, 18.

Kindly add a Third Order notebook for the receptions, to be loaned to Fr. Faure, the pastor at St. Laurent.

I am in our Lord,

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

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<sup>121</sup> her son.

<sup>122</sup> This letter was forwarded to the following address: Mme.Galle, Place St. Laurent #3, Lyons.

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 32/395 VI 2)

*La Seyne, by Toulon, November 5, 1849*

Mademoiselle,

Here is some news about the traveler: he is the same as usual.<sup>123</sup> The Good Lord doesn't want him yet, unfortunately! What would he do with such a lazy and worthless servant? In his goodness, he is granting him a little more time. Thank you for your prayers, I'm trying to do the same for you. I'll be here until next Sunday, the day when the children's retreat will close, as I am giving three.<sup>124</sup> So I hope to reach Lyons at the beginning of next week. Therefore you have time to give me news about yourself and your household. I would be pleased to receive it. However, send it to the following address: Fr. Eymard, at La Seyne Boarding School, via Toulon, (Var).

How are you? Should a serious worry or difficulty prevent you from continuing to receive Communion, go to Fr. Colin for reconciliation, rather than Holy Communion. Otherwise, wait.

When I left, my sister was in good health. I must tell you that I visited Notre Dame du Laus and enjoyed most delightful days there. The Blessed Virgin is so good to me there!

I bless you all.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

P.S. I believe you must have received my letter from La Mure with the two notes enclosed.

Miss Marguerite Guillot  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone  
Lyons

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 70/145 VI 10)

*La Seyne, November 5, 1849*

My dear sisters,

I'm coming to give you news about myself. I am well, the cholera has left Toulon and there is very little in Marseilles. When I passed through Gap, I spent a day at Notre Dame du Laus. I spent eight or nine hours there. You can imagine that you were not forgotten. I said holy Mass for you there.

The Bishop of Gap asked me for news about you, and he is praying for you.

I found good Mme. Hass, whom you know, a bit tired. I hope she is better. Theirs is a delightful family.

Fr. Denis asked me for news about you, and he is praying for you very much.

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<sup>123</sup> Speaks of himself in the third person.

<sup>124</sup> Perhaps retreats to different age groups. Ed.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

I will be here until next Sunday. Write to tell me how you are, and whether Miss Berthier left with her niece, as I am afraid that the Superior General might be absent. However, she can count on being received.

I may not be able to go back by way of La Mure because they want me to pass through Viviers to see the Major Seminary there, but you know very well that if I can I shall be happy to do so.

Please! Keep up your courage and continue to trust in our Lord and his holy Mother. Time is short, heaven eternal. Let us continue to love and serve the Good Lord as he wills.

I am in our Lord,  
dear sisters,  
Your brother,  
Eymard

Here is my address: to Fr. Eymard, at the Boarding School, at La Seyne, via Toulon (Var). - I wrote to Lyons for the Artaud boy. They promised they would give him good recommendations.

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

**172**

**CO 173**

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 71/145 VI 10)

*Lyons, December 2, 1849*

My very dear sisters,

My reply to your letter is always so long in coming. It is just that I have been so busy that I don't have time, especially recently, our Superior has been absent and I have to replace him.

I had a very good trip; but one thing was lacking, that is, to pass through La Mure to see you. But the Good Lord did not will it so, since obedience was sending me elsewhere. Life is like that: we are here only in passing, and we will stop only when we reach Blessed Eternity. Dear sisters, all our desires and affections must tend toward it, in the eternal love of God. While waiting, we will continue to suffer, to be tested, to follow Jesus crucified, offer daily sacrifices, because that is the price of heaven and God's love wishes it [from us]. You have been sorely tried, but be consoled, that is the lot of Jesus' spouses.

Everything is fine in Lyons. People may tell you about the cholera and frighten you, telling you that it is in Lyons and causing terrible losses. That isn't true, it isn't the worst type of cholera. Some people really like to frighten others. Hell is the dangerous cholera we should fear; the rest is nothing.

All yours in our Lord,

Your brother,  
Eymard

P.S. The Reymond and Gras boys are well. We are pleased with them. I'll be absent for a month. I will preach a mission at Dionay, near Roybon (Isere). I am leaving Friday night, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Pray for that. You could write to me there.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

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

173

CO 174

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)  
(II 34/395 VI 2)

*Dionay, December 22, 1849*

My dear daughter,

I'm hurrying to answer your kind letter, briefly. First, let me say that it pleased me.

