Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

What transpired between you and M. Zelazewski causes me to ask you, in the name of Our Lord, to bear with him. I do not mean that you should not reprove him, but it should be done gently, rarely, and in private, after having reflected before God on whether and how you should do it. I have heard that the Polish people are more easily won over by this cordial, charitable method than by harshness. Naturally, everyone is disheartened by sharp reprimands, and by the most amiable corrections as well, if they are frequent, immoderate, or given inappropriately. So, I hope you will take the right approach with this good priest, as M. Lambert ¹ used to do, and that gradually he will fall in with our little observances; if he does not, God Himself will take care to rid you of him. In the latter case it is better for him to have good reason to be pleased with

Letter 1760. - Archives of the Mission, Krakow, original signed letter.

¹Lambert aux Couteaux, born in Fossemamant (Somme), in 1606, had been a member of the Congregation of the Mission since August 1629. In the early 1630s he preached in the South of France with Robert de Serdis. He founded the house in Toul in 1635 and remained there as Superior until 1637. In January 1638 he began the establishment in Richelieu (Indre-et-Loire), where he was Pastor and Superior for four years. The General Assembly of 1642 named him Assistant to the Superior General. For a brief period he was Superior at the Bons-Enfants (1646-49), then at Saint-Charles. In 1650-51 he was again in Richelieu. The Saint had such confidence in him that he had him make the visitation of Saint-Lazare. He sent him to render the same service to the Missionaries in La Rose and Toul, as well as to the Sisters in Angers and Nantes.

Urged by Propaganda Fide in 1647 to designate someone as Coadjutor Bishop of Babylon, Saint Vincent could think of no one more worthy than Lambert aux Couteaux. In his response to Bishop Ingoi (cf. vol. III, no. 926), he expressed himself as follows: "I must confess, Excellency, that losing this person is like plucking out one of my own eyes or cutting off my arm." The plan, however, did not materialize.

In 1651 the Saint chose Lambert to establish the Congregation in Poland, where the Queen was asking for the Missionaries. Everything had to be organized in that war-torn and plague-stricken country. Lambert's efforts were blessed by God but were short-lived because he died on January 31, 1653, a victim of his dedication to the plague-stricken. (Cf. Notices, vol. II, pp. 1-28.)
the gracious treatment you will have given him than to go away discontented.

Although those extraordinary manifestations occurring there are not sure signs of some evil event, and ordinarily such portents should not be dwelt on, it is good, nevertheless, to redouble our prayers that God may be pleased to avert from His people the ills with which He may have planned to afflict them. We here are being threatened with a solar eclipse, the worst to take place for several centuries. It is supposed to occur on August 12, around nine or ten in the morning, so they say. Please find out if it will be visible in Poland and let me know the details.

I am writing to the Daughters of Charity, as you wished, and will send M. Duperroy his philosophy book with the persons you are expecting. They will be ready to leave as soon as they get their passports and passage on a ship.

Please do whatever you can to satisfy the former Pastor. We were very respectful and deferential toward the late Prior and all the monks here in this house, and it turned out very well for us. He is your benefactor; you must show him great gratitude. If you take my advice, you will let him have the house from which you are receiving three hundred livres income, in the place of his house, in the event that he sees fit to hand it over to you. This will help you to get your seminary started soon. May God bless this project, together with you and your family, whom I greet!

Even if we were to spend all our time thanking the Queen and praying for her and for the fulfillment of her wishes, it would still never be sufficient to acknowledge Her Majesty's admirable kindnesses, of which you receive fresh proofs daily. May God be blessed for this!

I am, in His love, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

Vincent DePaul,
i.s.C.M.

At the bottom of the first page: Monsieur Ozenne
1761. - TO THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY, IN WARSAW

July 20, 1654

.... You must, my good Sisters; otherwise, for whom would you have any love? You are Daughters of Charity, but you would no longer be so if you lived amid misunderstanding, aversion, or mistrust of one another. God grant that this may not be the case among you! That is characteristic of women in the world who are not well disposed. However, the duty of daughters of Our Lord, who live and serve Him together and have only one same intention of making themselves pleasing in the eyes of God, is to cherish, help, and bear with one another, while showing mutual respect.

I ask you, dear Sisters, to act in this way, never complaining or murmuring, not contradicting or nagging one another because, alas! it would be a great pity if you were to offend one another. You have enough to put up with from outsiders and from your duties without creating new trials within the Community. These are the most distressing ones and would make of your house a little purgatory, whereas love will make of it a little paradise.

1762. - TO FIRMIN GET, IN MARSEILLES

Paris, July 24, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I praise God that you are recovering from your illness and I pray that you will soon be completely cured, if you are not so already. I hope you will now be able to take a little rest and hand over some

Letter 1761. - Collet, op. cit., vol. II, bk. VII, §10, p. 164. Collet states that in the first part of the letter Saint Vincent congratulated the Sisters in Warsaw for the good they were doing.

Letter 1762. - Archives of the Mission, Paris, Sister Haina Collection, original signed letter.
of your duties to M. Champion, who left Tuesday on the Lyons
coach with M. Huguier, whom we are sending to Genoa. As for
M. du Chesne, he cannot leave Agde nor go far from it. He has
informed me of this, and I believe it because he has no one on whom
he can rely.

We are so badly off at the moment that we cannot help you with
money. Still, since you have found three hundred écus for three
weeks and are forced to draw a bill of exchange on us for them, we
will make an effort to pay it off, but please do not make it payable
for two weeks. I am sure your building is costing more than was
thought; that is usually the case. I would be very glad to see an
itemized account of the expenses.

The letters you sent me from Algiers are just copies of preceding
ones. I think I told you the reasons why the ransomed slaves who
have passed through Marseilles are wrong to complain: they were
given the piastres at three livres nine sous, which they were worth
at the time their money was delivered to us. That is why they
received less. Our men got the same lower exchange for their own
money. The Consul sent me a short statement of that in this last
mail.

We have no news other than what M. Champion will tell you. I
ask God to unite your hearts and bless your work.

I am, in His love, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,

i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Get, Priest of the Mission, in Marseilles
Monsieur,

When Father Paulin was on the point of speaking about the office of Coadjutor, you wrote me that M. Ségüier found some difficulty in the Bishop of Sarlat's keeping his own diocese and being my Coadjutor, and that, even though some objection might be raised to that, as he thought would happen, how could the Bishop of Sarlat manage? I replied to you, saying there was no problem with his being able to retain his own diocese and be my Coadjutor as well. This is true; we have many examples of it. Still, I said that if they did not want him to be Coadjutor unless he gave up his diocese, I was offering to give him three thousand livres pension from my diocese for his subsistence. I sent you my power of attorney in consent to that pension and asked you, nevertheless, not to mention it except in an extreme case and if they absolutely refused the simple coadjutorship.

Letter 1763. - Archives of the Diocese of Cahors, Alain de Solminihac collection, file 3, no. 33, copy of an original autograph letter.

1Alain de Solminihac was born in the Château de Belet in Périgord on November 25, 1593. He was only twenty-two when one of his uncles resigned in his favor Chancelade Abbey (Dordogne), which depended on the Order of Canons Regular of Saint Augustine. He replaced the old buildings and had discipline restored. On January 21, 1630, Cardinal de la Rochefoucauld sent him full powers to make visitations of the houses belonging to the Canons of Saint Augustine in the dioceses of Périgueux, Limoges, Saintes, Angoulême, and Maillezais. Solminihac was sought after in many places to establish the reform. Appointed to the Cahors diocese on June 17, 1636, he devoted himself body and soul to the Church of which he was the shepherd. He procured for his people the benefit of missions, visited the parishes of his diocese regularly, created a seminary for the formation of his clergy, and entrusted its direction to the sons of Saint Vincent. At the time of his death on December 21, 1659, the Cahors diocese was completely renewed. Since God had manifested the sanctity of Alain by several miracles, his cause was introduced in Rome at the request of the clergy of France. (Cf. Léonard Chastenet, La vie de Mgr Alain de Solminihac [new ed., Saint-Brieuc: Prud'homme, 1817]; Abel de Valon, Histoire d'Alain de Solminihac, évêque de Cahors [Cahors: Delsaut, 1900].) He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on October 4, 1981.

2Charles Paulin (Poulain), born in Orleans on June 3, 1593, entered the Society of Jesus on September 30, 1610. He was Rector of the Collège de Blois, then Superior of the Paris house of professed members. He prepared the King for his First Communion and was his confessor. Paulin died on April 2, 1653.

3Pierre Ségüier, son of Jean Ségüier, Seigneur d'Autry, and Marie Tordert de la Bournalière, was born in Paris on May 29, 1588. In 1633 he was named Keeper of the Seals, and Chancellor in 1635. In 1649 the Seals were taken from him but were returned to him in 1656 at the death of Mathieu Molé. He retained them until his death in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, January 28, 1672.

4Nicolas Sevin.
M. de Brousse has written me several times that Father Annat, who promised to use his influence in this matter, told him that he did not think the Cardinal wanted to grant the coadjutorship and that the Bishop of Sarlat might not leave the diocese, so some thought had to be given to his subsistence. I felt obliged, therefore, to tell you that I have always objected strongly to having the Bishop of Sarlat leave his diocese, at least for the present, and this objection is stronger than ever.

Here are my reasons: it is quite certain that the Sarlat diocese in its present state is very much in need of the care and services of the Bishop of Sarlat. He is the only person I see who can restore it to the state in which it should be, so I do not think it would do a service to God—or that it is His Will—for him to forsake it at present for the office of Coadjutor.

The following adds to this problem—or creates another one: God has given me perfect health and the strength of a twenty-year-old person, accompanied by a great desire to carry out my office. To tell the truth, I find nothing but pleasure and contentment in all its functions, however arduous they may appear. I dare say also to you that, unless some mishap occurs, I will probably be in a position to serve my diocese for several years with no need of assistance. You know well that I cannot have someone assist me when there is no need for it. I must carry out my office by myself, as I have done until now, for although I have some Vicars-General, they really do nothing. What will the Bishop of Sarlat do in the meantime? The Church and his diocese... deprived of the services of such a worthy Prelate... might it not even weary him to find himself without work?

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5François Annat, born in Estaing (Aveyron) on February 5, 1590, entered the Society of Jesus on February 16, 1607. For thirteen years he taught philosophy and theology in Toulouse and was Rector of the Collège de Montpellier and the Collège de Toulouse. He became Assistant to the Superior General, Provincial of France, and confessor of King Louis XIV (1654-61). To him we owe many works against Jansenism. Annat died in Paris on June 14, 1670.

6Jules Mazarin (Giulio Mazarini) was born in Pescia in the Abruzzi (Italy) in 1602, studied in Spain as a youth, and served in the Papal army and the Papal diplomatic corps. He met Richelieu in 1630 and represented the Pope in negotiating the peace of Cherasco with France in 1631. Mazarin had hardly begun preparing for the priesthood—he received tonsure in 1632, but never became a priest—when he was assigned to other important diplomatic posts: Vice-Legate of Avignon (1634), then Nuncio in France (1635-36), in which positions he demonstrated the ability and flexibility of the most subtle statesman. He became a French citizen in 1639, and Richelieu obtained a Cardinal’s hat for him in 1641. Before Richelieu’s death (1642), he recommended Mazarin to Louis XIII. He became the principal minister of Queen Anne of Austria during the regency of Louis XIV (1642-61) and, until his own death in 1661, was the absolute master of France.

7Passages omitted because of a tear in the copy.
Here, then, is my thought on the matter, after earnestly recommending it to Our Lord: the Bishop of Sarlat would consent to being given a Coadjutor; he would pay the latter three thousand livres pension on his diocese, and I would consent to the Bishop of Sarlat's taking a similar amount on mine. I think that would be more advantageous to the one who is named his Coadjutor than if he resigned his diocese to him right now because the Bishop of Sarlat will retain it only to restore him—and his diocese—to the state in which it should be with regard to both spiritual and temporal matters. This, then, would work in favor of the Coadjutor. If this is made very clear, I certainly do not think there will be any objection to granting the coadjutorship.

That is my opinion, after having constantly recommended this affair to Our Lord for three or four years now. I really would like you to be able to discuss it with Father Annat before it is brought up. Rumor has it, however, that the King is not supposed to return to Paris for a long time. If, after looking closely into the matter and recommending it to Our Lord, you and Father Annat feel that the coadjutorship will be refused if the Bishop of Sarlat retains his diocese, I will defer to your opinion and will consent, as I have done, to the pension of three thousand livres in his favor.

Please share this with M. de Brousse, and believe me always to be, Monsieur, your most humble and very affectionate servant.

ALAIN,
Bishop of Cahors

Merceys, July 26, 1654

1764. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, July 31, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I was consoled to receive your letter of the second of this month, as I am by all those which come from your hand. I thank God for
the arrival of those good Daughters of Sainte-Marie and for the satisfaction it has given the Queen. This will doubtless cause her to forget all the past difficulties because once a mother has safely given birth she no longer feels the delivery pains; now, they are her daughters, but daughters long and ardently desired. I ask God to bless their establishment so that their numbers may keep on increasing.¹

I am really distressed about Sister Assistant’s illness. Perhaps the rest has cured her—or rather the prayers offered for her. I send most humble greetings to all the Sisters.

I think the little group of Missionaries we are sending you is now at sea. I have had no news of them since the twenty-fourth, when they wrote that they were supposed to embark at three o’clock that afternoon and that their ship was to form part of a fleet of about fifty other ships from Hamburg, which were at Havre-de-Grâce, ready to sail. I hope you will have them in Warsaw by the beginning of September; I pray for this with all my heart.

I have not yet answered the letter written to me by that good nobleman from Poland,² who wants to make an establishment of Missionaries. I hope to send you my reply by the first regular mail, to be forwarded to him.

If M. de Monthoux wrote to the Queen in the packet he sent you recently, and you see that Her Majesty is disposed to welcome his letter, you can deliver it to her.

I cannot express to you my joy that the Bishop of Poznan is prepared to send the ordinands to you, and for the order he is giving that none of them may be dispensed from this. I have just recommended this project to the prayers of our Community. We will offer

¹The Visitation nuns, who had come from the monasteries of Aix-la-Chapelle and Troyes, arrived in Warsaw on June 30, under the leadership of their Superior, Mother Marie-Catherine de Glétain. They had travelled through Belgium, Holland, and Westphalia, sailed the Baltic from Lübeck to Danzig (Gdansk), and followed the route from Marienburg (Malbork) and Thorn (Torun), which led to the Polish capital. Details of their journey and the reception they received in Warsaw are given in Année sainte, vol. VI, pp. 373-84, and vol. VIII, pp. 596-97.
²The Comte de Velopolaski.
this good work to God as the first fruits of all those you will do. I thank His Divine Goodness that the good Prelate has also decided to effect the union of Holy Cross. If His Providence establishes the Company in other dioceses, the other Bishops may follow his example in similar situations. That is why we must strive to see that this is done in the surest, most authentic manner possible.

I have nothing to say to you regarding M. Zelazewski, except that I am asking Our Lord to restore him to his first fervor, which seemed to us in the beginning to resemble that of Saint Hyacinth. I do not know what Our Lord will do with him, but I cannot help but hope that His Divine Goodness will receive from him the service and glory He has desired from all eternity.

The hand of God is apparent in M. Guillot's return.

Adieu, Monsieur. I am your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Ozenne, Superior of the Priests of the Mission, in Warsaw

1765. - TO THOMAS BERTHE, SUPERIOR, IN ROME

Paris, August 7, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I have not seen the Nuncio for a long time. He did me the honor of promising to send the names of Messieurs Mousnier and Bour-

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A Polish Dominican renowned for his apostolic zeal in evangelizing Poland and Prussia.

Letter 1765. - Archives of the Mission, Turin, original signed letter.

1Nicolò di Bagno.
daise to the Sacred Congregation. I will remind him of this the first time I have the honor of seeing him, which will be as soon as I can do so. I will also send you the power of attorney for M. Jolly, and will give an answer to that good Polish nobleman.²

I thank you now for the extra tempora you sent to our Brothers in Poland,³ and I will do the same when you let me know the decision regarding the Fathers of Christian Doctrine.⁴

It has been about two months since the Queen, the King, and the Cardinal left this city,⁵ both for His Majesty’s coronation and also because of the siege of Stenay,⁶ which has taken up almost all the time of the King and His Eminence. That is why I have been unable to be of service to Bishop di Ferentilli ⁷ and cannot do so until their return. God grant that my sins may not make me unworthy to do this effectively at that time!

I gave the letter from Cardinal Antoine ⁸ to the Archbishop of Trabzon ⁹ and the extra tempora to Brother Watebled. O Monsieur, how consoled I am by the peace and union you tell me exist among the members of your dear family, and I have asked God wholeheartedly to preserve and perfect it more and more! I send greetings

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²The Comte de Velopolaki.
³Antoine Durand, René Simon, and Jacques Éveillard.
⁴In 1592 César de Bus and Jean-Baptiste Romillion founded in Isle (Vaucluse) the Institute of the Priests of Christian Doctrine for the instruction of the poor, the ignorant, and the people of the rural areas. Pope Clement VIII approved it in 1597. The Institute became polarized over the question of vows, and its growth was stifled because of its trials.
⁵The Court had left Paris on May 30. The King had himself crowned in Reims on June 7. The official report of the coronation was published at Reims in 1654 under the title: Le sacre et couronnement de Louis XIV, roi de France et de Navarre, dans l'église de Reims le septième juin 1654 (The consecration and coronation of Louis XIV, King of France and Navarre, in the church of Reims on June 7, 1654).
⁶Stenay (Mance) was occupied by the troops of the Prince de Condé, reinforced by a Spanish contingent. Pressed hard by Abraham Fabert, who directed the siege, Stenay surrendered on August 5.
⁷A Roman Prelate.
⁸Antonio Barberini.
⁹Agostino Fracioti, titular Archbishop (June 1654 to 1657) of Trabzon, a Turkish port city on the Black Sea; Nuncio in Cologne, then Cardinal. Fracioti died on June 20, 1670.
to them, prostrate in spirit at their feet and yours, and I thank you for the extra tempora you sent to Brother Férot in Agde.

