

St. Gaspar's Letters

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501

November 23, 1821
 Cardinal Giulio Della Somaglia
 Bishop of Velletri
 Your Eminence

We have come to an agreement with the reverend Rector of the seminary not to delay the good work of the new foundation. Certain, now, of subsistence and supplied with workers pursuing the greater glory of God, it seems that it is not advantageous to defer the sanctification of souls; and, you can be sure that there is need of it in Velletri. I have conferred with your Vicar General, with the most reverend suffragan, with the leaders of the clergy, and all of them state that, for the time being, we could reside in the new seminary. Beds are available and everything else that is necessary. The facts are all clear and, if your Eminence so pleases to allow me to act freely, I shall carry on as we have done and are doing in our other foundations.

For the next six months, as long as the seminary is needed, one of three plans will be developed in this assigned locale, and, you can be assured that, through divine mercy, the necessary prudence will not be lacking. In the event that a month less would be needed, we have told the Rector that it will be quite a simple matter for us to move, that is, from the seminary to our Mission House; but I think that there will be no need for that. You know that the optimum is contrary to the good, and I have learned that foundations are born in a manner a bit different from the procedures customarily used in other things. In the meantime, the bishop of Nocera will conduct the retreat for the priests. More details, later. I kiss the sacred purple, and with particular veneration, I remain

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Canonico del Bufalo

Terracina, November 23¹

502

November 28, 1821
 Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli
 Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Several time you have seen and spoken with the individual that you are proposing to me from Santanatolia, and have recognized him as a fit person for our Society. I am speaking of the one who is with the Capuchins; have him come by writing to him in Santanatolia. He should come directly to Albano where he can be received by Fr. Giovanni Merlini, informing him beforehand, and it will be sufficient for him to bring along a letter from you. Advise him also to present a document from the Capuchins attesting to his fitness as a postulant. However, he will have to take care of his traveling

¹ The year is 1821 as is seen on the page that has been filed.

expenses himself; I cannot be burdened since the Society is handling so many projects. I advise that if he is not able to come immediately or if he does not find a way of affording the trip, I shall provide from this area where there is no lack. If he is able, I prefer to have someone proposed by you, since he is one who already has some idea of community life.

With regard to the Congregation for Cases, if the representative in Pievetorina does not supply me with a single precise detail concerning the matter, or even Canon Gonnelli, I will not be able to express my opinion. *Non expedit insistere*² with the Treasurer in behalf of Pievetorina, since the plan for Regulars has not been determined. More in person. You can correspond with the Treasurer with respect to Nucini. I shall assign Pellegrini with the good Achille, whom I shall contact privately. All is better handled when we see each other in person, my dearest in Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, December 2nd, the vigil of the great Xavier, you will see to the beginning of the Mission in Sermoneta around the 22nd hour. By leaving early enough from Albano, on that same Sunday, you can surely be at the location where you can go by coach and get there at the time arranged and be ready for the opening. You will find the mounts waiting as I have indicated. Fr. Giovanni can work out everything with the coachman whom you are to contact. According to arrangements you can have dinner in Velletri. Inform Fr. Luigi Mosconi that he is to come along with you and he will give the retreat for the clergy. If he is not sufficiently recovered, let me know immediately and I will send for Fr. Biagio. I will appear at the halfway point of the Mission in Sermoneta. As a helper for that House, I am assigning Giacomo; so, you should bring him along. As soon as the House in Velletri is opened, Gaetano will come as cook, while Fr. Giovanni should send for another from *Buon Consiglio*. However, inform him that when he writes to Fr. Andrea Butirroni, in order to avoid confusion, he should specify that he is referring to the individual who was under the tutelage of Monsignor Marchetti, our aggregated missionary, who, while preparing himself for the new foundations, passed away suddenly into eternity. Recommend him to the prayers of all. I think that I have explained everything clearly.