I'm happy to learn that things are going better in the first house of Nazareth: may the Good Lord always bless it! It is established on the cross. How could our Lord not love it? The structure needed these crosses. They are not natural, they are trials.

1. I'm much better than I was when I left Lyons. You guessed the reason for my silence: it's the trial that God is sending me.<sup>125</sup>

2. No meetings will be held for the Ladies nor for anyone else until the first Saturday of January. Then I will be back.

The mission will end January 2<sup>nd</sup>. I'll reach Lyons Friday morning.

3. Go to the Justice of the Peace, it's only right. May St. Joseph take care of running his house.

4. Wait for me for confession, if you can. What you told me isn't an obstacle. Be interiorly kind toward those who are the cause of your dislikes. Don't do anything for or against, nothing. It's a disappointment. Don't see so clearly. - Let charity make you oblivious.

5. Permission is granted to give your New Year's gifts,<sup>126</sup> and to buy shoes. (Please, take from the Third Order cash box what you advanced for the women's gift. I authorize you and beg you to do so. The Third Order will never be able to repay you for your great dedication.)

6. Permission is granted to write whatever you deem appropriate. Please tell my sister that I'm well.

7. I won't say anything about the gift. Oh, those dear sisters are too kind.<sup>127</sup> They think I am more helpful than I am.

The Third Order keeps me busy. It's my joy and consolation. I would like to do a thousand times more to lead these good people on the way of perfection. But my motto is: do everything through obedience; be willing to leave Lyons tomorrow without seeing it again, nor those to whom I am fully devoted in God. I am willing to live and die in the corner of a stable, or on a highway, not even to wish to be spoken of after my death, to be seen as one of the poor. That is what I wish and what I ask you to pray for me.<sup>128</sup>

I am in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Devotedly yours,  
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot, Ironer  
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Lyons

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<sup>125</sup> cf.DOC. 175.

<sup>126</sup> She had a vow of obedience to Fr. Eymard.

<sup>127</sup> The members of the Third Order.

<sup>128</sup> Premonition or insight into his coming transfer? Ed.

174

CO 163

**TO MME. FRANCHET**  
(VII 1/33)

August 2<sup>129</sup>

Madame,

Please excuse me if I don't send you the minutes. Mme. Chaupin isn't here, I will finish the last one tomorrow morning; I hope I will have finished it.

May the Good Lord be praised for giving you a tangible proof of what I told you, especially for giving it to you so soon! I was expecting it for you. Yes, my dear daughter, remember that the Good Lord doesn't give such graces to those who do not love him with a privileged love.

It's the proof of his love for you.

If he gives you a place on Calvary, it's because he will stay there with you so that his grace and love may lift you up to his heart.

All yours in our Lord  
Eymard

Mme. Franchet  
Quai St. Vincent 75  
Lyons

175

CO 248

**TO MME. FRANCHET**  
(VII 2/33)

March 3<sup>130</sup>

Madame,

The state of your soul makes me very sad. I understand your [sorrow] a little. Who will bring you out of it? Divine goodness does not forsake its poor, humble, patient children. Madame, from time to time you know how to make great sacrifices. How I would wish to see you more patient on our Lord's cross. Where does all this suffering come from? Somewhat from ourselves, says the *Imitation*. What does our Lord want? That we should learn to suffer within with gentleness and generosity.

My own feelings of sadness about you are also very reasonable, since my present position doesn't permit me to give your soul all the care it needs. It's a sign that divine Providence gives us: to me, not to let you suffer without help, and to you, to seek another Director.

Then, Madame, new difficulties have come up. I can no longer go to hear confessions at St. Regis. For now, it has become impossible for me. You know my good will, but I must submit, and you belong to God, more than to a [particular] director. A director is only for a time, but God never leaves a soul.

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<sup>129</sup> before 1850.

<sup>130</sup> before 1850.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

If I had kept a few penitents, you could complain about me; but you know that it is not so. - I adore God's plans and I will pray to him for you; but this decision doesn't come from me; consequently I cannot avoid it. The greatest pleasure you could give me, is to accept everything as a good Christian, return to serving God and take up your ordinary practices.

Therefore, I am placing you again into the hands of our Lord and his Holy Mother, and I will be happy if grace helped you through me.

In his divine love, I am, Madame,

Your very humble,  
Eymard

**176**

**CO 175**

**TO MME. FRANCHET**  
(VII 3/33)

*[before 1850]*

Madame,

Your request disturbs me. If it is because of proprieties, yes... because I am very sure of your piety.