We will try to pay the bill of exchange, which will not be easy because your income was seized by the King almost a year ago.

I beg the King of Kings to be pleased to be always the sole object of your love. I am, in this same love, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

At the bottom of the first page: Monsieur Berthe

1766. - SAINT LOUISE TO SAINT VINCENT

[Between August 5 and 12, 1654] ¹

Most Honored Father,

I ask your charity to have the kindness to look at these letters; a boy is waiting to bring them back with him to Videville.² He did not come just for the letter. If the reply is not good, I will ask our Sisters to express my apology for not sending it on this trip.

I have lost track of our good woman from Arras. She asked Sister Mathurine ³ if she could go look for some white linen, and did not return.

¹Claude Férot, born in Saint-Quentin on July 6, 1630, entered the Congregation of the Mission on October 3, 1647, took his vows on October 15, 1649, and was ordained a priest in Agen in March 1656. He was Superior in Montmirail (1662-66).

Letter 1766. - Archives of the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity, original autograph letter.

²Probably Videlles, a commune in the district of Étampes.

³Mathurine Guérin was born on April 16, 1631, in Montcontour (Brittany). Despite the opposition of her parents, she entered the Company of the Daughters of Charity on September 12, 1648. After the time of formation, she was sent to Saint-Jean-de-Grèves parish and then to Liancourt. Recalled to the Motherhouse in 1652, she became Seminary Directress and Saint Louise’s secretary. In 1655 she was made Treasurer but was sent to the hospital in La Fère (Aisne) in 1659. Saint Vincent recalled her in May 1660 for the hospital of Belle-Isle. She served
Perhaps I was at fault in this for not taking sufficient trouble to visit her during her retreat or letting her eat with our Sisters, except on a few occasions.

Our good God knows what He wants to do and what He will do for the Company. I am trusting His Goodness in that regard, if only your charity takes care to free me of the obstacles which, in my wretchedness, I may put in the way. This causes me to entreat you, for the love of Our Lord, to take the time to be thoroughly acquainted with them. I will hold back nothing that might prevent this, with the grace God has always given me to desire that you might perceive all my thoughts, actions, and intentions as clearly as does His Goodness. For His glory, I wish to renounce the satisfaction I receive from this and to accept the humiliations I would also perhaps receive from it. I am, as always, only too miserable a sinner and unworthy of calling myself—even though I am—Most Honored Father, your most obedient servant and very grateful daughter.

LOUISE DE MARILLAC

This Wednesday is my birthday. If God wills it to be also the day of my death, I sincerely hope I will be prepared for it.

Addressed: Monsieur Vincent

1767. - TO THE BARONESS DE RENTY

August 26, 1654

Madame,

I am embarrassed, Madame, that you are consulting a poor priest
like me, since you are aware of my poverty of mind and my miseries . . . ; nevertheless, since you order me to do so, I will tell you . . .

1768. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, August 28, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I presume that you now have Monsieur Guillot and his confreres with you. If that is the case, I embrace them, prostrate in spirit at their feet and yours. I do the same for your whole family.

If we find an opportunity to send you the Daughters of Charity for whom the Queen is asking, we will do so as soon as possible and will try to give them what they need.

I praise God for everything you told me about the union, the ordinands, the seminary, and your predecessor. I ask God to bless all that, to sanctify the souls of the King and the Queen, and to bless their kingdom.

It seems to me, Monsieur, that we have nothing of importance to tell you, except that Monsieur Ponchin and Brother Ducournau are still sick. The latter is not out of danger yet—nor is the first-mentioned, but there is no hope that he will live.

I sincerely hope you will have our clerics celebrate Holy Mass as soon as possible so they can be more effective in rendering service.

The orders I have received two or three times from the Sacred

She had asked Saint Vincent's advice concerning the Vise hospital.

Letter 1768. - Archives of the Mission, Krakow, original signed letter.

The union of Holy Cross parish to the Congregation of the Mission, effected by the former Pastor, M. Ozenne's predecessor.
Congregation to send a priest to Sweden, the meeting Monsieur Guillot has had with the French Ambassador to Sweden,² and all he told him touch me deeply. This leads me to hope that God will be pleased to bless your family so that it can come to the aid of the poor Catholics in that kingdom. I have been informed by Rome that there are some secret ones [Catholics] there.

Our men in Barbary give such edification, by the grace of God, that the Pasha of Tripoli, in Barbary, is asking for someone to do as they do; he even offers to write to the King about it. This is what the Provost of Marseilles ³ has written me at the urging of some persons who do business in that city and who have come from there. O Monsieur! how many open doors to serve Our Lord! Ask Him, Monsieur, to send workers into His vineyard,⁴ and that the abominations of my life may not make the Company unworthy of this grace.

I am, in His love, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Ozenne, Superior of the Mission of Warsaw, in Warsaw

1769. - TO A PRIEST OF THE MISSION

September 5, 1654

Persons who have received a foundation can never express

²Baron d'Avaugour, who was to die in Lübeck in September 1657.
³Pierre de Baumes (1629-78).
⁴Cf. Mt 20:1-2. (NAB)

sufficient gratitude to their founder. . . . A few days ago God granted us the favor of offering the founder of one of our houses the property he gave us, because I thought he needed it. If he had accepted, I think I would have been greatly consoled, and in that case I believe His Divine Goodness Himself would have become our founder, and we would lack nothing.

Furthermore, even if that should not happen, what a happiness, Monsieur, to become impoverished in order to oblige someone who has been our benefactor! God granted us the grace to do so on one occasion, and I cannot tell you how consoled I am whenever I think of it.

1770. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, September 11, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

Your precious letters always give me reason to thank God; I do so in this letter for all the incomparable kindnesses the King and Queen have shown for your little family. O Monsieur! how I ask God to sanctify Their Majesties more and more and to bless their kingdom for love of them! We pray constantly for them.

Blessed be God, Monsieur, that your union is moving forward, thanks to the zeal and wise guidance of good Monsieur de Fleury! Please greet him for me, Monsieur, and renew to him the offers of my obedience.

I have nothing to say to you about Monsieur Zelazewski, except that I recommend him to Our Lord with all my heart. I would be glad to hear how he has taken the letter I wrote him.

I already wrote you that we are looking for a favorable occasion

Letter 1770. - Archives of the Mission, Krakow, original signed letter.
1The union of Holy Cross parish.
to send two Sisters of Charity. We heard of one way that I do not like, which is to send them with a Huguenot who is going there. Please assure the Queen, Monsieur, that we will not lose a single moment in getting them there.

I presume that M. Guillot and our Brothers have already arrived; please embrace them for me.

Our astrologers here assure the people that there is nothing to fear from the eclipse. I have seen Monsieur Cassandieux,² one of the most learned and experienced men of our day; he scoffs at all that has given people cause for alarm, and gives very pertinent arguments for doing so. Among others, he says that a solar eclipse is inevitable every six months, either in our hemisphere or in the other, because of the conjunction of the sun and the moon on the ecliptic, and that, if the eclipse were as disastrous as you point out to me because of the harmful effects with which we are being threatened, we would see more often famine, plague, and the other calamities of God on earth. In addition, he says that, if deprivation of the light of the sun, due to the interposition of the moon between the sun and us, produced this bad effect because of the suspension of the benign influences of the sun on the earth, the result would be that privation of the light of the same sun during the night would produce more harmful effects because this privation is of longer duration, and the mass of the earth is about one-third thicker than that of the moon. It would follow that this nocturnal eclipse ³ would be more dangerous than the one that occurred on August 12. He concludes from this—and rightly so—that there is nothing to fear from this eclipse. I do think that the experts in astrology are disturbed much by it, and even less those who are instructed in the

²Canon Pierre Gassendi, the famous astronomer and author of numerous works, was born in Champtercier, near Digne (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence), on January 22, 1592, and died in Paris on October 24, 1655. He was a skillful experimentalist and a careful observer who verified the discoveries of other scientists and coordinated facts which had already been accumulated, but he made no important discoveries of his own.

³He is probably referring to ordinary nightfall.
school of Jesus Christ, who know that the wise man *dominabitur astris*.\(^4\)

That, Monsieur, is all I can tell you for now, except that Brother Ducournau is still in the same danger and that God has taken to Himself Monsieur Ponchin, a priest of the seminary here. I recommend both the deceased and the living to your holy prayers and am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

*Addressed:* Monsieur Ozenne, Superior of the Mission, in Warsaw

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1771. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, September 18, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I ask God, Monsieur, to bless your mediation for the union of Holy Cross and be pleased to preserve you in perfect health for His glory and the good of His Church.

I imagine that good Monsieur Guillot and his companions have now reached Warsaw. I embrace them there, together with you, Monsieur, with all possible affection, prostrate in spirit at their feet and yours.

As for the Daughters of Charity, they are all set to go, ready to leave by the first opportunity they can find. Madame des Essarts

\(^4\)... will rule the stars.

Letter 1771. - Archives of the Mission, Krakow, original signed letter.
leads them to hope that someone will be found to take them. I recommend their journey to your prayers.

I can think of nothing else to tell you for now, Monsieur, except that good Monsieur Alméras returned from Sedan yesterday. He had been there for some time, and God so blessed his way of acting that he edified the whole Court, which was there at the time. In addition, Our Lord has led back to the Company Monsieur Chardon, who had left. Monsieur Berthe, who welcomed him in Rome, has written that he is going to send him to Genoa, where he can replace good Monsieur Martin, who is returning to France to take charge of our house in Sedan. Good Monsieur du Chesne is still sick in Agde; I have written to him, telling him to go to Cahors or to Notre-Dame de Lorm, where I hope he will be restored to perfect health, and I have written Monsieur Mugnier to go to Agde to take his place.

Poor Brother Ducournau is still sick; I continue to recommend him and Monsieur du Chesne to your prayers. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Ozenne, Superior of the Priests of the Mission of Warsaw, in Warsaw

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1Jean Martin, born in Paris on May 10, 1620, entered the Congregation of the Mission on October 9, 1638. He was ordained in Rome on April 25, 1645, and that same year was sent to Genoa to found a new house. Saint Vincent probably had no Missionary more gifted in drawing crowds and converting souls. In 1654 Martin was recalled to France and placed in Sedan as Superior and Pastor; then he was sent to Turin in 1655 for the new establishment founded by the Marchese di Pianezza, Prime Minister of State. There, as in Genoa and Sedan, the zealous Missionary knew how to soften the most hardened hearts. He was given the name “Apostle of Piedmont” and his fellow Missionaries were called “the holy Fathers.” In 1665 René Alméras asked him to head the house in Rome. This was a painful sacrifice for Martin, but he resigned himself to it. Subsequently, he was named Superior in Genoa (1670), Turin (1674), Rome (1677), Perugia (1680), and again in Rome in 1681, where he died on February 17, 1694. His obituary, written by one of his contemporaries, is in the Archives of the Mission in Paris. It was published, with some corrections, in vol. 1 of Notices, pp. 269-372.
Dear Sister,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I am very happy, dear Sister, with the news you gave me in your dear letter. I praise God for the blessings He is bestowing on your modest works, and I entreat His Infinite Goodness to be pleased to continue this more and more and to keep you, and all our Sisters who are with you, in good health. I send greetings to them with all possible affection.

I ask both you and them always to be very careful to observe your Rules faithfully, as far as your duties allow, and to be very humble and submissive to whatever Abbé Dedroit instructs you to do in the service of the poor. Be convinced that this is the best way of making yourselves ever more pleasing in the eyes of God and true Daughters of Charity. I ask Our Lord to preserve you in this until death, at which time He will crown you and give you the reward of your labors.

Adieu, dear Sister; I recommend myself to your prayers. I am also writing a short note to the Abbot, recommending you to him, as you wished. I remain always, as you know, in the love of Jesus Christ, dear Sister, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
I.S.C.M.

Addressed: Sister Anne Hardemont, Daughter of Charity, in Mouzons

Letter 1772. - Archives of the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity, original signed letter.

1Near Sedan, in the Ardennes.
1773. - TO SAINT LOUISE

[September 1654] ¹

It would be a charity to assist at this first Mass for the reasons put forth, but it is to be feared that the Daughters of Charity might use this example as a precedent to go and visit their relatives on similar occasions or others like them. Monsieur de Champlan is too clear-sighted not to see that himself, as well as Mademoiselle Le Gras and the whole family.²

You will see from the Queen of Poland’s letter that there is no need to send the Sisters before springtime; you can, therefore, make use of them elsewhere.

I will not fail to offer you to Our Lord in our humble retreat, which I ask you to offer to Our Lord.

1774. - TO LOUISE-MARIE DE GONZAGUE, QUEEN OF POLAND

September 24, 1654

Madame,

For a month now we have been trying to find some suitable company to send you the Daughters of Charity whom Your Majesty did me the honor of instructing me to send. None, however, has been found. We will postpone this journey until the spring, in accord with Your Majesty’s command.

I am very glad about the decision you have taken to house these

¹This letter should obviously be placed near no. 1774.
²The family of Gabrielle Le Clerc, wife of Michel Le Gras, lived in Champlain (Esacoon). One of its members had just been ordained a priest; at the urging of her relatives, Saint Louise had asked Saint Vincent whether he thought it appropriate for her to attend the First Mass.

Letter 1773. - Archives of the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity, original autograph letter.

Letter 1774. - Reg. 1, fol. 33, copy made from the autograph rough draft.
Sisters a short distance away from the residence of your Missionaries; however, I will also be glad when I hear that Your Majesty has had the consolation of seeing that the retreats for the ordinands, the seminary for priests, and missions with the people have begun. Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for the incomparable acts of kindness constantly shown by Your Majesty to her Missionaries, and the many favors she has bestowed on them. I ardently hope, Madame, that their prayers and ours may contribute something to so many others being offered to God to obtain from Him victory over the Muscovites. O Madame! how fervently I ask God for this and am having this Little Company do the same!

1775. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, September 25, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

The Queen did me the honor of writing to instruct me not to send the Daughters of Charity just yet, in conformity with what you also told me in your letter.

I am distressed about the ordination [retreat], which you told me you were again unable to have this time. Nevertheless, Monsieur, we must conform ourselves in this to the good pleasure of God and await the moment ordained by His Providence.

I praise God, Monsieur, that the Bishop of Poznan has agreed to do something about the union of your parish (I hope that, this

Letter 1775. - Archives of the Mission, Krakow, original signed letter.

1The personnel catalogue states, however, that Antoine Durand and René Simon were ordained priests in September 1654, and Jacques Éveillard “in 1654,” probably with the first two. The obstacles to the ordination must have been removed between the day M. Ozenne wrote to Saint Vincent and the day the Saint replied.

2Holy Cross parish.
being the case, it will be all the more assured), and also for what
you tell me about the Queen’s plan to purchase a house farther away
for the Sisters of Charity. It seemed to me that if they lived at the
hospital it would be too near you.

I am very glad to hear that Monsieur Guillot and his companions
are so close to you. I send greetings to them and embrace them and
you with all my heart, prostrate in spirit at their feet and yours. I
do not understand how they can be short of money, Monsieur,
because I thought they had been given enough here for their
journey. *Mais quoi!* I was wrong and am very sorry about it.3 I am
surprised that you say you did not get my letter, because I never
fail to write you every week.

Here is a piece of news, Monsieur, which I am sure will grieve
you; *mais quoi!* we must be submissive to all the orders of God. It
is, Monsieur, that God took good Brother Dassonval to Himself a
few days ago, as Monsieur Senaux 4 has written me. *Mon Dieu!*
Monsieur, what a loss for the Company and especially for the little
house in Troyes! I must acknowledge that I fear God may have
withdrawn with this holy man the blessings He was showering
upon the Company on his account. I am so distressed by this that I
do not know to whom to express it. Monsieur Senaux wrote that he
died with all the marks of a saint.

I will tell you no more about him for now but will write you the
most noteworthy things they compile about him, if they send them

3The sentence beginning with *Mais quoi!* is in Saint Vincent’s handwriting.
4Nicolas Senaux, born in Auffay (Seine-Maritime) on May 9, 1619, entered the Congregation
of the Mission on June 22, 1639, and was ordained a priest on February 20, 1644. He took his
vows on March 23 of the same year and died in Troyes on March 28, 1658. Saint Vincent praised
his regularity, resignation, and spirit of indifference in a letter of April 12, 1658 (cf. vol. VII,
no. 2570), and in a conference on the following June 28 (cf. vol. XII, no. 184).
to me from Troyes, which I think they will do. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL, i.s.C.M.

I cannot write to the Queen by this mail; they took the pen from my hand just as I was beginning a letter to her. There is no need to tell her that I wrote to you after receiving her letter.5

At the bottom of the first page: Monsieur Ozenne

1776. - TO A PRIEST OF THE MISSION

[Around September 25, 1654] 1

I recommend to your prayers the soul of Brother Dassonval, who was blind. God took him to Himself a few days ago at our house in Troyes, where God blessed the classes and conferences he was giving in the seminary more than I can tell you. His death has been a great loss to the house. He died with all the marks of a saint and of a great servant of God.

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5 The postscript is in the Saint’s handwriting.

Letter 1776. - Lyons manuscript.

1 As the date on the previous letter indicates, it was around September 25, 1654, when Saint Vincent was informed of the death of Jean Dassonval. That date has, therefore, been assigned to this letter.
Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I received two of your letters on almost the same day, although they were from different dates. They both mention Monsieur du Chesne’s continued illness and your sending there Monsieur Huguier and the letters I wrote him in Marseilles.