Gaetano will stay on with the Missionaries as their cook, etc. Giacomo will move on to the Mission House as soon as I get to Sermoneta, and perhaps temporarily stay with some good priest. I say this because *in actu missionis*³ you priests, for greater convenience, will stay in a hospice previously inhabited by the Capuchin Fathers. On the supposition that Fr. Francesco Pierantonj should arrive, the superior for the House in Sermoneta, he then will be the third companion. If he has not arrived, he will join you later, taking a place on another coach with the greatest possible economy. So, the company will be completed in that way for this Mission which is to last from December 2nd to the 16th inclusive. At the Mass, you will see that a collection is made *pro petitione lacrymarum etc.*⁴ I have spoken of Giacomo as if he were not to go to the seminary. If there are simply hopes in that regard, have him go in the meantime to Sermoneta. He will be able to return whenever he is summoned. In the event that Pierantonj should be delayed, the two of you should travel together. We will then join you at the halfway point. Under those circumstances, and since the days are short in number and there will be only the two of you, it will be sufficient to have the catechetical instructions in the morning, and, after the noon meal to present the Christian doctrine

² It is not expedient to insist.

³ In conducting a mission.

⁴ For a request of tears, etc.

and afterwards the main sermon. The House should be quite stable; *satis est provisum*⁵ so that you will not be overly exhausted.

Get the missionary staffs and the lightest disciplines from Albano, because they did not make the new ones to my liking, and they are too heavy. Send to Terracina for the Madonna, and send yours to Canon Locatelli. You will use the Crucifix of the place. Little by little, everything is being readied. Other staffs and disciplines will be given to the House in Albano to replace what is being taken now because of the shortness of time. A thousand greetings to Fr. Luigi Mosconi. Do not wear yourselves out, and, dear Canon, pray for me who remains

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Terracina, November 28, 1821

I hope that you will find a picture of Xavier in Sermoneta.

Tell Fr. Giovanni that on the evening of December 10th, the day on which I will need to be back in Albano for one night, I will take care of the expense for your coach; or, whether I should send it. I shall see etc. I will write to Fr. Giovanni *ad alias etc.*⁶

Inform Fr. Giovanni of what I have stated about Pierantoni. In time, we shall take care of the faculties; you already have those issued by the bishop's office; as regards the Breviary, conduct yourselves as you did when with me. For now, *satis.*⁷

503

November-December, 1821

Fr. Andrea Butirroni

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Fr. Andrea⁸

Have Agostino remain at *Buon Consiglio*. Do not worry about it anymore. With regard to the individual who was with Marchetti, I will accept him as long as he presents himself with a letter from you assuring me *de morum integritate*,⁹ since persons who are insistent are not lacking. But, one must carry everything out *in pondere et mensura*.¹⁰ Wholeheartedly, I am

Affectionately yours,

G. C. del Bufalo

If you have gotten Masses, have someone offer them for the House. Let us all seek to be helpful to the Society. Goodbye.

I have written to Rieti; I have not, however, received a response.

⁵ Enough will be provided.

⁶ For another time, etc.

⁷ Enough.

⁸ This letter does not bear a date. But, by comparing this letter with the one of November 7 and December 19, 1821, addressed to the same person, it is clear that it comes after the former (cfr. brother in service Agostino) and previous to the latter (cfr. Rieti).

⁹ About the integrity of morals.

¹⁰ In weight and measurement.

December 5, 1821
 Fr. Luigi Achille
 Rush, please
 Albano¹¹

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Father Luigi

Upon receiving this letter of mine, you will please set out for Sonnino with Father Bassotti and Fr. Rafaele Brandimarte. The Mission begins on Immaculate Conception day, around 22 hours. If Brandimarte cannot go, see that you take Fr. Luigi Moscatelli with you. I will take care of Albano. On the evening of the 10th I will come there quickly. Set up the trip as follows: you will go by way of Velletri, and from Velletri proceed on by carriage as far as the Foro Appio.¹² There you will find mounts that have been sent from Piperno. On Friday, vigil of the Immaculate Conception, you will be at the Foro Appio at 16 hours on the clock. On Friday night you will lodge in Piperno at the Vicar's or Archpriest's house, to whom the Bishop has already written. In the morning mounts will arrive from Sonnino, so that by 22 hours on the clock you should be there for your entrance.