Continue to rise above the storm... our Lord is with you.

Excuse my brevity, I am expected on all sides.

Eymard

**177**

**CO 176**

**TO MME. FRANCHET<sup>131</sup>**  
(VII 4/33)

Please excuse me, I haven't done the minutes yet. Alas! Yesterday I [understood] clearly that you were on the Cross! Continue to love our Lord to the very end, be faithful to him; his grace will help you.

Eymard

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<sup>131</sup> The above is a post-script from Fr. Eymard to the following letter of Mme.Franchet, before 1850:  
Most Reverend Father,

I am going to Lyons tomorrow for errands. If you have finished the minutes and would kindly give them to my servant, I would be most obliged. I am on the cross. Since I have no more strength, will I be able to hold up until the end? I don't think so. I don't have a ny religious help; since I can no longer receive Communion, prayer is drying up my soul. Father, I can no longer go on.

Receive the assurance of my profound respect and my full devotedness.

Your Daughter

**TO MME. FRANCHET**  
(VII 5/33)

*Sunday*<sup>132</sup>

Madame,

Mr. Delaunay, Principal of the College of Valbenoite, will be here until 4:55. Mr. Franchet had expressed the desire to introduce your child to him. If that is possible, you will be welcome.

In our Lord, I am,

Your very humble,  
Eymard

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<sup>132</sup> before 1850.

*Dates unknown - Retreat to the Third Order of Mary*

*First Day*

*Advice*

*First Meditation – God’s Goodness in Creating Me.*

*Second Meditation – God’s Goodness in Sanctifying Me.*

*Third Meditation - God’s Goodness in Predestining Me to Glory.*

*Directions.*

*Second Day*

*Advice*

*First Meditation - God and the World.*

*Second Meditation - The Merciful God.*

*Third Meditation - God and I.*

*Directions.*

*Third Day*

*Advice*

*First Meditation - Jesus Calls Me to Follow Him.*

*Second Meditation - Follow Jesus with Mary.*

*Third Meditation - The Life of Jesus and Mary in Me.*

*Directions.*

*Fourth Day*

*Advice*

*First Meditation - Strength in Confidence in God.*

*Second Meditation - Exterior Recollection. Third Meditation - Interior Recollection.*

*Directions.*

*Fifth Day*

*Advice*

*First Meditation - The Spirit of Sacrifice.*

*Second Meditation - The Simple and Hidden Life of Jesus.*

*Third Meditation - Jesus and the Soul That is Poor.*

*Directions.*

*Sixth Day*

*First Meditation - Jesus Humble of Heart.*

*Second Meditation - Jesus Meek of Heart.*

*Directions.*

*Seventh Day*

*First Meditation - Jesus Obedient.*

*Second Meditation - The Eucharistic Life of Jesus.*

*Third Meditation - Closing of the Retreat - Spiritual Bouquet - My*

*Love to Jesus in Life and Death.*

**TO CAPTAIN AUGUSTE MARCEAU<sup>133</sup>**  
(VII 1/1)

[1850]

Let me tell you that I love La Favorite like a Nazareth. It is far from the world, I live near our Eucharistic Lord like a child near its father and I am happy. But to my happiness are sometimes joined the temptations of St. Anthony. A life without struggle is not possible on earth.

I need to struggle against myself to see people. Does it come from grace or natural feelings? Perhaps both. Recommend me to the prayers of N... not to know the will of God, but [to know] what might be an obstacle to God's plans in my life. - I do want to serve him but I can feel the old self which makes me earthly.

**TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET**  
(VI 8/10)

JMJ

Lyons, anuary 14, 1850

Your Excellency,

I am writing to thank you for the Documents you kindly sent me for Fr. Poulat, pastor at St. Jean's. That good pastor is very happy and joyful about this.

I am glad to learn that you are better. I would have been very upset to know that you were ill, alas! Take care of yourself a little, Excellency! If only you were here!

It seems that you didn't receive my letter written almost 2 months ago. A gentleman leaving for Rome, who said he knew you well, had taken it. I am very upset by his forgetfulness.