You are right, Monsieur, in telling me he did not want to go to Marseilles. Perhaps this is the working of Divine Providence, which wills that I ask you, as I now do—and have done before, I think—to assume the office of Superior of that house, which you have been fulfilling successfully up until now, since the departure of Monsieur du Chesne and even before. So, do this act of charity for the Company, Monsieur, which I ask of you with all possible affection.

If I had known your opinion regarding the change of Monsieur Mugnier to Agde and Monsieur Huguier to Toulon, I would have followed it. Now that I have put things in writing, however, based on the fact that Monsieur Mugnier can speak in public in Agde—which Monsieur Huguier will not do, but he can do what Monsieur Mugnier is doing in Toulon—what can we do about it? I certainly see problems in acting otherwise, given that I wrote about it three times to Monsieur Mugnier, and he has informed me that he is leaving for Agde. If the change has not yet taken place, and Monsieur Mugnier is in Toulon and Monsieur Huguier is in Agde, we will defer the solution until we hear from you. Meanwhile, I

Letter 1777. - Archives of the Mission, Paris, Sister Hains Collection, original signed letter.

1 This sentence was crossed out, perhaps by M. Get.
will write to Monsieur Mugnier to postpone his departure until further orders.

I am really surprised that Monsieur Le Vacher wrote asking you to pay the cost of the fabric the merchant sent him. I had already written him not to use anything there from what the merchants had sent to him for other purposes. But, because I see, on the one hand, that he could not do otherwise since we did not send him any money, I ask you, Monsieur, to draw up a bill of exchange for the two hundred livres to be given to the merchant, and we will try to pay it here in a week or so. We have a receipt from the Treasurer’s Office for the taxes they were made to pay on their Barbary income and on yours, but we do not yet have the release for it, so we are still having a hard time finding money in such circumstances.

I will tell the Duchesse d’Aiguillon of your fear that the five hundred écus she entrusted to you may not be sent off soon. I mean the money to be forwarded by the first ship to Tunis. Nonetheless, I ask you, Monsieur, to send them on the first ship and use your influence for the release of a man named Mariage, a slave in Tétouan, in conformity with the enclosed note I am sending you. Notify me by the first mail whether or not you can negotiate this with Monsieur Prat, who is said to be Consul General in those parts.

This affair has been recommended to me by persons to whom we are obliged to be of service. I ask you once again, Monsieur, to

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2Jean Le Vacher.
3A port town of Morocco, on the Mediterranean.
4Henri Prat, French Consul in Salé.
use your authority in this and to embrace Monsieur Champion for me. I am, Monsieur, his most humble servant and yours.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

I will not fail to forward to Monsieur Lebel the second letter from Monsieur Brosses ² and will ask him to inform him about his business.

Addressed: Monsieur Get, Superior of the Mission of Marseilles, in Marseilles

1778. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, October 2, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

Blessed be God for the arrival of Monsieur Guillot and our Brothers and for the welcome you have given them! O Monsieur, how I wish that these Missionaries in Poland may have one and the same heart in that of Our Lord! I ask Him this with all my heart, and pray that He will continue to grant you the grace He gave you in Troyes of uniting the Missionaries so closely to you and among themselves. I acknowledge that this will not depend on you.

Mon Dieu! Monsieur, how can we thank Monsieur de Fleury, who treats you with such incomparable kindness! I ask God to be his thanks and reward for all the good he does us. I ask you, Monsieur, to renew to him the offers of my obedience and to express my gratitude for all his goodness toward you.

²Monsieur Desbrosses of Marseilles.

Letter 1778. - Archives of the Mission, Krakow, original signed letter.
There is no hurry for the money you mentioned to me, especially since you need it so much. You tell me that you need fifty écus for the state tax. Is the clergy not exempt from that? Monsieur Martin, whom we recalled from Genoa for Sedan, told me yesterday that exemption from these sorts of claims is one of the marks of benevolence which that state has shown to the Company. I am not telling you this to have you ask for the same, except that it is being granted to other Communities.

I praise God for the kindness of the Officialis toward you and for the fact that the Bishop of Poznan has informed him that he himself wants to settle your business properly.

You are right not to want any parishes, except in the case you mention; they are a hindrance to the more universal good of missions and seminaries.

Did you have my letter delivered to that good nobleman who did me the honor of writing me from Rome for a similar matter? Please let me know about this, Monsieur, and embrace Monsieur Guillot and our Brothers for me. I send greetings to them all, prostrate in spirit at their feet and yours. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Ozenne, Superior of the Mission, in Warsaw
Monsieur,

I received the letter, with which you were pleased to honor me, with great respect and gratitude for your incomparable kindness to us. I thank you most humbly for this, Monsieur, and ask you to allow me to renew to you the offers of my perpetual obedience, with all the humility and affection of which I am capable. Allow me also to tell you that I am quite disconcerted by the honor you do us in casting your eyes on our poor Company and accepting the proposal made to you of establishing it in your fine city of Lyons. I thank you most humbly for this, Monsieur, and through you, please, I thank the Archbishop, for the favor he grants us in agreeing to it at your suggestion.

I accept this proposal with all possible humility and will try to send you workers whenever you, Monsieur, do me the honor of instructing me to do so. If you think us [capable] of obeying you, then give the order and you will be obeyed, not only in the matter in question, but also on every occasion you are pleased to do me the honor of commanding me. I am...
Monsieur,

O Monsieur! how distressed I am by the news you give me of the advance of the Muscovite army in Poland! How fervently I pray that God will be pleased to consider the holiness of the souls of the King and the Queen and all the good works they do in their kingdom and beyond, as well as those they plan to do in the future! I hope for this from His Divine Goodness. I will have prayers offered incessantly and I, although a most unworthy sinner, will pray for it myself.

I see no reason why everyone in the Company, with two exceptions, should deprive the public of their example in choir, themselves of the merit they will have from it, and Our Lord of the glory He will draw from it. That is what we do wherever we have parishes, such as in Richelieu and Sedan. Never mind saying that we are not made for that type of chant; their recollection and modesty create a harmony very pleasing to God and edifying to others. Then, too, the Church probably originally desired this manner of reciting its Office and, when there were priests who were not attached to any particular church, individuals were then given permission to say the Office privately. Since God has called us for the instruction of ordinands and for seminaries, should we not, from now on, prepare ourselves for this and accustom ourselves to it?

By the grace of God, our three Brothers know how to sing; they will be of assistance—if not right away, at least with time—in this

Letter 1780. - Archives of the Mission, Krakow, original signed letter.

1In 1654 the Cossacks, at the instigation of their hetman [chief], Bogdan Khmelnitsky, placed themselves under the protection of the Czar of Moscow, Alexei I Mikhailovich, the son of Mikhail Romanov, who marched with them against Poland and succeeded in reentering Smolensk. This precipitated a prolonged conflict between Russia and Poland for possession of the Ukraine.

2The words “everyone in” and “with two exceptions” are in the Saint’s handwriting.
holy endeavor. Alas! Monsieur, how many lay persons do we have in Paris who attend Matins and Vespers daily in their parishes! The former custom was to take part in them day and night; from this came the nocturns at Matins. The priests of the Tuesday Conferences make it a practice to put on their surplices and to chant in whatever churches they may be, if they are allowed to do so. Since all that is the case, why then should the people be deprived of this edification, God of this glory, and we ourselves of this merit? Please tell them for me, Monsieur, that I ask them to give themselves to God in order to leave this example to posterity.

Monsieur Guillot has written to me, but it is impossible for me to reply to him; I am beset on all sides by business matters; moreover, there seems to be nothing urgent in his letter.

I embrace Monsieur Desdames and all our Brothers with all the tenderness of my heart.

I almost forgot to tell you that Monsieur Le Gros is sending you the act of union of the Richelieu parish to the Mission and a letter giving their practices. However, to effect this union properly and without inconveniences, it seems desirable that the Bishop of Poznan should unite the parish to our Congregation in such a way that the person who acts as Pastor can be changed by the Superior as often as he wishes and that the Bishop should accept the person presented to him whenever the Pastor is changed in the Company. This is to avoid an unfortunate inconvenience that occurred in this Company: a priest from our group was presented to the Bishop for a parish that is united to it; now he refuses to give up the title to another and wants to keep it for himself at any cost.

I implore you, Monsieur, to ask Monsieur de Fleury to mention this to Her Majesty so that she will write to the Bishop of Poznan

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3This first part of the sentence is in the Saint's handwriting.
4Holy Cross parish.
5First redaction: "given for"; the correction is in the Saint's handwriting.
6First redaction: "pastor"; the word "priest" is in the Saint's handwriting.
7The word "for" is in the Saint's handwriting.
about it. What I say to you here is of the utmost importance. I entreat you, Monsieur, to be attentive to it and to discuss this affair as soon as possible with Monsieur de Fleury. I renew my offers of perpetual obedience to him, and am, in the love of Our Lord, for him and for you, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

I almost forgot also to ask you to forward my letter to the nobleman who is asking for Priests of the Mission. Do it as soon as possible because he is asking me for an answer from Rome.

Addressed: Monsieur Ozenne, Superior of the Mission of Warsaw, in Warsaw

1781. - TO A SUPERIOR

Ah! Monsieur, would you really want to be without suffering, and would it not be better to have a demon in your body than to be without some cross? Yes, for in that state the demon could not harm the soul, but if there were nothing to suffer, neither the soul nor the body would be conformable to the suffering Jesus Christ. Yet, this conformity is the mark of our predestination. Therefore, do not be surprised by your trials, since the Son of God has chosen them for our salvation.

Letter 1781. - Abelly, op. cit., bk. III, chap. XXII, p. 323. Although not stated specifically by Abelly, this is probably just an excerpt from a letter.
Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I am writing to you in Sedan, where I hope you have arrived and that this letter will find you in good health. I ask Our Lord Jesus Christ, Monsieur, to be pleased to grant you His blessings in abundance there and to give you the graces necessary to carry out well the duty His Divine Providence has chosen to entrust to you.

Enclosed is the letter I had the honor of writing to the Marquis de Fabert. I am sending it to you so that you can present it to him in person when he returns to Sedan.

I ask you, Monsieur, to greet Messieurs Lucas and Coglée for me, together with the whole little family. Tell them I embrace all of them with all the tenderness of my heart of which I am capable. Prostrate in spirit at their feet and yours, I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Martin, Superior of the Mission of Sedan, in Sedan

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1Abraham de Fabert, one of the most renowned generals of the seventeenth century, was born in Metz in 1599. His civic virtues, military talents, and administrative qualities were outstanding, and he won all his commissions at the point of the sword. The famous retreat from Mainz and the siege of several fortified towns offered him the occasion of showing his bravery. He loved discipline and was the terror of looters. His fidelity to the King and his minister was rewarded with the highest dignities: Governor of Sedan (1642), Lieutenant-General (1651), Maréchal of France (1658). Fabert died in Sedan on May 17, 1662. The part of his correspondence from 1634 to 1652 has been published. His life was written by Father Joseph Barre, Vie de M. le Marquis de Fabert, maréchal de France (2 vols., Paris: J. T. Hérissant, 1752), and by Jules Bourelly, Le maréchal de Fabert (1599-1662) (2 vols., Paris: Didier, 1879-81).
Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

Since Monsieur du Chesne wrote me a week or ten days ago from the town of Agde that he would be taking the first ship leaving for Marseilles, there is good reason to think he has arrived there and to thank God in His goodness for the improvement in his health. He makes no mention of taking Monsieur Lebas with him, so I think he did not do so.

I do not recommend this servant of God to your care; I am sure you will take better care of his health than of your own. If God is pleased to restore him to health, I think His Divine Providence is calling him elsewhere; however, he will first need time to get his strength back.

Meanwhile, I hope Monsieur Mugnier will leave as soon as possible after Monsieur Huguier arrives in Toulon, so he can replace Monsieur du Chesne in Agde. If he has not yet gone, and he needs anything for his journey, please give it to him.

Just as you, in your humility, persevere in asking to be relieved of the direction of the Marseilles house, I continue to ask you to do the contrary, that is, to carry out its responsibilities, in conformity with what I have written you.

Please allow me to ask you, Monsieur, your reason for having concealed from me what you told me in your last letter about having borrowed twelve hundred livres from the Administrators of the hospital, and how you permitted debts of fifteen hundred livres on the house, on the one hand, and still need a similar amount to finish. I must confess, Monsieur, that this has surprised me more than anything that has happened to me for a long time. If you were a
Gascon or a Norman, I would not find it strange. To think, however, that a straightforward man from Picardy, whom I consider one of the most sincere men in the Company, would have hidden that from me—how can I not be surprised at that, and just as surprised at the means used to meet those demands?

_Mon Dieu!_ Monsieur, why did you not tell me? We would have gauged the continuation of the undertaking according to our strength or, to put it better, according to our lack of resources. Your letters were worded in such a way that I thought the last thousand livres we sent you were enough to finish this work. Yet, here we are, unable to pay what you say is due and to meet the expenses of what remains to be done. We must, therefore, honor the omnipotence of God by our own powerlessness and leave things as they are, until God chooses to give us the means of paying the amount you tell me.

Please allow me to return once again to the matter of the loan of twelve hundred livres, which you tell me you borrowed from the main hospital, and to tell you that it is very true that I wrote you previously—you or Monsieur du Chesne—that you should borrow from those gentlemen, and that you—or he—told me that those gentlemen objected to lending us that amount. Please accept my saying this, Monsieur, in the spirit of simplicity. It is true that you told me before starting the building that it would cost more than what others were telling me. I wish you had subsequently acted that way. We would not have undertaken this project, or at least continued it.

Please send as soon as possible, Monsieur, the bill of exchange for 1,530 livres for the ransom of the wife and daughter of Michel François. That poor man is going to Marseilles to wait for them. I ask God to preserve the health He has given you and that you use so well with His grace. I am, in His love, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

Vincent De Paul,

I.S.C.M.
I almost forgot to mention the decision of the Abbot of Sainte-Colombe; what should be done about that? We must await patiently the outcome of that affair; let me know if you have heard anything else about it.

In the meantime, I am, once again... 1

At the bottom of the first page: Monsieur Get, Superior of the Mission of Marseilles

1784. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, October 16, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I praise God that Brother Éveillard is better, as you tell me, and that he and our other dear Brothers are now in Holy Orders, but I am inexpressibly consoled by the missions that Messieurs Desdames, Zelazewski, Guillot, and Duperroy have gone off to begin. I ask God wholeheartedly to bless their work and yours, and also the King's armies. We will never be able to acknowledge adequately his generosity nor that of the Queen.

I am also very glad that the Sister Assistant is feeling better, as you tell me. I ask Our Lord to be pleased to restore her to her former perfect health, if He judges it good for His glory.

I praise God also that the order concerning your property is reaching completion and that you tell me you are going to send everything to the Bishop of Poznan to effect the union. I beg you,

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1After the letter was finished, this postscript was inserted in the space between "I am, in His love," and the closing, in such a way that the closing served as a conclusion to both the letter and the postscript.

Letter 1784. - Archives of the Mission, Krakow, original signed letter.
however, in the name of Our Lord, Monsieur, to pay very close attention to what I told you in my last letter, namely, to see, above all, that the Superior General of the Company will be allowed to change members of the Company who are put in charge of the parish, as often as he thinks it advisable, and to put others in their place. This point is of the utmost importance because of events that have taken place recently regarding some parishes the Company has.¹ If this has already been done, I ask you, Monsieur, to do all in your power ² to see that this condition is added to it, even mentioning it to Monsieur de Fleury, so that he can explain it to the Queen, if he approves.³

Please greet Monsieur de Fleury for me, Monsieur, and tell him that I renew to him the offers of my perpetual obedience, entreat him most humbly to accept them. Assure him that there is no one in the world over whom he has more sovereign authority than over me. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Ozenne, Superior of the Priests of the Mission of Warsaw, in Warsaw

¹The secretary had written: "some parishes of the Company, to which the Bishop wishes to appoint only those he chooses, keeping for himself the title to them." The Saint changed "of the Company" to "the Company has" and crossed out the rest of the sentence.

²The first redaction was "to see it." The correction is in the Saint's handwriting.

³These last three words were added in Saint Vincent's handwriting.
Excellency,

I received, with all the respect and humility due to you, the letter you did me the honor of writing to me, and also the letter and book you sent for the Ambassador of Portugal, which I delivered to him personally. He welcomed them with great respect, and expressed his gratitude to you, Excellency. I took the opportunity to say a few words about you, Excellency, and the high esteem in which you are held at the court of Rome and at the one here. I did so with a view to the matters his master is requesting in Rome and what he should do about the things he is asking.

He did not open your letter in my presence but did me the honor of telling me that he wanted to come and spend an entire day with us at Saint-Lazare to do me the honor of speaking with me at greater leisure. If he does me this honor, you can rest assured, Excellency, that I will forget none of the things I consider advisable to tell him for your service.

I would like to hope, Excellency, that God may be pleased to present me frequently with more important opportunities to serve you. God knows, Excellency, how wholeheartedly I would obey you in them. Indeed, to do so would be to obey one of the greatest protectors our Little Company has today.

I ask Our Lord Jesus Christ to be Himself your thanks and your reward. I ask you, Excellency, to believe that no one in the world has a greater desire to obey you and over whom you have more sovereign authority than I, who am, in the love of Our Lord, Excellency, your . . .