Once you have gotten to Piperno, send word to the Vicar Forane advising him that the entrance should be arranged just as he himself saw it done in Terracina; it is always a good idea to repeat directions. When you get to Sonnino, you will find an additional instruction from me with regard to the faculties as well as other things. The Mission will last 15 complete days. I will appear on the scene about half-way through; the opening will be taken care of. While there you will stay in a private house. Get the three Missionary Staffs from Albano, where I shall leave them on the night of the 10th. Send to the House of Missions at Terracina for the whips and the case containing the

¹¹ On the original copy one reads the following annotation, written in a strange handwriting (not however of Merlini): "Letter concerning arrangements for the Mission at Sonnino and the opening of the House. It was delayed 5 days because the letter got there late". The Saint found himself at that time in the House of Terracina, which he had opened on December 3; he was intending (so Merlini tells us) to make the initial arrangements there and then go on to Sonnino half-way through the Mission in order to open the House there; lastly, he would go on to Sermoneta where he was likewise to open a House. However, he was assailed by a "pernicious" fever and was not able to carry out the plan: Unable even to write, he was forced to return to Rome. In the meantime, Fr. Achille and the others, having arrived from Albano, did give the Mission in Sonnino, while lodging in the Lampreda house. They inaugurated the House of the Society in the Monastery of S. Maria delle Canne.

¹² Foro Appio: cf. Geographical Data

image of the Madonna.

Brandimarte or Moscatelli will deliver the instructions on the Creed to the adults in the morning. Fr. Bassotti will be in charge of the main sermon. In the afternoon, instead of the instructions to the adults, the children should be grouped into classes for catechetical instruction, since the days are short. The sermon on the Madonna could be delivered by Father Bassotti, since he is not burdened with the morning sermons. The Oratory, the instructions on the Creed in the morning, should be preceded by the procession of the Brothers with the Crucifix. You yourself should give the instructions to the children and hear confessions, and in general, be in charge of coordinating everything.

The method to be followed by all of us in making our mental prayers, etc. will be sent to you by Merlini, although you must already be well acquainted with it. I am writing *ad cautelam*.¹³

During the Mission you will stay in a private home with the Companions. A lay-brother should arrive from Rome; he is capable of taking care of matters in the kitchen and will be sent there by Ab. Pallotta. In case he does not appear, send word to me immediately from Sonnino, because there is someone else available. By the way, I suggest that if both Brandimarte and Moscatelli should not be able to accompany you, then look for a courier and send him to me immediately. For, as soon as I hear this from you, I will send Fr. Biagio to be there at the Foro Appio. If you would have to leave the Foro Appio, in that case you should arrange for a courier and a mount to be there. The aforementioned Fr. Biagio or others of our men would be expecting that. He would also arrive there with the lay brother, if it should be necessary.

At the Foro Appio ask for the steward of the Braschi Estate, who might be able to arrange for you to use the Prince's house, as he is accustomed to do. This is all that I have to tell you. I am in a hurry.

Humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

As for the Clergy, if Father Bassotti does not take care of the Retreat, then I will handle it when I come.

At Velletri, on that Thursday night, it would be a good idea for all to stay over night in some Convent.

(on the outside, near the address, one reads:) There will be one pack mule and 4 mounts.

(Terracina) December 5, 1821

505

December 7, 1821

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Dear Camillo¹⁴

Let me know what Gentilucci has available. I am in a hurry. Send your reply to Rome. I shall send an answer to your cousin.

¹³ As a precaution.

¹⁴ This letter is deprived of any written place or date. From the postal marking, it is evident that it was sent from Terracina on December 7th.

G. C. del Bufalo

How about the parish priest in Sanseverino?

506

December 7, 1821
Fr. Luigi Gonnelli
Pievotorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon¹⁵

Send me Fr. Rafaele immediately. It is understood that he should come willingly. I am etc.

G. C. del Bufalo

I urge you to use the most rigid economy, since we are faced with serious problems. In the next ordinary mail-delivery, I will deal with the other matters that you wrote to me. You acted correctly in accepting the ordinands. Make use of Fr. Vitale who is excellent.