At the time, I was returning from Marseilles, where I had seen Mr. Marius Olive. He told me he was planning to withdraw your money, and that the person to whom you had entrusted it had promised him to give it to him shortly. I had asked Mr. Olive to write to me about this matter. I did not receive anything from him. It seems that everything is going well. To be sure of it, I am writing to him today. If it can help you, you could always withdraw 300 francs on Mr. Andre Favier, the goldsmith, informing him beforehand. Your chain and cross aren't sold yet. Mr. Favier still expects to find an opportunity.

I thank Your Excellency ahead of time for the book you kindly sent me. It will be a very lovely souvenir for me. Fr. Superior General is asking me to offer you his respectful and devoted regards. I am happy to offer you mine and to consider myself always, Your Excellency,

Your humble and devoted servant.  
Eymard, P.S. Mar.<sup>134</sup>

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<sup>133</sup> An extract drawn from the notes of Fr. Mayet.

<sup>134</sup> Priest of the Society of Mary.

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 72/145 VI 10)

J.M.J.

Lyons, January 31, 1850

My very dear Sisters,

I really don't understand how I can stay so long without writing to you, I who wanted to do so on New Year's Day! And while waiting for a quiet moment to converse with you, I let the weeks and months pass by. But I don't need to tell you that my heart is at La Mure and that a single day does not pass without my visiting you several times with my guardian angel.

I sent you my New Year's wishes at La Mure and offered you both to our Lord, so that you would truly love him and that this year might be an important year of virtue and merit for you. I don't wish heaven for you yet, my good sisters, but that you would do great things for heaven, for the love of God, and for the glory of Jesus and Mary. You will indeed be doing great things simply by finding in your situation of suffering and sorrows, the opportunity to practice the great virtues of Jesus. God has given you a life of suffering that you might be worthy spouses of Jesus crucified. Calvary is the Tabor of great souls. However, may divine love sweeten your sufferings, and may a desire to give him greater glory enable you to esteem them above all else.

As for me, I am well and I'm working a great deal for God's glory. I'm happy that my days are too short for all the good there is to do.<sup>135</sup>

I will leave in two weeks for Chalon-sur-Saone, to preach the Lenten [mission] at St. Peter's church there. I will write to you from there. Take heart and have a good Lent, but while serving God peacefully.<sup>136</sup>

Your brother,  
Eymard

P.S. I will write to Miss Berthier. She wrote to me, she is pleased.

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

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<sup>135</sup> The sense might be: I'm happy that my days are so short because of all the good there is to do.

<sup>136</sup> French: doucement.

**TO MISS ANTONIA BOST**  
(IV 2/28)

J.M.J.<sup>137</sup>

Lyons, February 7, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I abused the latitude given me by your good letter. I brought it with me on my travels to Southern France, hoping to find a free moment to answer it and now it's already February! Once again, please forgive me. I hope you will write to me with the same simplicity, convinced that you will always find me to be a very devoted father.

Now I will reply to your letter.

1. I give you full permission to share the minutes<sup>138</sup> with your friend. I would be happy if she can find some spiritual help [in them]. You are being too kind when you give them so much value. Only ask that I may have the love of our Lord, because everything flows from this infinite source and must return to it.

2. About [your] vocation, I continue to have the same feelings. Rather than to make a total break and cause frustration in your family, wait. Besides, you are free to perform your religious exercises, and in God's sight you can be a perfect religious, since he alone possesses the secret of your heart and the tribute of your life.

Then, you have such a fine sister!<sup>139</sup> She is following the same spiritual path, although under a different banner.

Oh! No, stay yet awhile; but pray a lot, and accomplish all the small sacrifices your situation provides, seeing it as the holy Will of God.

You want to love the Good Lord very much. Often throw kindling into that small fire, so that it may become a blaze, a devouring conflagration. This kindling wood is constant self-denial.

Goodbye, my dear daughters in our Lord. I bless you wholeheartedly.

Eymard

P.S. I am leaving Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> for Chalon-sur-Saone to preach the Lenten devotions at the church of St. Peter. I would be happy to receive news from you there.

Mme. Tholin-Bost  
at Tarare (Rhone)  
- Miss Bost

*Feb. 17 - Fr. Eymard preached the Lenten Mission at Chalon-sur-Saone.*

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<sup>137</sup> Abbreviation for Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

<sup>138</sup> See Appendix 2 for an example of these minutes.

<sup>139</sup> Mme. Tholin-Bost.