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

Letter 1785. - Reg. 1, fol. 28v.
1786. - TO A PRIEST OF THE MISSION

October 17, 1654

I am writing you a short note to express to you the joy of my heart at the extraordinary blessings God has just bestowed on your work, and for the miracles you have performed in your mission. . . . Indeed, Monsieur, I cannot restrain myself and must tell you quite simply that this gives me renewed, greater desires to be able, in the midst of my petty infirmities, to go and finish my life near a bush, working in some village. I think I would be very happy to do so, if God were pleased to grant me this grace.

1787. - TO ÉTIENNE BLATIRON, SUPERIOR, IN GENOA

Paris. October 23, 1654

Monsieur,

I received two of your letters together, one from last month and the other from the sixth of this month. The first requires no reply; the second told me about the conversation the Cardinal 1 deigned to have with you concerning the illness of His Holiness 2 and the former's journey to Rome. Now, I thank God, Monsieur, for inspiring you then and there with presenting the most urgent matters for the Congregation, the indulgences, and the approval of our vows. I thank God also for the incomparable kindness with which His Eminence received it. O Monsieur! how that has moved me and how fervently I ask Our Lord to preserve and sanctify more and more that great, holy Prelate!


1Stefano Cardinal Durazzo.
2Pope Innocent X (1644-55).
I shared what you told me with our Assistants, who are delighted with this news. M. Alméras said to me that all the happiness of the Company abides therein and that, if His Eminence is pleased to procure this favor for us at the time Providence enables it to be done, it would confer being and perfection on the Company and make it entirely His for time and for eternity. As for me, Monsieur, no words can express my gratitude for the many benefits and favors we constantly receive from this great and holy Prelate.

We are working on the draft of the petition and will send it to you. Meanwhile, we pray that God will preserve and bless you and your leadership more and more.

It is only right, Monsieur, that we should send you workers to replace those you sent us for Rome and here. Rest assured that I will be on the lookout for some. I was thinking of sending you two young men who are entering the seminary today or tomorrow. Both have studied philosophy and are very good, from what M. Cuissot has written us from Cahors. One of them studied there and is the nephew of M. Water, who has been teaching in the seminary.

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2Gilbert Cuissot, born November 5, 1607, in Moulins (Allier), had been a priest for six years when he entered the Congregation of the Mission on May 14, 1637. After serving as Superior of the Lucon house, he was appointed to the same office in La Rose (1640-44), then at the Collège des Bois-Enfants (1644-46), where he took his vows on November 11, 1644. From there he went to the Le Mans Seminary (1646), then to Saint-Lazare (1646-47). He was Director of the Cahors Seminary (1647-52) and Superior of the Richelieu house (1662-66). He declared that, at the time of the election of Saint Vincent’s successor, he was hesitant about voting for René Alméras, who was in poor health. The Saint, however, appeared to him and determined his choice. He also said that in 1662, while exorcising a possessed woman, he drew from the demon an acknowledgement of the Founder’s holiness and the reward reserved by God for Missionaries faithful to their vocation. Cuissot died in 1666.

4In his notes for this letter, Coste gives the name of only one aspirant, whom he calls Nicholas Water. It seems to the editors that Coste may have distractedly written Water because this name appears in the text and that the “nephew of M. Water” is really Nicholas “Arthur” (or “Artur”) because all the information Coste gives applies to Arthur. Nothing is available for Nicolas Water in either vols. I or V (Supplement) of Notices, and there is no other reference to him in Saint Vincent’s writings.

Nicholas Arthur (Artur) was born in Cork (Ireland) in December 1632. The only candidate to enter the Congregation of the Mission on October 23, 1654, he was officially received in Paris the following November 22. He took his vows there in the presence of M. Berthe and was ordained a priest extra tempora in 1659. Shortly after his ordination he was sent to Ireland, where he preached the Gospel successfully.

5Jacques (James) Water, born in Cork (Ireland) in 1616, entered the Congregation of the
there for ten or twelve years now. The other, about twenty-four years old, did his philosophy here in this house and is also one of the most virtuous, wise, and tactful young men I know. Consider whether you want me to send them. Do you have a Director for the seminary? If not, we will form them here for you because they are two of the best men we have; otherwise, we will try to send you, as soon as possible, some who are more advanced, with the help of God.

I will write to M. d’Esmartins in Rome, as you instructed. Monsieur Rome has not yet sent us the portrait of the Cardinal. O Monsieur! what a wonderful present you are giving us! I thank you for it with all the tenderness of my heart.

Meanwhile, I send you greetings and am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
J.[s.C.M.

Poor Brother Ducournau cannot get his strength back. I recommend him to your prayers.

At the bottom of the first page: Monsieur Blatiron

1788. - TO JEAN MARTIN, SUPERIOR, IN SEDAN

Paris, October 28, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

Mission at Saint-Lazare on October 9, 1638. He was ordained a priest in 1642, took his vows in 1644, and was sent to the Cahors Seminary, where he was in 1646, 1654, and 1662, before returning to Ireland in 1662.

Letter 1788. - Archives of the Mission, Turin, original signed letter.
I have received two letters from you since your arrival in Sedan. I wrote you one that I sent with the letter I wrote to the Marquis de Fabert. I pray that Our Lord will bless his return.

I was very pleased about the persons you visited and especially about the schools and what you told me concerning them. I was thinking of sending by this coach someone to help Brother La Manière, but the person I had in mind did not come. I have been led to hope for another. Meanwhile, I ask Our Lord to be the strength and guide of our Brother in this great work. I would like to be in a position to do it, and God knows how willingly I would do so. Would Monsieur Prévost not be willing to perform this act of charity until the next coach arrives?

I am glad you are trying to find another place suitable for the schools, and I ask Our Lord to bless your solicitude in this and to bless Monsieur Regnault's retreat. Please send him to us as soon as he finishes, and let him know what I am telling you about this.

Sister Marie, the Sister of Charity, is needed here. Mademoiselle Le Gras had told her to come, which she has not done. I do

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1Jacques de la Manière, a seminarian at this time, was born on November 25, 1624, in Gagny (Seine-Saint-Denis). He entered the Congregation of the Mission on October 7, 1651, and took his vows on October 8, 1653.

2Nicolas Prévost, born in La Roche-Guyon (Val-d'Oise), entered the Congregation of the Mission on October 20, 1646, at thirty-four years of age. He was sent to Madagascar in 1655 and died there in September 1656, leaving the reputation of being a very zealous and virtuous Missionary.

3Nicolas Regnault, born in Vrigne-aux-Bois (Ardennes) in 1626, entered the Congregation of the Mission on April 21, 1647, and took his vows on April 22, 1649. He was placed in Sedan before 1654 and left the Congregation in 1655 or shortly thereafter.

4Marie Joly, one of the first Daughters of Charity, was presented by Madame Gouassaut around 1632. She served the poor in the parishes of Saint-Paul and Saint-Germain in Paris and at the Hôtel-Dieu. In 1641 Sister Marie was chosen for the new mission in Sedan, the first house not in the environs of Paris. She remained there until 1654, during which time she experienced successively pillages, devastation, famine, and massacres, which caused great suffering for the poor. In 1654 Saint Louise asked her to go back to Paris, but Sister Marie refused until Saint Vincent intervened. When she returned, she became discouraged and ran away from the Motherhouse. Overcome by remorse, she went back, was readmitted at her own request, and made up for her momentary weakness by exemplary conduct. Marie Joly signed the Act of Establishment of the Company on August 8, 1655 (cf. vol. XIII, no. 150), and in 1672, while Sister Servant at Saint-Jacques-du-Haut-Pas, she signed the text of the Common and Particular Rules approved by the Superior General, René Alméras. She died on April 3, 1675.
not know what has induced her to stay there. I am sending you, open, the letter I am writing to her; please seal it and have it delivered to her. Act in such a way that you and others whom she trusts will see that she returns on the first coach. She is not very docile or submissive and is hot-headed, so perhaps she will not do it because she is very attached to the place where she is now.

If she refuses to obey and return, please talk to the Governor and ask him to order her to obey and to leave on the first coach. I was told that she has boasted that she would do nothing unless I wrote to her about it. That Little Company has, up to now, lived in such submission that the like has never been seen. We are sending there in her place a very virtuous, gentle, intelligent Sister, whom God has blessed wherever she has been.5 She will be leaving in three or four days with two other Sisters, whom she will establish in the Montmirail hospital in Brie. From there she will go to Reims, and then on to Sedan by coach. I hope she will edify as many people there as our poor Sister has disedified.

I am sending you some letters from Monsieur Blatiron, which will tell you about the state of affairs there and about young Raggio,6 who is now wearing the cassock.

Our little news is that Monsieur Alméras is now Assistant of the house and Monsieur Chrétien is sub-Assistant. Monsieur Tholard7 is out giving a mission with Abbé de Chandenier, who has gone

--- 208 ---

5Sister Jeanne-Christine Prévost, who had served the poor in Liancourt (1648), Fontainebleau (1651), and the parish of Saint-Gervais in Paris. According to Saint Louise, she won the approval of the people everywhere she went. She was elected Assistant of the Company in 1660, but withdrawing her from Sedan was so difficult that Superiors were constrained to leave her there.
6Abelly (op. cit., bk. I, chap. XLVI, p. 223) placed among the principal benefactors who helped Cardinal Durazzo found the house in Genoa the names of Baliano Raggio and Giovanni Cristoforo Monchia, priests of the Genoese nobility. Might this Raggio be the uncle of "young Raggio"?
7Jacques Tholard was born in Auxerre (Yonne) on June 10, 1615, and entered the Congregation of the Mission on November 20, 1638. He was ordained a priest on December 17, 1639, and died after 1671. He manifested throughout his life, in Annecy (1640-46), Tréguier, where he was Superior (1648-53), Troyes (1658-60), Saint-Lazare, Fontainebleau, and elsewhere, the qualities of an excellent Missionary. During the generalate of René Alméras, he was Visitor of the Provinces of France and of Lyons.
with a few other men from the house to work on it. Monsieur Delville is giving a mission someplace else with a few of the other men. Everyone is fairly well, thank God. I am the only one who has great need of God's mercy, which I beg you to ask of Him. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,  
i.s.C.M.

I send my most humble greetings to Messieurs Lucas, Coglée, and the rest of the Little Company. Please find out if the enclosed note is true, and send me the answer.

At the bottom of the first page: Monsieur Martin

1789. - TO MOTHER MARIE-CATHERINE DE GLÉTAIN

October 29, 1654

For more than thirty years I have had the honor of serving your houses in this city, but, alas! dear Mother, I, who should have made great progress in virtue at the sight of incomparably holy souls, am none the better for all that... I entreat you most humbly to help me ask pardon of God for the poor use I have made of all His graces.

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*Guillaume Delville, born in Tilloy-les-Bapaume, today Ligny-Tilloy (Pas-de-Calais), entered the Congregation of the Mission as a priest on January 19, 1641, at thirty-three years of age. He was Superior in Crécy (1644) and in Montmirail (1644-46, 1650-51). He then retired to Arras, where he continued his missionary work, with Saint Vincent's permission, until his death in 1658.

*This sentence is in Saint Vincent's handwriting.


'Mother Marie-Catherine de Glétain was professed as a Benedictine nun at sixteen years of age but left to enter the First Monastery of the Visitation in Lyons. She was Superior in Mâcon (1637-43) and later at the First Monastery in Lyons (1647-52). In 1652 she was chosen to found a monastery in Aix-la-Chapelle. Many unforeseen difficulties arose there, the support on which
Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I praise God that you are now functioning in your office, and I ask Our Lord to be pleased to give it His holy blessing, without which no great results can be achieved.

We are still looking for someone to teach. We have a man who is supposed to come and see me in five or six days. He wanted to get his father’s consent; if he gets it, we will send him to you because we have to forget about Monsieur de la Fosse. Meanwhile, Brother de la Manière will continue to do the best he can. I think the Sisters were counting did not materialize, and two years were wasted in futile efforts. She was then asked to go to Warsaw as Superior of the foundation in Poland. War, plague, exile, constant alarms, and the uncertainty of the stability of the foundation troubled her two three-year terms (1654-61), but all these trials revealed her great virtue. She died in Warsaw on June 15, 1666, and her life was published in Année sainte, vol. VI, pp. 369-84.

Letter 1790. - Archives of the Mission, Turin, original signed letter.

Jacques de la Fosse, born in Paris on November 25, 1621, entered the Congregation of the Mission on October 8, 1640, took his vows on April 7, 1643, and was ordained a priest in September 1648. Immediately after his ordination, Saint Vincent entrusted to him the humanities at Saint-Charles Seminary. He “often reenacted Christian tragedies there,” wrote Collet (op. cit., vol. I, p. 326), “whose spirit and sublimity drew the applause of connoisseurs in Paris.” In 1656 he went to Marseilles, where he served in turn as Missionary and seminary professor. Two years later he was sent to Troyes. He died in Sedan on April 30, 1674. De la Fosse was as generous as he was capricious, becoming easily enthused and just as easily discouraged. Several times he almost left the Company; only Saint Vincent’s paternal encouragement kept him from doing so. His writings, all in Latin, made a name for him among the Latinists of the seventeenth century. Collet says he was “an orator, philosopher, and theologian all in one, and such a great poet that Sainteul considered him his rival and sometimes his master” (cf. op. cit., vol. I, p. 277). Dom Calmet added: “In general, there is great passion and many noble, generous thoughts in M. de la Fosse’s poetry, but his penchant for mythology, even in his sacred verses, sometimes renders them obscure because of his unusual expressions and frequent allusions to fable.” (Cf. Augustin Calmet, Bibliothèque lorraine [Nancy: A. Leseure, 1751], p. 376.) His works are found in the Bibliothèque Nationale (Ms. L. 10.351, 11.365), in the Bibliothèque de l’Arsenal (Ms. 1137, 1138), and in the Bibliothèque Mazarine (Ms. 3910-19, 4312, imp. 10.877). See also (Édouard Rosset, C. M.) Notices bibliographiques sur les écrivains de la Congrégation de la Mission (Angoulême: J.-B. Baillarger, 1878).
it is advisable, for the glory of God and the good and advantage of his pupils, for him to act in a rather serious manner with them. I ask you, Monsieur, kindly to exhort him to do so because this way of acting will keep them more deferential and respectful toward him.

Mon Dieu! Monsieur, how the death of the Abbot of Mouzon has grieved me. He is someone toward whom we were greatly indebted; it would be a good thing for you to conduct the service for him, which you mentioned to me. With the help of God, I hope to offer Holy Mass for his intention today or tomorrow.

I embrace, with all the affection of my heart, the whole family of Sedan and, in particular, Brother La Manière. I recommend myself most earnestly to his prayers, to yours, and to those of your entire Little Company. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Martin, Superior of the Mission, in Sedan

1791. - TO A PRIEST OF THE MISSION

I entreat you, Monsieur, to accept the simplicity with which I speak to you, and please do not be saddened by it. Act like those good pilots who, finding themselves tossed about by the storm, redouble their courage and turn the prow of their ships against the most furious waves of the sea, which seem to rise to engulf them.

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2Rene-Louis de Fiquelmont.

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I have just now received your letter of the twenty-seventh of last month, which shows me straightforwardly the increase in debts, of which I was unaware. I hope that God will be pleased to grant us the grace of proceeding always in this same way. You have a great advantage in this, namely, the natural candor of your native place and of grace. In the name of God, Monsieur, let us act always in this spirit, and because I do not possess it by nature, obtain for me the grace of always using it by grace. Please try to have payment of those sums postponed, and we will try to pay them off a little at a time.

Monsieur Mugnier has written me what you informed me about M. du Chesne and that he is going to Marseilles. I pray that Our Lord may restore him to health there. I ask Him also to be your reward for the gracious care I imagine you are giving him and which you lead me to hope for from your usual kindness. I embrace him with all my heart, and you also, Monsieur, together with Monsieur Champion.

You will give me great pleasure, if you have not already done so, by writing to the Consul of Algiers \(^1\) to negotiate the release of Mariage, who is in Tétouan, and sending Monsieur Levasseur to Cahors, unless he is absolutely necessary in Agde. I will notify the husband of that slave of what you have written me.

I have nothing more to tell you right now—because they are

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\(^1\)Jean Barreau.
taking the pen from my hand—except that I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Get, Superior of the Mission, in Marseilles

1793. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, November 6, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

Monsieur Guillot has written me that he feels urged to go and work in Sweden, and he most graciously volunteers to do so. I am pleased about this, and am asking him to carry out this good work. I ask you, Monsieur, to give him what he will need to go there, a book on controversies, which may be of use to him in that country, and, in general, whatever else he needs. Please do so, Monsieur, as graciously as you can.

As for that nobleman’s parish, it is inadvisable for you to get involved in that in any way.

I am really distressed over your loss of the document pertaining to Holy Cross. I would like to hope that you have already found it. I am even more distressed, however, by my apprehension that the Pastor may not be satisfied. In the name of God, Monsieur, make peace with that soul, and do all you can for this purpose.

I praise your patience and tolerance with regard to the behavior of the person you mention to me.
O Monsieur! how eagerly I await news of the blessing God will bestow on the mission you are now giving! I ask Our Lord once again to bless it and to sanctify you and your family. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL  
is.C.M.

At the bottom of the first page: Monsieur Ozenne

1794. - SAINT LOUISE TO SAINT VINCENT

[November 1654] ¹

Most Honored Father,

After reading the letter the Queen ² wrote to your charity, I still felt that some plan had been formulated to give our dear Sisters a Directress. My thinking went even further. I thought that, in order not to be without them after the death of that good Lady,³ she would have to explain to Her Majesty that three or four of them would be needed. That would be very much in line with the establishments of the Confraternity of Charity; they would be its chief officers, and our Sisters would work under their direction.

Unless our two Sisters have changed their dispositions, I fear that Sister Françoise may not be as open and steadfast as Sister Madeleine.⁴

As for those whom we are supposed to send, I see none more suitable than Sister Cécile.⁵ My one reservation is that, when she was with Sister

Letter 1794. - Archives of the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity, original autograph letter.

¹Date added on the back of the original by the secretary.
²Louise-Marie de Gonzague, Queen of Poland.
³Mademoiselle de Villers, the Queen’s lady-in-waiting.
⁴Sisters Françoise Douelle and Madeleine Drugeon.
⁵Cécile-Agnès Angiboust entered the Company of the Daughters of Charity a few years after her older sister, Barbe. She went to Angers in December 1639, was named Sister Servant in 1648, and remained there till October 1657, rendering such great service to the Community that, after seeing her work, Saint Vincent said: “Sister Cécile is invaluable.” Saint Louise’s many
Marguerite 6 in Angers, I do not think they agreed on everything. Were it not that Sister Julienne 7 always suffers from dizzy spells and motion sickness in any kind of conveyance, I think she would be quite suitable for there. I leave it to your charity to decide about Sister Jeanne Lepeintre, who would get along very well with Mademoiselle de Villers.

I think our Sisters will be favorably inclined to follow Monsieur Ozenne’s advice about not getting involved in anything other than their duty. The difficulty, however, will come from the Queen’s kindness and familiarity in speaking to our Sisters; she might either to maintain her own authority or for other good reasons—will have them postpone or perhaps prevent them entirely from doing. Thus, that may give rise to disputes and jealousy.

If Sister Marguerite has reported the fact correctly, the incidents of the clothing and beds indicate a powerful undertak.

If the Ladies meet tomorrow, I most humbly ask your charity to let me know whether, in a brief report we have to give, we should talk to them about the faults of the older foundling girls who were out working as servants.

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letters to her, which she carefully preserved, enable us to trace the history of the Community at the hospital. On her return to Paris in 1657, she was sent to the Petites-Maisons, succeeding Sister Anne Hardmont.

6Marguerite Moreau, who went to Poland in September 1652 with Françoise Douelle and Madeleine Drugeon.

7Julienne Loret was born in Paris on October 7, 1622, and was baptized the same day. Orphaned at an early age, she was raised by the parents of Jacques de la Forse, who later became a Priest of the Mission. In a conference after her death, it was said that “She had a tiny body that enclosed a great soul.” (Cf. Recueil des principales circulaires des supérieurs généraux de la Congrégation de la Mission [3 vols., Paris: Georges Chamerot, 1877-80], vol. II, p. 524.) She entered the Company of the Daughters of Charity on June 9, 1644, and made her vows on December 25, 1649. Her merit and virtue were so remarkable that, on October 30, 1647, scarcely three years after her own admission to the Community, she was entrusted with the formation of the new Sisters. At the same time, she became Saint Louise’s Assistant. “It was she who directed the whole Community,” Sister Mathurine Guérin would later say, “because Mademoiselle was in no state to assist at any exercise.” (Cf. Recueil, vol. II, p. 530.) Julienne also carried out the duties of Secretary and was responsible for taking down Saint Vincent’s talks, to which she listened pen in hand. In 1651, she was sent to Char to settle a very delicate situation: the new Pastor had Jansenist ideas and was attempting to impose those practices upon the Sisters. Returning to Paris in 1653, after two years of difficult trials, Julienne was appointed Sister Servant in Fontenay-sous-Bois (Hauts-de-Seine), where she remained until 1655. Recalled to the Motherhouse, she was again named Assistant, remaining in office under Mother Marguerite Châtif, after the death of the Foundress, and again under Mother Nicole Haran. She died in Fontainebleau on August 9, 1699. Her manuscript life, by Antoine Durand, C.M., is in the Archives of the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity.
If it is agreeable to you, I really need to speak to you, along with two
or three of our Sisters, about the problems tabled at the last little assembly.
I also want to talk to you about myself personally. For the love of God, I
ask your charity for your holy blessing, Most Honored Father, since I am
your most unworthy daughter and very grateful servant.

L. de M.

1795. - TO FIRMIN GET, SUPERIOR, IN MARSEILLES

Paris, November 13, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

Although I have not yet received any of your letters, I am writing
to tell you how distressed I am about the seriousness of Monsieur
du Chesne’s illness. O Monsieur, what a loss it will be for us, if
God chooses to take him to Himself! Oh, well! we must conform
to God’s good pleasure, hope that He will raise up children of
Abraham from stones, and submit to His good pleasure. I thought
he was in Marseilles, and there he is, in the condition I mention to
you.

And you, Monsieur, how are you doing? Are you taking care of
your health? In the name of God, Monsieur, look after it and
preserve yourself for the good of the Company.

You are supposed to be sent a bill of exchange for the ransom
of some slaves in Barbary. If I can, I will send you also one for two
thousand livres or so on the next voyage; one thousand is to be sent
to Tunis and the other thousand to Algiers to meet their almost dire

Letter 1795. - Archives of the Mission, Paris, Sister Hains Collection, original signed letter.
1 The secretary had written gravity; Saint Vincent, in his own handwriting, changed it to
seriousness.
2 Cf. Mt 3:9. (NAB) The secretary left out the word “stones,” so the Saint inserted it.
needs and stave off an avania they have reason to fear in Tunis for not giving a suitable gift to the Dey. It is their money; it will have to be sent to them; however, I will be able to set aside the two hundred livres you draw on me for them.

I cannot express to you how difficult it is for us to withdraw the little revenue we have in order to send them what belongs to them and to meet your needs. Our Lord is pleased to deprive us of temporal goods; may it please His Divine Goodness to give us spiritual ones!

I send greetings to Monsieur Champion, and am, for you and for him, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

I am sending you a bill of exchange for six hundred thirty livres for a man named Guillaume Servin from Amiens, being held as a slave, and a note to be sent to Tunis and to Algiers for the purpose of obtaining information about the person named.

*Addressed:* Monsieur Get, Superior of the Mission, in Marseille

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3Payment extorted by the Turks: an insult or affront.
4Perhaps Guillaume Servin, born in Amiens (Somme) around 1610. At the end of May 1655 he entered the Congregation of the Mission in Paris as a coadjutor Brother and took his vows there on October 22, 1657, in the presence of M. Bajoue.
Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

On the fifteenth of last month I received your letter, which greatly consoled me because of the things you told me. I thank God for them and ask Him to bless and sanctify your person and your family and, through both, those good people for whom you tell me Providence intends you to give the mission.

God be blessed, Monsieur, for the fact that Messieurs Durand, Éveillard, and Simon have celebrated Holy Mass, for the honor the Queen and the Nuncio did them of being present, and for all the benefits the Queen so kindly bestows upon you, which have been procured for you by Monsieur de Fleury!

I cannot express my relief that Our Lord has restored you to the good graces of that Lady, the former patroness of the parish, who did you the charity of divesting herself of it to hand it over to you. O Monsieur, how I hope that God may be pleased to grant the Company the grace of being eternally grateful for this benefit and to manifest it often to that good Lady and her successors! For, although she did it for love of God and the Queen, that makes you no less obligated to her, since you are enjoying the result of her kindness.

If this consoled me greatly, as it did, I leave you to imagine how consoled I am by the news you give me of God's blessing on the King's army and the retreat of the Muscovites. I ask Our Lord continually to bless that kingdom and the leadership of the King and Queen more and more. I cannot express to you the affection with which I say this to you.

Mon Dieu! Monsieur, how indebted we are to the zealous ardor
of Monsieur de Fleury for the extension of the Company! In the name of God, Monsieur, thank him for this in my name. Ask him, with the respect and submission you owe him, if it might not be taking on too much to offer your services in the collège you mentioned to me. Tell him also that it would seem sufficient—at least in the beginning—to work at giving missions in the rural areas and in a seminary in the city.

Nature makes trees put down deep roots before having them bear fruit, and even this is done gradually. Our Lord acted in this way in His mission, leading a hidden life for a very long period before manifesting Himself and devoting Himself to the works of our redemption. Please represent all that to him as gently and humbly as you can; for, after all, we must be submissive to the enlightenment Our Lord will give him.

Please renew to him the offers of my obedience, and greet your dear family for me. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

We have no news about the Company here worth writing to you, except that Monsieur du Chesne and his whole family in Agde are still sick, and so is Brother Ducournau here. I recommend them to your prayers.

At the bottom of the first page: Monsieur Ozenne
1797. - TO SISTER JEANNE DELACROIX, SISTER SERVANT, IN SERQUEUX

November 13, 1654

Dear Sister,

It was a special joy for me to read your letter because it is your letter, and you know the esteem Our Lord has given me for you and your leadership. I thank you most humbly for this and for offering me your cider, which we would gladly purchase if it were nearer here and because I think that this is your only means of support. If Our Lord treasured the drachma the widow in the Gospel placed in the collection box, I assure you, Sister, that I treasure the offer you make me more than many goods other persons might offer us because I know that its source is your perfect charity. I ask Our Lord, then, to be your reward and to bless your work, which is not insignificant but very great and very meritorious in the sight of God.

Continue, then, dear Sister, to care for your sick and your little girls, in union with the care Our Lord took of the sick and of children, which He so greatly recommended. Life is short, the reward is great, and I am, dear Sister, in the love of Our Lord, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.


1Jeanne Delacroix, born in Le Mans (Sarthe), entered the Daughters of Charity in 1645 or 1646. She was assigned to Serqueux, near Lisieux (Calvados), in 1649 at the latest, and became Assistant to Saint Louise in 1651. At the end of 1653 she returned to Serqueux and was still there in 1657, when she again became Assistant. At the death of Sister Barbe Angiboust in 1659, Jeanne was sent to Châteaudun to replace her. In 1664 she opened the house in Chartres; she later served the Company as Treasurer General (1668-71).

2Cf. Mk 12:42-44. (NAB)
1798. - TO A PRIEST

It does indeed seem that the Spirit of God has poured His graces in abundance into your loving heart and that zeal and charity have put down deep roots there, since nothing can turn you aside from your plan to procure in your benefice the greater glory of God now and in the future. May His Divine Goodness be pleased, Monsieur, to further your holy intentions and bring them to a successful completion!

I thank you, with all the affection of my soul, for your patience toward us, who were unable to accept the honor and property you offered us, nor could we meet your expectations. I hope, Monsieur, that you will find complete satisfaction in others. Nevertheless, I do not see clearly to whom you can turn; I am not sure whether Saint-Sulpice or Saint-Nicolas-du-Chardonnet will be willing to give you any priests. They are two holy Communities which do much good in the Church and greatly extend the fruits of their labors. The first, however, has seminaries as its end and usually makes establishments only in large cities. The second is occupied with a large number of holy functions, which it carries out in the service of the Church, and perhaps could not furnish immediately the workers you are requesting. Still, I think it would be a good idea for you to propose it to them, since both of them are better qualified and more capable than we of beginning and bringing to completion the good work you have so much at heart.


1In Anjou.
Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

Late last evening I received one of your letters, which I have not yet read, as well as the one I received through Sister Marie.¹ I will answer both of them by the first regular mail and will reply to Monsieur Coglée,² who will be receiving a letter from Monsieur Berthe in this mail.

The Sister ³ who is supposed to go and replace Sister Marie in Sedan is in Montmirail, in Brie. She is to leave there as early as possible to go to Reims, fourteen leagues away, and from there to Sedan. I do not think she can go in the first coach, but I hope she can do so in the second. Meanwhile, Monsieur, encourage the Sister who has remained in Sedan ⁴ to bear the burden as best she can in the interim.

The whole family is still in the same state here, except for Brother Ducournau, who is still having a hard time recovering his strength. I recommend him to your prayers, and also Monsieur du Chesne, who, they tell me, is in danger of death in Agde, where he...

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¹Sister Marie Joly.
²Mark Cogley.
³Sister Jeanne-Christine Prévost.
⁴Sister Gillette Joly had worked with her sister, Sister Marie, in Sedan since 1642.
is ill. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

I send greetings to Monsieur Lucas and the rest of your family, and I recommend myself to their prayers.\textsuperscript{5}

\textit{Addressed}: Monsieur Martin, Superior of the Mission, in Sedan

1800. - \textit{SAINT LOUISE TO SAINT VINCENT}

\textit{Monday [November 16, 1654]}\textsuperscript{1}

Most Honored Father,

Good Sister Marie\textsuperscript{2} from Sedan left us after dinner without saying good-bye to us. She took her belongings with her and I fear she will leave tomorrow to return to Sedan. She could, perhaps, be found at the coach, if your charity thought it wise to send someone there. I am afraid that, if our Sisters went, they would not be strong enough to detain her. At the very least, Most Honored Father, I think a letter should be written to Sedan as soon as possible to tell them what must be done if she goes back to her house, for I fear she is going to cause a great to-do and sell whatever she can to make a tidy sum.

Enclosed is a letter for Sister Jeanne-Christine so that she can leave as soon as your charity instructs her to do so. It will be very unfortunate if Sister Marie returns before she gets there.

Monsieur Ménard informed me that, if your charity sends a carriage

\textsuperscript{5}This postscript is in Saint Vincent's handwriting.

Letter 1800. - Archives of the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity, original autograph letter.

\textsuperscript{1}Brother Robineau added "November 1654" on the back of the original. The comparison of this letter with nos. 1799 and 1801 allows us to determine the exact date.

\textsuperscript{2}Sister Marie Joly.
for him tomorrow at around one o'clock, he will not fail to go wherever you wish. I think he will make a better diagnosis of the patient if he sees him in bed rather than if he is up. He could do this at the Bons-Enfants, provided the long journey by carriage does him no harm.

If I had foreseen what has happened with Sister Marie, I could have prevented it by putting her on retreat. I am always the cause of some evil. I had decided to do that tomorrow. Your charity really needs to think about giving me some powerful remedy to draw me out of my hardness of heart and help me to be, in reality, your most humble and very obedient daughter and servant.

L. de Marillac

Addressed: Monsieur Vincent

1801. - TO JEAN MARTIN, SUPERIOR, IN SEDAN

Paris, November 18, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I have been asked by the Bishop of Montauban to write and ask you, Monsieur, kindly to send Brother Sirven to Belval Abbey, which belongs to him [the Bishop], to make inquiries about the

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3Marie Joly never reached Sedan. Stricken with remorse, she returned to the Motherhouse that very evening.

Letter 1801. - Archives of the Mission, Turin, original signed letter.

1Pierre de Bertier, Doctor of the Sorbonne, former Canon and Archdeacon of Toulouse, Coadjutor of Bishop Anne de Murvied and then his successor (1652). In 1636 he was consecrated Bishop in partibus of Utica. He had to tolerate a great deal from the elderly Bishop of Montauban, and several times was on the point of resigning. Some time before the Prelate's death, he wrote to Mazarin: "His health is so good and his humor so bad that I cannot hope for his succession nor even his favor. Therefore, My Lord, not only am I unemployed in my ministry and deprived of sufficient revenues for my position, I am, in addition, constantly persecuted and believed guilty for no reason." (Cf. Arch. Nat., KK 1217, p. 207.) De Bertier was Bishop of Montauban until 1674.

2Belval-Bois-des-Dames, a commune in the district of Vouzières (Ardennes).
contents of the enclosed memo I am sending you. Instruct this 
Brother to make as accurate a report as possible of the state of 
affairs, and please send it here so it can be shown to the Bishop of 
Montauban.

Sister Jeanne-Christine, who is assigned to Sedan, is in Mont­
mirail; I am writing to tell her to go to Reims and from there to 
Sedan. I hope she will arrive by the first coach returning to Sedan 
from here, which can pick her up in Reims in passing. She is a very 
fine, virtuous Sister.

As for Sister Marie, she arrived here a few days ago and 
delivered your letter to me. That poor girl was tempted to go back 
to Sedan. She left Mademoiselle Le Gras' house without permis­
sion a few days after her arrival, without saying where she was 
going; however, she came back of her own accord. Right now, she 
is on retreat, but since she is a very flighty person, it is to be feared 
that the temptation to return to Sedan may get the better of her 
again.

For that reason, Monsieur, I thought I should ask you, in case 
she does return, to have her leave as soon as possible, or even to 
see that she does not enter the town, if this can be done. I entreat 
you, Monsieur, not to speak of her, or of what I am telling you, to 
anyone. If, after her retreat, we see that that temptation persists and 
there is strong reason to fear she will go back, I will let you know. 
Meanwhile, I recommend myself to your prayers and am, in the 
love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Martin, Superior of the Mission, in Sedan
Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

At last, Monsieur, God has chosen to call to Himself the late Monsieur du Chesne, according to what the Vicar-General of Agde has written me, but Monsieur Mugnier has not yet written. I do not recommend that you pray for him, being only too sure that you will do so. I would just like to remind you, however, that each priest owes the deceased members of the Company three Masses, and our Brothers owe one Communion and a rosary.

I asked Monsieur Abelly to write and ask the Vicars-General in Agde to use their influence with the Bishop to have the little family change location. We shall see. Meanwhile, I am still distressed about the illness of the others and do not even know whether Monsieur Mugnier himself has fallen ill. What makes me wonder
about this is that he did not write me by this mail and that the Vicar-General told me he assisted our dear departed when he was dying. If I am not mistaken, he also said that he was all alone. If that is the case, O Monsieur, what a sorrow! If you have any information different from what I am telling you—or the contrary—will Monsieur Champion kindly go and visit that afflicted family? I send him my most humble greetings.

If Monsieur Levasseur, who left Genoa for Cahors, is still in Marseilles, please give him the information he needs for his journey, either by sea as far as Narbonne, or overland, with some company, if he can find one.