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 35/395 VI 2)

*Chalon-Sur-Saone, February 28, 1850*

Mademoiselle,

I received your two letters: the first one pleased me. I was expecting it to be the first from Lyons. The second one left me very sad and still does because it's an ominous sign of distressing news. Does it mean that I will never see your dear mother again? I had no reason to expect such sad news. I would so love to relieve her sorrow, and to receive her beautiful soul for God. But then, I prefer to believe that your letter is only a false alarm. However, I am joining my prayers and Holy Masses to your own for your mother. Please tell her my feelings of sorrow and fond devotion.

Now to reply to your letter.

1. Health. Neither good nor bad, but sufficient to carry out my duties. However, I'm not as tired as I was the first week.

2. Miss Regnier's address is rue Puy-Guillot, 17, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. (There is a bend as you enter the alley.)

3. The Rule of the Third Order for Priests is not yet approved. So, I'm waiting patiently. God's time hasn't yet come!

4. No new permissions for penances, except the ordinary ones which we have already agreed upon. Mortify the body, but don't kill it. That's a principle of poverty, so as not to require costly treatments later.

5. One hour at night, provided there is no high fever, physical exhaustion or headaches.

6. An expense of 5 francs, yes; pictures, yes.

7. You must receive Communion just the same; do so especially with a great sense of need and humility. Go to our Lord like Magdalen did the first time she threw herself at his feet. Scoff at your struggles, temptations, fears, even your sins. Go to our kind Jesus in rags. This attitude, or at least this obedience is all that our Lord wants from you.

8. Let me offer you the alms of 20 centimes for your letters, and [I will] receive them without the stamp.

Write to me when you need to, every week. Oh, dear daughter, I would like to be the instrument of God's graces for your poor burdened soul! But what can a poor insignificant man do?

I bless you all in our Lord, and you in particular.

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Excuse me, as you must have received my first letter.

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 73/145 VI 10)

J.M.J.

*Chalon-sur-Saone, March 9, 1850*

My good sisters,

I'm putting everything aside to send you a brotherly greeting. I was longing to find a moment to be with you. I hear that you are both continuing to be in good health, as I had asked from the Good Lord. May he be blessed! Take care of this slight improvement, for it only takes a small breath to put out a little flame. If you feel weak in the springtime, see Mr. Telmat.<sup>140</sup> He is well educated. And please present him my regards.

I am well. I'm not overburdened, though very busy. The Good Lord is blessing some of his poor priest's works. Pray for him since he is your brother and we divide in half the benefits of the work for heaven.

Things seem to be calm now. So, put your trust in God and the Blessed Virgin.

At this holy season, concentrate your piety and your love on Jesus crucified, on the mysteries of his Passion... That is the grace of the season.

I embrace you in our Lord.

All yours,  
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard  
rue du Breuil  
at La Mure (Isere)

**TO MME. GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)**  
(VII 2/8)

*Chalons S.S., March 10, 1850*

Madame,

I am writing to thank you for your welcome letter. It made me very happy. Sometimes we need a consoling thought, and it consoles me to think about you and your prayers. I like to tell our Lord my wishes for you every day, so that you may love him more, that you may be strong in the trials of life and of the heart. - You see Madame, you must always be attached to our suffering Jesus, otherwise your love would become weak. When we love, suffering is both sweet and painful at the same time. I am happy that my last endeavor in Lyons was to guess your needs.

I wanted to bring this to you. Our Lord didn't give me that satisfaction. Courage! Between Chalon and Lyons, there is a divine heart the limits of which touch and unite us.

Goodbye in our Lord,  
All yours,  
Eymard

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<sup>140</sup> Perhaps, Doctor Delmat.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

P.S. You want news about me. - At first I thought I would not get to the end of the day. - Now, I am fine. - Oh! It isn't [my time for] Heaven yet!

## 186

CO 183

**TO MR. BLANC DE SAINT-BONNET**  
(VII 1/4)

*Chalon-sur-Saone, March 10, 1850*

Sir,

You were so kind to send me your precious book with its lessons in suffering. I am writing to thank you for it. I had already come to appreciate it and its humble Author, feeling a great love for him and hoping to have the happiness of meeting him someday. I love an Author who has the courage to think and write his personal and apostolic thought. I like a book that is original as a book needs to be, so to truly reflect the Author and reveal something about myself to me. But, Sir, when one begins from your starting point with such a great and beautiful principle to en flesh, such as Religion - we must expect blind contradiction which refuses to investigate further, systematic opposition from those who do not want to believe in this new work, and then, vulgarity from a clique of slaves.

If I had any standing in the world, I would tell you: you have a precious mine to exploit, a beautiful Christian mission to fulfill. Do not stop on [such] a good path. The pinnacle of success for a Christian comes only on his grave, or better, in the fight for truth and the noble demonstration of the divine benefits.

When I get to Lyons, I will not hesitate to come thank you personally; and I beg you to please forgive my delay, my heart was not at fault. With my expression of dedication, Sir, I am,

Your very humble servant,  
Eymard, O.S.M.<sup>141</sup>

## 187

CO 185

**TO MME. FRANCHET**  
(VII 6/33)

*JMJ*

*Chalon, March 11, 1850*

Madame,

I don't understand how it happened that I haven't written to you until now as I had promised. These poor minutes are still incomplete,<sup>142</sup> that is the first and only reason, because I could never get to finish them. Finally, I am sending them to you as my excuse. When it comes to remembering you before God at the Holy Altar, oh! I am not late. I have offered you so often to our Lord, in order that he might support you and protect you in his holy service and his crucifying love. I like to think: this dear daughter is generous. She knows where to find her heart's strength and divine love; she fears nothing.

Our good Master cannot neglect a heart that wants to belong entirely to him. Then, I learned that you have excellent preachers in Lyons and I praise God for it. I wish that the world was filled with zealous apostles to shake it from its lethargy and laziness.

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<sup>141</sup> Initials puzzling.

<sup>142</sup> Minutes of the Third Order meetings.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

What are you doing at Chalon?

Oh, I may have caused a stir, but, as for its fruit, I will wait until my good daughters in Lyons obtain conversions. There are few men; a sad city!<sup>143</sup> The men are not worth the children! I am afraid that the wrath of God will fall upon them. Alas, divine justice would have to strike too hard. However, there is a good core of devout persons, and that is what is consoling. The Church is full when I have 40 to 50 men; that's a lot!

It's late; I am tired. I have just finished preaching. If I have a moment tomorrow, I will add a few lines.

I received and read your letter, but it is so sad!

I hope that you have told me and given me all your sadness. I presume that there are three sorrows in one: dreariness of body, heart, and spirit. Let it be a generous subject of virtue, and love God just the same. Such spiritual distress cannot be reasoned out nor analyzed, but offered simply to God and then set aside.

I wish I could remove it from you; but God wants you to bear this heavy cross. Your love will end by making it light. I leave you in the keeping and grace of our Lord, and recommend myself to your good wishes in prayer.

Eymard

188

CO 186

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 36/395 VI 2)

*Chalon, March 16, 1850*

Mademoiselle,

I'm writing to thank you for your thoughtfulness.

I've been very busy, and will be so even more next week. It's the week of the long Retreat. I recommend it to your prayers, as well as a poor soul whose condition is quite like yours.

I'm very happy about your dear mother's improvement, and about your sisters' good sense. May God be praised and glorified for that!

A few words for you:

1. Receive Communion like a poor humble leper. Offer Jesus all your temptations, all those horrible things, as your rags of poverty. However, don't dwell upon nor think about these struggles. It's sufficient to feel your poverty.

2. I am granting you permission for the novena and I ask our Lord to make you strong with him in the Garden of Olives.

3. Permission for the bonnet.

4. Give nothing more to the brother, I absolutely forbid it.

5. I am quite well, they say I'm very well, because my voice is strong. It's true that it's almost a miracle how the Good Lord is sustaining me.

Goodbye my daughter. Be very humble, poor, patient, and gentle toward your poor heart. Don't torture it so much, rather, encourage it.

May our Lord have pity on you... yes, he will have pity.

Eymard

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<sup>143</sup> probably: in church.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

P.S. I wrote general news to my sister, I don't have time right now....

Excuse me for closing so quickly, I am wanted on all sides. I will offer Mass for you on the Feast of St. Joseph. Then, send me news about yourself.

189

CO 187

**TO MISS ANTONIA BOST**  
(IV 3/28)

*Chalon-sur-Saone, March 24, 1850*

Mademoiselle,

I have a moment, I am pleased to make it yours, to prove my desire to help you, and to prove my dedication to you.

So then, I thank you kindly for your letter. I was expecting it and I was expecting it as it is.

Holy Day of Easter:-

Alas! Mademoiselle, I was forced by the engrossing tasks of my sacred ministry to leave my letter incomplete until today. I didn't have a single moment. But you will find it in your heart to forgive me. My first free moment after holy Mass is yours.