I am not yet sending you our bill of exchange for Barbary; that will be for the next mail. I am forwarding you one from Monsieur Simonnet, addressed to Messieurs Louis and Jean Napolon, for the sum of 950 livres. Get the money and send it by the first safe occasion to Monsieur Barreau, the Consul in Algiers, for the ransom of the poor slaves whose names I will send you. Meanwhile, I am sending you the letter from the Pastor in Havre-de-Grâce. Please send it to the Consul so that he will understand the intention of the Pastor of Havre-de-Grâce, who has had this money forwarded to that town.

The husband of the slave for whom you sent those 1530 livres to Tunis has left this city to go and wait for her in Marseilles.

Monsieur Lebel, our Procurator, is sending you a letter for Monsieur Desbrosses concerning his business. I think he mentions some money to him. If he asks you to write to me to advance it, you might explain to him that it would be well for him to send it himself, in the form of a bill of exchange, because of our present financial difficulties and also because his business is urgent.

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3. The Simonnets were Parisian bankers.
I am sending you three letters for some slaves. Please send them on to them and offer me to Our Lord. I am, in His love, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Get, Superior of the Mission, in Marseilles

1803. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, November 20, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

You are still giving me fresh reasons for thanking God because of all the things you write me. What you tell me of the royal kindnesses of the Queen toward your family touches my heart so deeply that only Our Lord alone can make you realize it. O Monsieur, how willingly I ask God to sanctify more and more the soul of Her Majesty! I entreat you, Monsieur, to express great gratitude to her at every opportunity. See that your dear family, both present and absent, does likewise and that, as Her Majesty is redoubling her royal kindnesses toward the family, may it, too, redouble its prayers that God in His goodness may preserve the King, bless his armies, and grant him victory over the enemies of his kingdom.

I am consoled by the thought of the mission you were to open
on All Saints Day. I earnestly hope to hear about its outcome and the reply you received from the Ambassador of Sweden.²

I am very glad to hear how Messieurs Durand, Éveillard, and Simon are applying themselves to the Polish language, and of the progress they are making. Please congratulate them for me, and congratulate Monsieur Duperroy for working so hard at it that he now teaches catechism in Polish, so I am told. Please embrace them all for me, Monsieur, and recommend that they ask God for the gift of tongues. The Jesuits going to foreign lands do this, and they receive so many graces from God that they have great facility in learning the languages of the countries to which they are sent.

I am distressed by what you tell me concerning the Daughters of Charity, namely, that they have given people reason to think they want to be better off than they are, with regard to clothing, sleeping quarters, and the like. Please make an effort to see that they grow firmer in the practice of perfect poverty, humility, and mortification, and help them to do so.

As for the objection being raised that none of them is capable of directing the others, let me tell you, Monsieur, that I have been thinking about this matter for a long time. I have questioned which direction would be the best—from their own Company, or from the Ladies of Charity, or from one of those Ladies. Now, I see a problem with all these ways: the first—direction by a Daughter of Charity—because of their simplicity; with regard to the Ladies in general, because of the diversity of persons encountered there; and if it were one of those Ladies, she could not continue the spirit Our Lord has placed in the said Company because she has not received it herself.³ All things weighed and considered, we felt we should make the best of what we have at our disposition, that is, to choose, by a plurality of votes, the person the Company judges best suited for this. If she is helped and directed by the Superior General of the

²Baron d'Avaugour.
³Saint Vincent modified the last few sentences written by his secretary; the words "would be the best," "their simplicity," and "in the said Company" are in the Saint's handwriting.
Company, there is good reason to hope that God will bless the matter and will make Himself its Director. This seems absolutely necessary because of the extension of their Company in so many places in this kingdom.

I have given you these reasons and many others briefly and not very clearly. Because of them, we judged, after many prayers, much advice, and meetings held for this purpose, that it was better to elect a Daughter of Charity to direct the others, for the reasons I have stated, rather than give the direction to other persons who are not members of the group. I will tell you the reasons another time when I have more leisure; meanwhile, you can say this at opportune times and places to persons there who have a contrary opinion. In the meantime, do all you can to establish those Daughters more and more in solid virtue, especially in the virtues I mentioned to you. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

At the bottom of the first page: Monsieur Ozenne

1804. - TO A PRIEST OF THE MISSION

Ultimately, Monsieur, we must go to God per infamiam et bonam famam, and His Divine Goodness is merciful to us when it pleases Him to allow us to encounter blame and public contempt. I am sure you have borne patiently the embarrassment you experi-

---230---

4This word is in the Saint’s handwriting.
5The last three words are in the Saint’s handwriting.
6The words “those Daughters” are in the Saint’s handwriting.

1(Whether) spoken of well or ill. Cf. 2 Cor 6:8. (NAB)
enced because of what has happened. If the glory of the world is nothing but smoke, the contrary is a solid good, when it is accepted in the right way. I hope that great good will come to us from this humiliation. May God grant us this grace, and may He will to send us many others by which we may merit to be more pleasing to Him!

1805. - TO DOMINIQUE LHUILLIER,1 IN CRÉCY

Paris, November 22, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I think that the letter I wrote you is written in such a way that it cannot give Madame 2 any cause to be annoyed or to ask you the questions you fear. So, please show it to her, for it is composed designedly, and take note of what she tells you so you can let me know. If she asks you some things you cannot answer, tell her you will write to me about them. Act simply with her and do not formulate any doubts and difficulties that perhaps will not arise. As for the rest, however, your fear is well founded, and your prudence is praiseworthy. I thank Our Lord for giving you a share in His wisdom, and I ask Him to continue and increase the graces He grants you.

I am, in His love, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL

i.s.c.m.

Letter 1805. - Archives of the Mission, Paris, copy made from the original in the Hains Collection, Marseilles.

1Dominique Lhuillier, born in Barizy-au-Plain (Maurthe), entered the Congregation of the Mission as a priest in Paris on July 11, 1651, at the age of thirty-two. He took his vows there on May 5, 1659, in the presence of M. Alméras. Lhuillier was a Missionary in Crécy (1654-60) and in Toulon, where he died.

2Probably Madame de Lorthon, wife of Pierre de Lorthon, the King's secretary. Her husband had donated the money for the foundation of the Crécy house.
1806. - TO A PRIEST OF THE MISSION

[November 1654] 1

God has been pleased to take to Himself Monsieur du Chesne, after a serious illness in Agde, where he died. O Monsieur, what a loss for the Company! Mais quoi! we must submit to the good pleasure of God, who has willed this.

Last evening, we had the conference about him. Only three Brothers spoke, but they recounted to us so many acts of virtue they remarked in him that the Company was more touched by this than I have ever seen. There was nothing but sighs, and I assure you I had a very hard time holding back my tears. They told us wonderful things about his devotion, his zeal for the salvation of souls, his great mortifications, humility, sincerity, gentleness, and all the virtues which make a true Missionary worthy of esteem. O Monsieur, what a loss for us! I do not recommend him to your prayers; I am sure you will not forget him.

1806a. - TO EMERAND BAJOUE 2 IN MONTAUBAN

Paris, November 24, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I received your letter, which distressed me greatly because of

Letter 1806. - Lyons manuscript.
1Since this letter refers to the death of M. du Chesne, it should be placed near no. 1802.

Letter 1806a. - Archives of the Mission, Paris, photocopy. This letter was published in Mission et Charité, 19-20, no. 81, pp. 101-02.
2Emerand Bajoüe, born in Céaux (Vienne), entered the Congregation of the Mission as a priest on December 1, 1640, at thirty-one years of age, and took his vows on April 24, 1657, in the presence of Antoine Portail. He was Superior in La Rose (1649-52) and Notre-Dame de Lorm (1652-54). Bajoüe died on February 28, 1671.
your present illness. I hope, Monsieur, that the air here and the
exercise of the duties you previously carried out so successfully
here will help you recover your health.

Regarding the iron, you need, one will be made for you here
to suit your needs. You are not the only one, Monsieur, to be
plagued by such discomfort; there are some—even several—in the
Company, who resort to a similar remedy. The late King had one;
the late Monsieur Callon used one, too, and they both were helped
by it.

You are quite right, Monsieur, in saying that Monsieur du
Chesne will not be going to Lorm. No indeed, Monsieur, he will
not be going, since he has gone to receive the reward of his good
works. Truly, Monsieur, the death of this servant of God is a great
loss to the Company, but what can we do about it? Surely, nothing
else but submit to the good pleasure of God and respect His
commands. I do not recommend that you celebrate, and have each
priest of the Company celebrate, the three Masses customary in
such circumstances, because I am quite sure you will be careful not
to fail in that, nor in having our Brothers offer a Communion and
a rosary for his intention.

In a few days, I hope to send Monsieur Chrétien, together with
a good priest from Annecy, to relieve you. The former has studied
philosophy and theology, and was a Pastor before entering the
Company. He recently returned from Marseilles, where he carried
out successfully the office of Superior. I hope, with the help of God,
that he will do well in Lorm. He is an intelligent man, and his
conversation is very pleasant and agreeable. Once they have ar-
vived, you can leave and go by water as far as Bordeaux, where you
will take the Bordeaux carriage. For twenty-five écus, meals en

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2The meaning of the French word fer is uncertain here; from the context, however, it appears
to have been some kind of remedy.
3Louis Callon, Doctor of the Sorbonne, who died on August 26, 1647.
4Pierre du Chesne.
5Jean Chrétien.
route included, it will take you to Paris. So, Monsieur, you will have nothing to worry about in that regard. Furthermore, I hope Our Lord will bless your journey and that we will have the joy of embracing you here with the tenderness you can imagine. I am, in the love of Our Lord, your most humble servant.

The Bishop of Montauban is about to return. I think it will be a good idea for you to entrust to him the disposition of the things you have. That is his business; he will take care of it.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur D'Agan, Vicar-General of Montauban, to be delivered to Monsieur Bajoue, Superior of the Priests of the Mission of Lorm, in Montauban

1807. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, November 27, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I received your letter of the twenty-ninth of last month. The news it gave me that Messieurs Desdames, Zelazewski, and Duperroy have successfully opened the mission consoled me greatly. Yes indeed, Monsieur, this consolation has reached the very depths of my heart. It also gives me good reason to thank God for the consolation He grants the Company in blessing its works in this way, and to ask Him to bless it and your leadership more and more.

What has pained me supra modum, however, is the fall of that

--- 234 ---

Pierre de Bertier.

Letter 1807. - Archives of the Mission, Krakow, original signed letter.

1Beyond measure. Cf. 2 Cor 1:8. (NAB)
poor Brother. I ask God to pardon him, grant him the grace of withdrawing from his present state, and lead him back here.

Is it possible, Monsieur, that those good Fathers are treating us in the way you say? I have a hard time believing that, but, if such is the case, I ask you and the Company to do two things: first, not to speak or complain of it to anyone whomsoever—that would be even worse, and you must vincere in bono malum, that is, you must continue to visit them as before on every occasion, and be of service to them if it pleases God to give you the opportunity to do so. These practices are according to God and true wisdom, and the contrary produces countless bad results.

I think it would be a good idea for you to have a conference about that, without mentioning their name. The first point could be the reasons the Company has to give itself to God so as never to complain but rather to speak favorably of and be of service to those who say or do anything against it. For the second point, the inconveniences which might arise from the contrary could be given, and for the third, the means to be taken to be well established in this practice.

We will try to send you, with the Daughters of Charity, the two Brothers you are requesting.

Mon Dieu! Monsieur, how grieved I am about the incursion of the Cossacks! I hope from the Goodness of God and the many holy works being done by the King and the Queen that He will cause them to triumph over the enemies of God and their own. This is

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2Brother Jacques Pesty.
what I ask of His Divine Goodness, in whose love I am, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

I send greetings to the Company, prostrate in spirit at their feet and yours.⁴

*Addressed:* Monsieur Ozenne, Superior of the Mission of Warsaw, in Warsaw

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1808. - TO NICOLAS DEMONCHY,¹ SUPERIOR, IN TOUL

November 28, 1654

But, Monsieur, what shall we do about those two parishes which are such a great hindrance to you in your work in the rural areas? Can you not find some good parish priests? The one in the town could support its man. For the parish in Écrouves,² I prefer that Saint-Lazare give one hundred livres for a few years rather than see you in your present predicament. Please think it over. Do not fail to go there to preach sermons sometimes and visit the sick.

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⁴This sentence is in the Saint's handwriting.


¹Nicolas Demonchy, born on March 21, 1626, in Eu (Seine-Maritime), entered the Congregation of the Mission on August 19, 1646, and took his vows on March 5, 1649. He was ordained a priest on March 4, 1651, and was Superior in Toul (1653-55, 1657-58, 1669-74), Metz (1661-69), Tréguiers (1680-84), and La Roche (1689-92).

²Near Toul.
Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

Sister Marie has now made up her mind not to think about Sedan any more. I do not know if she will keep her resolution. I ask Our Lord to grant her the grace to do so.

I am very pleased with the Marquis de Fabert's line of action in your regard. I ask our good God to be pleased to repay him a hundredfold for it.

Let me tell you, Monsieur, that I have not forgotten to think of you regarding the help you are requesting for your school. Right now, of the two men I have in mind, I am not sure which one to send. I still hope that one or the other will leave as soon as possible, God willing.

I will write to Monsieur Regnault about what you tell me. I am glad you sent Brother Sirven to Belval because the Bishop of Montauban has great confidence in him. I await the report of his journey so I can send it to the Bishop.

I sent Monsieur Blatiron the letter for the Cardinal of Genoa and the one with it for the Duke.

God has been pleased to take the late Monsieur du Chesne in Agde. He is the third man this month whom Our Lord has called to Himself. He died after a long and painful illness. You know that it is the custom of the Company to have each priest say three Masses, and the Brothers to offer one Communion and a rosary. I hope you will see that this is done.

I know nothing else to tell you for now, except that I embrace good Monsieur Lucas and the entire little family. Prostrate in spirit
at their feet and yours, I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

Please send here a certificate in conformity with the enclosed memo. I am also enclosing a letter from Monsieur Blatiron and another from young Raggio.

Addressed: Monsieur Martin, Superior of the Mission, in Sedan

1810. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, December 4, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I am overjoyed by the mission our Missionaries have just given, but this joy will be full when I read a detailed report of its results in the letter from M. Desdames. I have not yet received it, although you tell me that he is sending me one.

I praise God that good Monsieur de Fleury has taken on the direction of the Daughters of Sainte-Marie,¹ but what you told me concerning the Daughters of Charity and Sister Marguerite’s ² not returning has grieved me. It will be very difficult for us to send a Sister who has all the qualities you list in your letter, that is, someone gentle, respectful, active, prudent in her words, approachable, and very thrifty. We will try, however, to do the best we can.

¹The Visitatin nuns who went to Poland from France.
²Marguerite Moreau.
We have someone in mind who is very gentle and intelligent; we will see to what degree she has the other qualities you mention to me above.\(^3\)

We will take care to recommend to the Sisters the puppy about which Mademoiselle de Villiers wrote to Mademoiselle Le Gras. The latter is not answering her letter today; she is slightly ill.\(^4\)

I praise God also that the good Lady you mentioned to me has given you the original document for the erection of Holy Cross, but I am really sorry to hear the way the Muscovites are advancing, as you tell me. I hope, however, that God will take into account the great benefits the King and the Queen bestow on His Church and will make Their Majesties victorious over the enemies of their kingdom. We often pray most earnestly for this.\(^5\)

We will try also to send you two Brothers such as you requested and the hats \(^6\) you need.

The whole family here is still going along as usual. I recommend it to your good prayers and am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

I embrace the Company, prostrate in spirit at their feet, and recommend myself to their prayers.\(^7\)

Addressed: Monsieur Ozenne, Superior of the Priests of the Mission, in Warsaw

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\(^3\)First redaction: "... and intelligent, whom we are reluctant to send; she also has the other qualities approximating those mentioned above." Saint Vincent wrote in his own hand the words: "we shall see to what degree" and "you mention to me" and crossed out the words that are not found in the definitive text.

\(^4\)The Saint wrote in his own hand the words from "the latter is not answering... .”

\(^5\)The last sentence is in Saint Vincent’s handwriting.

\(^6\)First redaction: “and the dozen hats.” The Saint crossed out these words and wrote “and the hats.”

\(^7\)This postscript is in the Saint’s handwriting.
Most Honored Father,

I do not think your charity has given me any decision as to whether, when I am sending the book and the letter to Sister Jeanne Lepeintre, I should give her a few words of advice regarding the manner of writing to one's acquaintances. That is why I wrote to her the way I did and have sent the letter to your charity. If you think it appropriate, it can be sent tomorrow, Saturday.

Madame de Chas is very insistent and is anxious to have a reply. Our Sister Marie has been faithful, however, and has not gone there, but she still wants to return, although sometimes she tries to moderate her desire. I am trying to await peacefully the time of my little retreat. I need to talk to you before God grants me this grace, which I long for with all my heart. I long also for your blessing, which I ask of your charity. I am, Most Honored Father, your most humble and very grateful daughter and servant.

L. de Marillac

Addressed: Monsieur Vincent

1812. - TO JEAN MARTIN, SUPERIOR, IN SEDAN

Paris, December 5, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!
I received your letter regarding Belval Abbey, together with the
memo which accompanied it. I praise God that you have acted so exactly and judiciously in compliance with the Bishop of Montauban’s intention. I will send your letter and that memo to Languedoc, where he is going in order to take part in the Estates of that province.

Sister Jeanne-Christine is finally leaving here by this coach. Please give her, Monsieur, the instructions needed to do well the work Our Lord is entrusting to her for the best order and assistance of the sick poor. Please also remove from her house the little boy they have raised, and see if you can find some other place for him. I spoke about him at the meeting yesterday, but it is awkward to have him brought here because there are no master cloth weavers. If, however, you find no masters there with whom to apprentice him, we will try to do what we can here to locate some place for him.

Young Raggio has a slightly sore foot. Since this was caused by the cold weather, which is harsher here than in Italy, we thought it advisable to bring him here to our infirmary so he can get better care. He is there right now, even as I am writing you this letter.

The whole family here is going along as usual. I recommend it to your prayers, especially our seminary which, by the grace of God, is beginning to fill up.

I sent to Genoa the letters you addressed to me, and I have sent you, Monsieur, a short note from some persons named in it who are after me to get from you a certificate stating that they have abjured heresy. Please send it to me as soon as possible. Meanwhile, I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Martin, Superior of the Priests of the Mission, in Sedan
Most Honored Father,

I stand in great need of God’s giving you a little time to exercise your charity for my needs.

My most humble thanks for the note you took the trouble to send me this morning and for all your other kindesses.

I think good Brother Pascal ² has told you that I see no way of giving an answer to Monsieur Delahodde ³ between now and Tuesday and that I suggested sending his letter to Madame de Nesmond, ⁴ the wife of the Presiding Judge. Since then, however, it occurred to me that it might be advisable to let him take full charge of the return of our Sisters because I am absolutely certain he will send them away on Tuesday, as he proposes. Nevertheless, it is also to be feared that he might not do so without any further word, or even that our Sisters might be unwilling to come without an order. ⁵ I await the one your charity will give me, which I will follow,

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Letter 1813. - Archives of the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity, original autograph letter.

¹The contents of this letter and the information contained in n. 5 prompt the assigning of this date.

²Jean-Pascal Goret, born in Angers in 1613, entered the Congregation of the Mission as a coadjutor Brother on November 21, 1641. Saint Vincent sent him to Picardy for the relief of the poor, as he had sent Brother Mathieu Régnard to Lorraine.

³Chaplain at the Château de Chantilly.

⁴Madame de Nesmond, born Anne de Lamoignon, was the wife of François-Théodore de Nesmond, Presiding Judge of the Parlement of Paris, and sister-in-law of Madame de Lamoignon (Marie des Landes). The members of both these families were closely linked with Saint Vincent, whose virtues they appreciated and whose works they promoted.

⁵If the departure of the Sisters took place, it was only temporary and must have been due to the abandonment in which their founder and benefactor left them. They had to borrow money in 1653-54 to meet their living expenses. In a report entitled Mémoires pour les Filles de la Charité de Chantilly, written in Saint Louise’s handwriting in November 1654, we read the following: “The rent due on their house for the past four years must be paid by the next feast of Saint Martin. It amounts to thirty-six livres a year, for which debt the furniture has been seized and is ready to be sold.” (Cf. Spiritual Writings, A. 79, p. 795.)
Most Honored Father, as your most humble and very obedient daughter and servant.

L. de M.

Addressed: Monsieur Vincent

1814. TO SAINT LOUISE

I will do my best to see you tomorrow, God willing. I think it is a good idea for me to send one of our Brothers to M. de la Hogue with the enclosed note. Let me know what you think about it, and please write to our Sisters telling them to come here Tuesday or at the earliest opportunity, which you will ask M. de la Hogue to recommend to them.

This afternoon I hope to go and visit the Ladies of Charity of the little parish of Saint-Marceau, where that good work is going to collapse, if it does not receive a little support. If you have a printed book, please send it to me, and excuse me for being unable to see you sooner.

Letter 1814. - Archives of the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity, original autograph letter.

1This letter is a reply to the preceding one.
2Saint Vincent's spelling of M. Delahodde's name.
3Today, Saint-Marcel.
4The Confraternity of Charity (The Charity). Established in 1629 in Saint-Sauveur parish, it was so successful that nearly every Pastor in the city and suburbs of Paris had hastened to start one in his parish. Under the impulse of the Company of the Blessed Sacrament, which favored the movement, several Charities came into being; the majority of them were served by the Daughters of Charity. The Pastors, who were the directors of the Charities, based their particular rules on those established by Saint Vincent; these rules varied according to the needs of the parishes. Some of them are preserved in the Arsenal Library (Ms. 2565) and in the Bibl. Nat. (R. 26.015-26.018, 27.199-27.208). See also Henri-François-Simon de Doncourt, Remarques historiques sur l'église et la paroisse de Saint-Sulpice (3 vols., Paris: N. Crespart, 1773), vol. III, pp. 1ff. The activities of the Confraternities were limited to the particular parish; however, the one at the Hôtel-Dieu, founded in 1633, was not a parochial institution. It met local and
Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I praise God for the blessings His Goodness has been pleased to bestow on all your activities. They go far beyond what you describe to me in your letters, from what I have been able to learn from those who have come from your area. This consoles me so much that I cannot express it.

I am pleased about the journey you tell me you are going to make with one of the Administrators regarding poor slaves who fall ill on the galleys. When they get sick, I would be very glad if either they are brought to the hospital in Marseilles, or can be put some place in Toulon, where they will be helped and nursed better. Let me say to begin with that I doubt strongly that Monsieur de la Ferrière will be willing to grant this, for fear they might escape while being brought from Toulon to Marseilles and from Marseilles back to Toulon.

God be praised that you have shown such charity toward our afflicted little family in Agde and for your offer made to good Monsieur Mugnier to welcome one of their patients in Marseilles, if he wants to send you someone! I ask Our Lord to be pleased to preserve this spirit in the members of the Company who already have it, and to be willing to grant it, by His holy grace, to those who do not.

With regard to the package of medicines Monsieur Blatiron sent

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national needs, e.g., those of the foundlings and the provinces devastated by the Fronde, which its director, Saint Vincent, brought to the attention of its members, the Ladies.

Letter 1815. - The original signed letter was formerly the property of the Daughters of Charity, 22 rue Vincent-Leblanc, Marseilles. The present location of the letter is unknown.

1Chevalier de la Ferrière, Commander of the fleet.
you, you can give it to a carrier or find some other safe way to send it. Address it to Monsieur Delaforende in Lyons; he can send it on to us by coach; in this way it will cost very little to transport.

I think Monsieur Lebel, the attorney of Monsieur Desbrosses, is a little annoyed at not receiving any news from him about his affair. Please remind him of this; the matter is urgent.

I am still unable to send you by this mail the eighteen hundred livres I had led you to expect for our Barbary Missionaries. So, Monsieur, once you have received this letter, please draw on us a bill of exchange for them, payable ten days after sight. From that amount send eight hundred livres to the men in Tunis and a thousand livres to those in Algiers.

I think that is all I have to tell you for now, Monsieur. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

Address: Monsieur Get, Superior of the Mission of Marseilles, in Marseilles

1816. - TO JEAN MARTIN, SUPERIOR, IN SEDAN

Paris, December 16, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I received your packet yesterday. It will be difficult for me to reply to each of your points because I do not have your letter; I gave it to Brother Robineau,¹ who is in the city right now. Oh! I do

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¹A merchant who forwarded money, packages, and letters for Saint Vincent and the Missionaries.
²The words *du change* [of exchange] were inserted in the Saint's handwriting.

Letter 1816. - Archives of the Mission, Turin, original signed letter.
³Saint Vincent had two secretaries, Brothers Bertrand Ducournau and Louis Robineau. The
remember that in your letter you mention the Sister of Charity, the large number of sick persons you have in the town, the need you have for the Ladies to continue their charity, the money you need and, lastly, Monsieur Regnault.

Now, let me tell you, Monsieur, that I am distressed that Jeanne-Christine, the Sister of Charity, has not yet arrived. Please let me know as soon as she gets there. Mademoiselle Santeuil wrote, asking me to send Sister Marie back to them, but that is inadvisable. It is a custom of that Company to change the Sisters frequently; otherwise, they are spoiled by becoming attached to certain places and persons. For some years now, we have given Sisters only on that condition. Furthermore, the Court was not very edified by her conduct.

I will give her an answer as soon as possible, and will do my utmost to get the Ladies to continue the charity they have begun for your poor people in Sedan. I must admit, however, that I greatly fear that this group may dissolve for lack of funds to continue; the charitable purses are nearly empty.

Please borrow one thousand livres for your house from some merchant there, and we will pay them back twelve days at sight of the bill of exchange.

Please tell Monsieur Regnault that I ask him to return here by the beginning of the year and to put his good mother’s affairs in order in such a way that, from now on, she will be able to take care of her business with no need for him to return there. Otherwise, there is reason to think he may be unhappy in this Company and may prefer to remain in the world. In which case, it is better for him to leave it entirely, for which I would be very sorry. Such a

latter, born in Neuvy-en-Dunois (Eure-et-Loir), entered the Congregation of the Mission on November 8, 1642, at twenty-one years of age, and took his vows on November 1, 1650. He was secretary for thirteen years; the notes he wrote for the Saint’s biographer are still in the Archives. (Cf. Dodin, op. cit.)

2Sister Jeanne-Christine Prévoit.
3Sister Marie Joly.
4The rest of the letter is in Saint Vincent’s handwriting.
long absence, however, with so many comings and goings is totally inappropriate for a well-regulated Company.

I send greetings to your dear family, prostrate in spirit at their feet and yours.

I shall have the honor of going to pay my respects to the Marquise de Fabert, as I do to the Marquis, with all possible humility.

If M. Coglee wants to send his cousin to us, we will try to find him a place elsewhere, if he cannot be accommodated in the house.

Addressed: Monsieur Martin, Superior of the Mission, in Sedan

1817. - TO FIRMIN GET, SUPERIOR, IN MARSEILLES

Paris, December 18, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

Your letter of the first of the month consoled me because you were so kind as to send Monsieur Champion to visit the poor family of Agde. O Monsieur, how I hope God will be pleased to spread this spirit throughout the Company!

They have written me that Monsieur [Levasseur] has arrived in Cahors.

I am very glad that you sent the six hundred piastres to Algiers for Servin's ransom and that you have received the nine hundred

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5Gerard Coglee (Saint Vincent spells his name Coglée), born in Carrick-on-Suir, Lismore diocese (Ireland), entered the Congregation of the Mission as a coadjutor Brother on February 5, 1655, at the age of thirty-one, and took his vows on March 17, 1660, in the presence of M. Watebled.

Letter 1817. - Archives of the Mission, Paris, Sister Hains Collection, original signed letter.

The text reads Le Vazeur, but the man in question is surely Martin Levasseur (cf. nos. 1792 and 1822).
fifty from the Pastor of Havre-de-Grâce. I find some difficulty, however, with what you told me about holding back some of the Barbary money to pay for the supplies the Le Vacher brothers and the Consuls are requesting of you, especially just now when they are so poor, as they inform me. For this time at least, please send them what is earmarked for them—one thousand livres to Algiers and eight hundred livres to Tunis.

God be blessed, Monsieur, for the willingness He has given you to take in the sick members of the Agde family! If Monsieur Mugnier does not send you any money, we will take care of it; let me know roughly how much their expenses will be.

I had the letter delivered to Monsieur Lebel and will urge him to reply.

That, Monsieur, is all I can tell you for now, except that the Company is doing rather well everywhere, by the grace of God. I am, in His love, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Get, Superior of the Priests of the Mission, in Marseilles

1818. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, December 18, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!
I thank God for all you told me, especially about the King’s

Letter 1818. - Archives of the Mission, Krakow, original signed letter.
return shortly and the Queen’s health. I ask God continually to
preserve them.

The choice Their Majesties made of the Secretary of State for
the newly vacant diocese 1 pleased me immensely, as did the fact
that the Queen is planning to finalize the union 2 when the Bishop
of Poznan arrives. I am distressed, however, that you have no news
from the Swedish Ambassador. 3 Perhaps he found a priest else­
where. The Comtesse de Brienne 4 is pressuring me to send some­
one there because her son is sick in Stockholm and has been unable
to hear Mass for three months. In the name of God, Monsieur, show
compassion to those poor Catholics, deprived of all spiritual assis­
tance, if the Queen approves and if Monsieur Guillot perseveres in
the desire Our Lord has given him to go and serve in that country.

That, Monsieur, is all I can tell you for now. I ask God to bless
you and your family, and I recommend myself to their prayers. I
am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Ozenne, Superior of the Priests of the
Mission, in Warsaw

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1Albert Tholibowski, appointed in 1654 Bishop of Poznan, where he remained until July 22,
1663, the day he died.
2The union of Holy Cross parish in Warsaw.
3Baron d’Avaugour.
4Louise de Béon, a Lady of Charity devoted to Saint Vincent and his work, was the daughter
of Louise de Luxembourg-Brienne and Bernard de Béon, Intendant of Saintonge, Angoulême,
and the territory of Aunis. She was the wife of Henri-Auguste de Loménie, Comte de Brienne,
Secretary of State. The Daughters of Providence owed much to her charity. Louise de Béon died
September 2, 1665.
Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

Last evening I received two letters from you but have been able to read only one because of the great pressure of business, so I will not reply to both letters now but will do so by the next mail. This letter is simply to forward to you the letter I am writing to Made­moiselle de Santeuil; please give it to her, after having read and sealed it, and talk to her about that affair, in conformity with what I am telling her.

I think that poor Sister 2 is not thinking straight, and I am surprised that that good Lady shares her views. I can see that she has been led to this by a spirit of compassion, which could do more harm than good to that poor Sister. Please get her to agree to tell her not to go there and to send her back if she should be so irresponsible as to do so.

Meanwhile, I send you greetings, together with Monsieur Lucas and your little family. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,

i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Martin, Superior of the Mission, in Sedan

Letter 1819. - Archives of the Mission, Turin, original signed letter.

1This letter was written shortly after no. 1816.

2Sister Marie Joly.
Paris, December 24, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!
I just now received your letter of the twenty-sixth of last month. I have no reply to make to it, except that I am distressed about what you tell me concerning the Daughters of Sainte-Marie and their difficulty with their establishment. Still, it is to be hoped that things will improve as time goes on.¹

There is nothing new here with us worth writing to you. Let me simply tell you, Monsieur, that our little family in Agde is beginning to recover, by the grace of God, that the Troyes house is going along as usual, that Brother Ducournau is having a hard time getting his strength back after his illness, and that Brother Nicolas Survire² is suffering a little from some sores on his head. I recommend all of them to your holy prayers and those of your dear family, whom I embrace with all possible affection, prostrate in spirit at their feet and yours. I wish them and you, Monsieur, a new grace of Our Lord in the coming new year, when this letter will reach you. I am, in His love and in that of His holy Mother, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Ozenne, Superior of the Priests of the Mission, in Warsaw

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¹The history of the foundation of the Visitation nuns in Warsaw (cf. Bibl. Maz., Ma. 2438) makes no mention of these difficulties. On the contrary, it gives the impression that the Visitandines were very well off, since they were magnificently endowed by the Queen and enriched by the National Diet with a property having an income of 22,000 francs.

²Nicolas Survire, coadjutor Brother, was born in Bayeux (Calvados) and entered the Con-
1821. - TO ÉTIENNE BLATIRON, SUPERIOR, IN GENOA

December 28, 1654

How ashamed I am to see myself so useless to the world in comparison with you!

1822. - TO ÉTIENNE BLATIRON, SUPERIOR, IN GENOA

Paris, New Year's Eve, 1654

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

In my last letter I wrote telling you of the request of the Marquese di Pianezza,1 head of the Council of His Royal Highness of Savoy, for two Missionaries to be established in Turin. Monsieur Le Vazeux,2 the Superior in Annecy, sent me the letter from the
gregation of the Mission on September 11, 1640, at the age of twenty-seven. He took his vows on November 2, 1645, and renewed them on December 31, 1656, in the presence of M. Burdet.


Letter 1822. - Archives of the Mission, Turin, original signed letter.

1Filippo Emmanuele Filliberto Gicinto di Simiane, Marchese di Pianezza, had distinguished himself by his bravery in the wars of Monferrato and Genoa, earning the title of Colonel-General of the Infantry. A clever diplomat, he attracted the attention of the Madame Royale, Madame Christine of France, the Duchess-Regent, who made him Prime Minister. She had implicit trust in him, as did Charles Emmanuel II, when he came of age. The sole aspiration of the Marchese, however, was to live in a religious house, far from the Court and its activities. After the death of Pope Alexander VII, who had persuaded him to defer the execution of his plan, the Prime Minister ceded all his possessions to his son, the Marchese di Livorno, and retired to San Pancrazio Monastery. Deeply grieved by this, Charles Emmanuel tried repeatedly to make him yield, but to no avail. He then suggested that the Marchese come to Turin and live in a religious house of his choice, leaving it only when called to Court to give his advice on some important affair. The Marchese accepted this proposal, choosing the house of the Priests of the Mission, which he himself had founded. He died there in July 1677, at sixty-nine years of age.

2Achille Le Vazeux, born in Bonneval (Eure-et-Loir) on June 22, 1620, entered the Congregation of the Mission on August 24, 1639, took his vows on June 7, 1643, and was ordained a priest on April 3, 1649. Shortly after ordination he was sent to Rome, where he remained until 1653. He was Superior of the Annecy Seminary (1653-58), then was recalled to Paris and sent
Chief Justice of the Chambéry Senate informing him that the Marquis, instead of requesting two Priests of the Mission, is asking for six for Blessed Sacrament Church in the city of Turin, where some miracles took place in former times. They would not, however, be allowed to go and work in the rural areas, although, if the funds were sufficient for the maintenance of others over and above this number, they could work in the country places and carry out our functions there.