I blessed you today more than ever, you and your dear sister. I presented you to the risen Jesus in order that he might communicate his divine life, his glory, his happiness, his love to you. Today is a beautiful day! How happy we are to be children of Jesus Christ!

You opened your heart to me like a child, and I praised God that I could read into it his love and a great desire to serve him alone. Your poor heart has suffered greatly and will suffer again, because divine Love is like a press which continues to bear down, to remove from your soul whatever might be too human or too natural in order to make space for divine love. That is how God leads his great souls.

What I mean, Mademoiselle, is to find your center always in Jesus, and go from him to human beings, and you will always be happy. It is by his plan of love that he allowed you to be so deprived of the help to which you really had a right. Our Lord wanted to be your only walking staff. However, continue to ask for it.<sup>144</sup>

Yes, stay with your parents, live there as a religious, simple in the sight of God.

Let your dear sister be like a Mistress of Novices: God loves her very much. I was grieved by the news you gave me about her illness. I don't pray that she have Heaven yet, but that she may have an active, great and unlimited love for God. This is the time for our love to glorify God. Tell her that I am praying for her. And as far as you are concerned, you know you have double rights.

Have courage! During the time of famine, go to Jesus and Mary; in times of desolation cast yourself upon their hearts; during times of joy, store up your strength.

Goodbye, Mademoiselle. I have the right to my grace, to your prayers.

Eymard, P.M.

P.S. I am happy to learn that dear Fr. Tisseur helped you. He is preaching a Lenten Mission. I know him by reputation.

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<sup>144</sup> The help she needs.

190

CO 188

**TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)<sup>145</sup>**  
(IV 1/75)

*Chalon-sur-Saone, March 14, 1850<sup>146</sup>*

Madame,

Always behind, always in debt: Father Eymard never changes. But, when it comes to remembering the other in God's sight, oh! then, I'm sure that I've thought more about you than you have about me. Besides, every day I would say to myself: Alright, today! And then, a thousand and one things would come up. I haven't had a single moment for myself in the last two weeks; always in the pulpit or in the confessional. I've just finished the exercises of the long retreat today and I am yours, so where should I begin? By thanking you for your letter and especially to let you know that the weather is beautiful, calm and serene.<sup>147</sup> I hope that it won't be clouded over, because I had written to Mr. Marceau that he had healed you! Then also, all those fine preachers must have helped you a little, and so this [letter] will find you very fervent. May God be praised for it!

My Mission in Chalon was rewarding as regards the women but not as regards the men. Sad to say, when there were sixty, they were satisfied with that. Poor men! worthy of their reputation. When the time for God's justice will come, I don't know what he will do about that godless bourgeoisie in Chalon! But it's so sad...

I expect to be in Lyons Tuesday evening and to greet you Wednesday morning. In the meantime, continue to pray for your Dauphinese brother,<sup>148</sup> he needs it.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

191

CO 189

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 37/395 VI 2)

*Holy Day of Easter, Chalon, April, 1850<sup>149</sup>*

Mademoiselle,

This morning I already wished you the Good News: the Holy Resurrection of Jesus, his grace, his strength, his happiness, his love. I really hope that our dear Master will hear me, for he knows how much I wish you to be his and entirely his. Your condition both saddens and consoles me. I see that you are on the cross, but I hope this cross will turn to God's glory and your holiness. Poor daughter! If only I could take away this heavy cross from you! Bear it with our Lord...

My paternal best wishes to your household. May our Lord change it into a Sanctuary of grace and holiness as he did his tomb.

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<sup>145</sup> The first of seventy-five letters to Mme. Natalie Jordan (Mme Camille nee Brenier de Montmorand), 10 rue des Castries, Lyons.

<sup>146</sup> Perhaps March 24.

<sup>147</sup> Is he referring to his spiritual frame of mind? Ed.

<sup>148</sup> Dauphinese brother - they were both natives of the Dauphine, a section of France.

<sup>149</sup> In 1850, Easter was March 31. Troussier.

*Lyons: 1844 - 1850*

I will leave here Tuesday or Wednesday. I am well. Thank you for your letter. I am leaving you to hurry to High Mass.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

Miss Guillot

**192**

**CO 190**

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

(V 4/76)

*Chalon-sur-Saone, Holy Day of Easter, 1850*

Madame Gourd  
Madame,

I would have liked to answer your good letter right away. I couldn't. When I was about to do so, a passage from your letter saying that you would be staying only a week in Lyons caught my attention. I'm sending this letter in the care of Providence.