This, Monsieur, has made me think it advisable for you to go there, with the approval of the Cardinal. I have been assured that it is a journey of only three days and the road is good, so I am asking you kindly to do so. When you are in Turin, ask for Monsieur Tévenot, surgeon of His Royal Highness and a good friend of ours, as he will tell you. If he is not there, go directly to the Marquis, pay our respects to him, and offer him the services of the Company and my own in particular. Tell him that I asked you to go and explain to him, with all possible respect, that you have come to see him about the instructions he had given me to send him Missionaries. Explain to him also the end of our Institute and that we cannot take foundations except on condition of giving missions in the country and, if the opportunity presents itself, of conducting ordination [retreats], if the Prelates so wish; otherwise we would be acting contrary to God's plan for us. However, if matters can be arranged in such a way that one can be done without omitting the other, we will try to do so, even though it will be difficult with the few men we have left because many have died in recent years, and we have sent many others to various establishments. Mention also that, if it were possible that, of the six priests he is requesting—for whom

to the Collège des Bons-Enfants. He left there a few days before the Saint's death and returned to his family. To certain good qualities, Le Vazeux added such noticeable failings (including doubts regarding the validity of the vows) that Saint Vincent regarded his withdrawal from the Congregation as a blessing from God. Hasty and obstinate in his decisions, he found it hard to take advice from Superiors and to submit his will to theirs. Saint Vincent had frequent occasion to reproach him.
funds are available—three might give rural missions, while the other three work in town, we would then be doing what Our Lord and he are asking of us.

You could tell him next about the ordination [retreat]s, seminars, and other works of the Company. Perhaps, since it has been written to me that he is one of the saints 3 of that court, he might make arrangements for all those things because those works are probably no less useful and necessary in that area as elsewhere. If he mentions the possibility of your being one of those who lay the foundations of this mission, tell him absolutely that this is out of the question.

In addition, assure Cardinal Durazzo that this will not happen, that you will return and continue, and that I give him my word on this before God, in whose presence I speak to him. Then, ask him most humbly to allow you to make that journey. Last evening I received his portrait, which I will hold most precious and treasure all my life.4 In it you have given me one of the richest and most pleasing gifts you could offer me.

That, then, Monsieur, is the request I make of you and, through you, to the Cardinal. It would be most desirable if you could leave as soon as possible after your mission closes. I ask God to bless you and your mission, and I ask His Divine Goodness to bless your journey and your negotiations. Please write to us right away when you get to Turin, and inform Monsieur Berthe in Rome of what you have done.

Meanwhile, I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL, i.s.C.M.

At the bottom of the first page: Monsieur Blatiron

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3The original has des saints [of the saints], but Coste replaced it with [dessein] [project]. We have retained what is written in the original letter.

4The rest of the paragraph is in Saint Vincent’s handwriting.
Monsieur,

The grace of O[ur] L[ord] be with you forever!

I received your letter yesterday; as always, it gave me fresh reasons for praising God. Still, it troubled me a little because, from what you tell me in your last letter, it seems to me you are suffering from something, although you did not state this clearly. Please share with me, Monsieur, your trials as well as your joys.

I forgot to give you an answer to what you tell me about the office. I cannot do it today because of the pressure of business; I hope to do so by the next mail.

I do not know why you have not opened a mission in some other place. Since you have the permission of Prince Charles, have received no news from the Swedish Ambassador, and have been approached about sending Monsieur Guillot to Krakow, in nomine Domini, let him go, and send with him whomever you think suitable.

It has been rather a long time since you told me anything about good Monsieur de Fleury, to whom we are so greatly indebted. O Monsieur, how I hope we are most grateful for this and that you share everything with him heart to heart! He deserves to be esteemed and loved by everyone, but no one should do so more than we. Please adopt this practice with all possible confidence, Monsieur, if you have not already done so. I think that if I had the honor of being near him, there would be no nook or cranny of my heart that I would not reveal to him.

Letter 1823. - Archives of the Mission, Krakow, original signed letter.

1Ferdinand Charles, brother of the King of Poland. He was Bishop of Wroclaw (Breslau) in Silesia and of Plock in Poland, and died on May 9, 1655.
2Baron d’Avaugour.
3First redaction: “but no one in this world.”
I cannot express how consoled I am by the King's return, nor the affection of my heart for Their Majesties and their kingdom. I ask God to bless His Majesty's army and leadership and be the reward of the Queen's infinite kindesses toward us, who are most unworthy of them.

I greet you and your family and wish you new blessings on this New Year's Day. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
is.C.M.

Addressed: Monsieur Ozenné, Superior of the Priests of the Mission, in Warsaw

1824. - TO A PRIEST OF THE MISSION

January 2, 1655

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I thank God for the grace He has granted you and us to resist the temptations which sought to snatch you from the arms of your dear vocation and lead you back into the world. I ask Him to strengthen you more and more in the promise you made Our Lord to live and die in it [your vocation]. O Seigneur Dieu! we must not toy with promising things to God and then failing to keep our word to Him. Therefore, Monsieur, please be steadfast in walking in the vocation to which you are called. Remember all the good sentiments Our

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*Poland was then at war with the Russians and the Ukrainian Cossacks for possession of the Ukraine.

Lord has given you in its regard. Life is short; its end is soon in view, and God’s judgment is fearsome to those leaving this life, of whom it is said: "They have not fulfilled their obligations; that is why the Lord has placed them among those who commit iniquity."  

1825. - TO CHARLES OZENNE, SUPERIOR, IN WARSAW

Paris, January 8, 1655

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

I will try to take the honor of writing to the Queen today—if our little business affairs allow—to thank Her Majesty for all her kindness toward us and toward the whole Company, especially for giving your church the beautiful vestment you mentioned. In case I cannot write today, I will do so, with God’s help, for the next journey. I do not recommend that you should pray constantly for Her Majesty and for the King; I am well aware that you are careful not to fail in that.

I will try also to write a thank-you letter to good Monsieur de Fleury for all his acts of kindness toward you, especially for the one he has just shown you in offering the money you may need to set up your establishment.

I praise God for having provided you, by His holy grace, with such a worthy, virtuous Prelate as the one you describe.

1Cf. Ps 125:5. (NAB)

Letter 1825. - Archives of the Mission, Krakow, original signed letter.

1First redaction: "I am going to try to write."

2First redaction: "for the Majesty of the Queen."

3Albert Tholibowski, named Bishop of Poznan in 1654.
I will speak to the Reverend Jesuit Fathers about what you tell me, and will ask them to write a word about it.

I entreat you to tell Monsieur Zelazewski that I send greetings to him and embrace him with all possible affection. I ask you, Monsieur, to bear with him as best you can and to do all in your power to help him to carry his cross; perhaps, little by little, Our Lord will touch his heart. Oh! what a pity it will be and what an account he will have to render to Our Lord, if he does not correspond to His plans!

The whole family here is fairly well, by the grace of God, except good Monsieur Bécu, who is suffering from gout, which has kept him in bed for a while now, and Brother Ducournau, who is having a hard time recovering from his serious illness. I recommend them, and myself in particular, to your prayers. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

Please excuse the crossing out; I have no time to get the letter rewritten.

Addressed: Monsieur Ozene, Superior of the Priests of the Mission, in Warsaw

---258---

The secretary had written: "and I entreat you, Monsieur, to keep him as long as you can, to do all in your power for that, and bear with him as well because perhaps, little by little, Our Lord will change his desire." Saint Vincent himself corrected the sentence; the words "entreat, bear with, help him to carry his cross," and "touch his heart" are in the Saint's handwriting.

This sentence is in Saint Vincent's handwriting.

Jean Bécu, born in Braches (Somme) on April 24, 1592, and ordained a priest in September 1616, came to join the first companions of Saint Vincent in September 1626. Two of his brothers, Benoît and Hubert, followed him into the Congregation, the latter as a coadjutor Brother; two of his sisters, Marie and Madeleine, became Daughters of Charity. Bécu was Superior of the house in Toul (1642-46) and spent the rest of his life in Paris. He died January 19, 1664, having been Vice-Visitor, then Visitor of the Province of France. (Cf. Notices, vol. I, pp. 125-33.)
Monsieur,

Blessed be God, Monsieur, for your charity toward poor Brother Claude and for the fact that you have received the income earmarked for you and want to share part of it with the chaplains, using what is left to finish their lodgings and your own!

What can I tell you, however, about Brother Louis, except that I fear Monsieur Huguier may succumb and the poor convicts will suffer from this if you recall him. I see clearly that you have reason to do so because the Brother you have is incapable of doing what is needed for Brother Claude and around the house. Is there no way, Monsieur, to hire some good lad to help him out? Please look for one, while you are waiting until we can send you someone, which will be as soon as possible, with God's help.

If Monsieur Champion has recovered from his ailment, I ask him once again to recall the request I made him regarding Toulon. If he has not, please spare nothing, Monsieur, to get treatment for him, which I am sure you will do. In addition, take care of your own health, so necessary to us in the present circumstances.

The relatives of a convict in Algiers, whose name I do not remember, are supposed to send you two or three hundred piastres to be forwarded to Algiers. I recommend that business to you and

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1Brother Claude Le Gentil was ill in Marseilles.

2Louis Sicquard, born in Nalliers (Vendée) on May 3, 1624, entered the Congregation of the Mission as a coadjutor Brother on October 18, 1645 and took his vows in November 1648.
ask God to sanctify your dear soul more and more. I am, in His love, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.

Brother du Chesne, who had been sent to Agde and from there to Saintes, died in the last-mentioned place on December 22, after an illness of two months. I recommend him to your prayers.

Addressed: Monsieur Get, Superior of the Priests of the Mission, in Marseilles

1827. - TO JEAN MARTIN, SUPERIOR, IN SEDAN

Paris, January 18, 1655

Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

Each time I receive one of your dear letters, I have fresh reasons to praise God for the blessing I see He continues to bestow on your work and on all your ways of acting. I ask His Divine Majesty to be pleased to keep this up.

As for Sister Marie, it is to be hoped that the dissatisfaction Monsieur and Mademoiselle de Santeuil have felt about her return here will gradually pass. It was thought advisable to withdraw her from Sedan because she had been there longer than is the established custom among the Daughters of Charity, who should be

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3Jean Du Chesne, coadjutor Brother, was born in Laumesfeld (Moselle) in 1622 and entered the Congregation of the Mission on October 30, 1647.

Letter 1827. -- Archives of the Mission, Turin, original signed letter.

1Sister Marie Joly.

2Saint Vincent had sent her there in 1641.
changed more often. I hope nothing like this will happen again as long as I live. If Monsieur de Santeuil or his wife mentions it to you again and tells you that Sister Gillette has been left just as long in Sedan—and is still there—reply that this has been done because she was the only one who could get along with Sister Marie, but now that she is no longer there, Sister Gillette will be recalled as soon as possible.

Good Monsieur Coglée’s cousin arrived here in good health, by the grace of God; I hope he will do well.

I sent to its address the letter Monsieur Petizon, the King’s lawyer, addressed to me, and we will not fail to send Monsieur Le Vazeux the packet you are sending him.

We will also try, with God’s help, to do something for the child about whom Monsieur Petizon did me the honor of writing, and to discuss this with the Ladies. Meanwhile, please greet him for me, Monsieur, and, on the occasion of this New Year, renew to him also the offers of my perpetual obedience, entreating him most humbly to be pleased to accept them.

As for what you inform me regarding the office of Bailiff of Sedan, I think that should be left up to your Governor. He is wise and prudent and will know how to do in that matter what will redound to the greatest glory of God and the good of the Catholic religion.

Monsieur Alméras is not here just now; that is why he cannot reply to the letters you have written him. I will send them on to him in Troyes, where he has gone to make the visitation.

I embrace your whole family with all the tenderness of my heart of which I am capable, especially Monsieur Lucas. He has written me of the blessings God is bestowing on all your ways of acting, and how union and charity reign in your little family. This is a

3Sister Gillette Joly, Sister Marie’s sister.
4Gerard Coglée (Coglée), cousin of Mark Cogley and Brother Laurence Cogley.
5The Ladies of Charity.
6Antoine Lucas.
wonderful consolation to me, and I ask Our Lord to continue to grant you the same blessings.

That is all I can tell you for now, Monsieur, except to share with you the news Monsieur Vageot has given me of the death of one of our coadjutor Brothers, named du Chesne, which occurred on the twenty-second of last month. I tell you this so you will pray, and have others pray, for the repose of his soul. I remain, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,  
_i.s.C.M._

An important affair has come up requiring your presence here with us. Please take the trouble to travel here, and leave the care of the house to M. Cogleé in the meantime. Take leave of the Governor and assure him of my perpetual obedience.

I send greetings to your little family, prostrate in spirit at their feet and yours.  

_Addressed:_ Monsieur Martin, Superior of the Priests of the Mission, in Sedan

\[7\text{Mark Cogley (Cogl ée). Was the Saint considering at this time asking Jean Martin to be Superior of the Turin establishment? Martin did not return to Sedan or, if he did, it was only to put his affairs in order. According to Notices, vol. I, p. 238, the Marquis de Fabert, Governor of Sedan, fearing the political repercussions of Martin's zeal for the conversion of heretics, is supposed to have requested his recall.}

\[8\text{The postscript is in the Saint's handwriting.}
Monsieur,

The grace of Our Lord be with you forever!

God be blessed, Monsieur, for the visit the Bishop-elect of Poznan paid you and for the promise given you by the present Bishop of the same city 1 to conclude the matter of your union! O Monsieur, how indebted we are to Our Lord for that and to good Monsieur de Fleury! I ask Our Lord to fill him more and more with His Spirit and to fill you with eternal gratitude for the obligations we have toward him! But what can we say, Monsieur, about the incomparable kindness of the King and Queen toward their poor little Missionaries? Words indeed fail me. Silence is praise to God in Sion, says the prophet, and Saint Jerome after him. It is better to look on in wonder and remain silent at the sight of so many and such incomparable royal acts of kindness than to attempt to thank them, while asking God to sanctify their souls and their whole kingdom more and more. I will do so all the days of my life.

You can assure that poor prodigal child and our Brother 2 that he will be welcome, if God has been pleased to give him a spirit of perfect repentance.

So then, you are serious in asking for Brother Delorme; 3 I will
try to send him to you with the other Brother you are requesting, who may have the qualifications you desire.

God be blessed that the Company enjoys the respect of those very Reverend Fathers. I ask Our Lord to grant us the grace of acting in like manner with all the others. I ask Him also to be the reward of Monsieur Conrard, the Queen's physician, for the favor he did us in defending us in the things being imputed to us and, by his charitable defense, obtaining authorization for missions to be given in the way that has been done! Please thank him and Reverend Father Rose for me, Monsieur, and offer them both my most humble services.

God be blessed that you have news of Monsieur Zelazewski and for the desire He has given you to treat him in the most cordial way possible!

The news you give me of the state of affairs there consoles me more than I can say. I ask Our Lord unceasingly to bless them more and more.

I send greetings to your little family, prostrate in spirit at their feet and yours. I am, in the love of Our Lord, Monsieur, your most humble servant.

VINCENT DEPAUL,
i.s.C.M.⁴

Addressed: Monsieur Ozenne, Superior of the Priests of the Mission, in Warsaw

⁴A postscript followed, which the Saint then crossed out: "I think you must have learned from the Gazette de Rome that the Pope had His Eminence, Cardinal de Retz, lodged in our house. I am sending M. Berthe to visit you during this..."
Monsieur,

The documents accompanying this letter will speak for themselves in explaining to you what time does not allow me to repeat here. In reading them, you will realize the torrents against which we have had to struggle. Yet, this does not surprise me, thank God; there is something else more important which does.

Last year you saw how the English Consul corrupted our Dey and encroached upon the office for the protection of Flemish ships. Since that time, it would have been a crime against the State for us to try to reclaim them. We asked you for protection. I am sure you did all you could to give it to us, but God did not allow this. Meanwhile, what I warned you about then has now happened—that, in the end the English Consul would also take the Italian ships away from us. A boat from Genoa, which came into port under the French flag, has just been appropriated by him, despite the arguments and zeal M. Le Vacher and I brought to bear in the matter. So now the door has been opened to all the others.

It seems to me, Monsieur, that one of the principal obligations of the person in office is to maintain it and not to allow rights to be lost daily. The least of our merchants who might be in that position would have obtained, in six months at most, what was asked of you more than four years ago. He would also have lived in a very different manner from the way we could not and would not want to do—not because this would be unlawful for him but because it would be somewhat improper for others.

Everyone here resents these affronts more keenly than can be expressed. They feel tainted and offended by them, since they are part of the nation and subject to the office, which is being ruined in this way. There are some who attribute that to my greed, and a complaint has even been drawn up to be sent to the Trade Commission, a board set up in Marseilles, to show that I am bleeding them like a bloodsucker and, furthermore, that I am unwilling to spend a single denier either to protect them when the need arises or to preserve the rights of the office.

I cannot refrain from telling you, Monsieur, that in the end it will be
like a piece of land from which the harvest is desired without cultivating it. It produces for a few years but always less and less, until in the end it becomes useless. That is how it is with this office. In no way am I saying that you have not done all you can; we, too, are doing our utmost. Since, however, all our efforts put together are too feeble, please allow me to say, Monsieur, that I, for my part, prefer to give place to someone else. If you sell it and he becomes the proprietor, he will perhaps make use not only of perquisites, but will also get help elsewhere—either from his personal property or his work—to maintain it. If it is a member of the Company, he will doubtless succeed better than I, who seem to be here only for destruction rather than for building up.

I am speaking to you, Monsieur, who know how little I am worth. You know also that one day here has been happier for me than a thousand have been and perhaps will ever be elsewhere. Consequently, I am speaking contrary to my own interests. I must do so, however, to show you the decline of the office, which I would be covering up were I to speak otherwise. Therefore, Monsieur, since I have nothing more for which to hope, please replace me with someone else and recall me.

I am, in the love of O[ur] L[ord], Monsieur, your most humble and very affectionate servant.

HUSSON

1830. - TO A PRIEST OF THE MISSION

January 28, 1655

During missions, Vincent de Paul does not want his priests to accept honoraria for Masses said for the intentions of the faithful. He himself is in the habit of having them taken to the sick by the persons who offer them to him.