I blessed [God's] fatherly Providence for the coincidence of travel, which made it possible for me to give you a little more time. I would so like to see you progress in his holy love by your life's gentle self-denial and continual dependence on his ever gracious Will.

A few moments ago at holy Mass, I asked for the grace of the spiritual resurrection of Jesus in your soul. May he increase within you the divine life for which he died and rose. I didn't forget Miss Stephanie. Holy Mass is the place where I pay all my debts.

I do approve the vocal prayers you indicated, especially to recite them as early as possible as you come and go. That will protect your freedom in love when you are able to go before the Blessed Sacrament.

What can I tell you about this retreat? The Good Lord really blessed it a hundredfold! There are beautiful souls at Chalon. God has chosen ones here. They will save the city. I don't know whether I saw your woman friend. I asked for her, but they didn't know her.

Goodbye my daughter. Send me news about yourself, even if it is cut into a hundred pieces.

I'm leaving here Tuesday, or next Wednesday at the latest.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD**  
(V 4/52)

*Chalon, Easter Day, 1850*

Miss Stephanie  
Mademoiselle,

On this beautiful day I am writing to wish you a beautiful and holy Resurrection of Jesus, tell you that I read your letter with pleasure, and express my wishes that you may ever be a worthy child of Jesus and Mary.

Well, what do I wish [for you]? As follows:

1. Always write what you are thinking, without wondering whether it is too long or expressed inadequately. It's always fine for a father who wants only the welfare of his child in God.

2. Always continue to be faithful to your meditation. At a time you do not expect, our Lord will give you the great grace [sought after] in all your halfhearted attempts.

3. Work hard at humility: it's the queen, but a genuine humility, that is, draw humility from yourself, let it feed on your weaknesses, cover it over with your faults; be patient and peaceful toward your poor weak human nature. However, let your humility be simple like a child's, without self-consciousness and without frustration.

4. When you notice that your mind is at work to plan the future, build castles in Spain, as you say, pretend you haven't seen it, and withdraw it very gently. To avoid this, it's well to center our thoughts outside of ourselves, such as by the habitual reading of a good book which helps reflection.

5. Keep in mind that our Lord's greatest graces for the sanctification of a soul are contained in the opportunities to sacrifice our will to God's or to someone else's. When you can say: I renounced my will, our Lord tells you: My daughter, you have performed an act of pure love.

6. Thank God when he lets you discover one of your faults. We ask a doctor to tell us our illnesses.

Goodbye my daughter, I may be writing to you in haste, but [I do so] with heart. I am pleased that my blessed medal gave you a privilege which I have been wanting for you for such a long time.

Goodbye in our good Master,

Eymard

**TO BR. GABRIEL**<sup>150 151</sup>  
(VIII 1/4)

Dear Rev. Superior,

I was very sorry to leave Belley without saying goodbye to you, and even more for not replying to you for so long. Your charity will pardon this tardiness caused by a thousand and one things, especially a Lenten Mission which, for more than two months, has left me no time to breathe.

I have had news of you from many quarters, and you know, Rev. Superior, of the esteem and affection in which I hold, and will always hold, the admirable and imperishable Work of the Holy Family. I give heartfelt thanks to the Good Lord for all the graces he has given you; to learn that your novitiate is still increasing, and growing in perfection. Indeed it is the spring flowing into the river which will nourish so many young men.

I still hope that France will be at least as generous as the princes and the powerful Catholic kings, as the King of Sardinia.

Rev. Superior, what immense good can be achieved by your Institute in the Church of God. How many good parish priests are longing for the time when they will receive some of your good brothers! Even the Vicar-General of Grenoble has written to me, and I can do no better than to send you his letter. Satisfy him if you can, for he wants the best for you and can really help you.

Another pastor has asked me for one of your certified men for next year; he would be very happy with him - he is a (illegible). What am I to tell him? I had spoken to you about this already. Be so kind, if you please, to send me a copy of your prospectus, as I am often asked for information and I like to be exact.

Forgive me, Rev. Superior, for this insistence which you have authorized me to make, and believe me ever, Rev. Superior,

Your most humble and obedient servant,  
Eymard

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<sup>150</sup> Founder and Superior-General of THE HOLY FAMILY OF BELLY

<sup>151</sup> Probably 1850 after the Mission at Chalon-sur-Saone Feb. 17-Mar 31.