507

December 8, 1821

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
Bassiano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Fr. Giacomo

If we could meet on the 13th of the current month, I would be very delighted. Tell Canon Gnessi that I received his letter and I thank him for it. We will be able to discuss things more in person. With esteem, dear Fr. Giacomo, asking you for your prayers, and extending my particular good wishes to Gnessi, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Terracina, December 8, 1821

508

December 9, 1821
Fr. Andrea Butirroni
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Fr. Andrea¹⁶

Cencio will be there to collect the 15 *scudi*. They are not for me but for a poor cleric for

¹⁵ This letter is without a date, but we derive the date from the postal marking (Terracina December 7) and from a note from Gonnelli who wrote: "Reply sent December 10, 1821".

¹⁶ This letter, too, is without a date, but it is derived from the postal marking (Terracina, December 9). The year is 1821.

whom we will have a cloak made as well as to pay a small debt that he has. Goodbye. Pray for me. I am ...

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo

509

December 12, 1821
Cardinal Giulio Della Somaglia
Bishop of Velletri
Your Eminence

I thank your most reverend Eminence sincerely for the kindness that you have shown in sending a reply to my letter. Everything has been worked out with the excellent rector Maciotti, and you can be certain that, with the grace of the Lord and with the prayers of your Eminence, we shall have reason to be consoled with the institution of the Mission and Retreat House. In a particular way, we will propagate the devotion to the most Precious Blood, a most tender devotion which will inflame every heart to the love of the Crucified. The most reverend bishop of Nocera, along with his companions, after the Mission in Valmontone, will move on to Velletri, and there, he will arrange things with the most reverend Vicar General, for the greater glory of God, to conduct in the first place the retreat for the clergy.

Furthermore, it is my duty, entrusted to me by the Holy Father with regard to the institutions referred to already, to keep your most reverend Eminence informed and to request from you the faculties for me to hear confessions and to preach the divine word, once the Society is settled, and as the needs arise. Another sign of your Eminence's singular kindness will be demonstrated if you would please have your secretary send me a response, for this would be for me an indescribable consolation. The faculty that I requested for myself, I also request for the most reverend bishop of Nocera and his companions. Kneeling at your feet, I wish to ask you also, with this letter, for your pastoral benediction extended to the entire Society and, in general, to all of the Houses already set up in Terracina, Sonnino and Sermoneta. Together with them, I ask you to keep us all present when you offer the unbloody sacrifice of the altar. Please have your reply to this letter sent to Albano. Finally, I assure you that we shall never fail to pray and have others pray for the health and prosperity of your Eminence, for whom I hold such special regard and most intimate veneration. While kissing the sacred purple, most reverend Eminence, I renew myself, in the sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, as

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare Canonico del Bufalo
Missionario Apostolica

Mission and Retreat House in Albano, December 12, 1821

510

December 18, 1821

Monsignor Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus

Dearest Monsignor and my brother

Your recent letter was most gratifying to me and especially so because of the petition from the good people of Fabriano. You have probably received my answer through Cencio in which I said that you should get in contact with Monsignor Bottaoni, brother of the bishop, so as to bring this most important project to a conclusion. However, it is not necessary that you mention my name to the Treasurer, since it is better that I be of greater use later as things progress.

Be assured that the Society is needed in Fabriano.

We have three Houses established already: Terracina, Sonnino, Sermoneta. Within a short time, one in Velletri. I shall not even speak of the good being done; that, you can imagine. I am now on my way to Velletri. Send your letters as usual to my House.

Pray for me, and wishing you every blessing with the upcoming solemnity, I remain wholeheartedly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

December 18, 1821¹⁷

511

December 19, 1821
Cardinal Giulio Della Somaglia
Bishop of Velletri
Your Eminence

I thank you sincerely for your recent letter of the 18th of the current month and, at the same time, I am fulfilling my duty of wishing you a copious abundance of graces and heavenly favors during the recurring solemnity. On that occasion, I ask you especially to make a memento of me at the holy altar, which is the mystical bramble-bush of holy divine love.

My other companions in the ministry have not been able to present themselves to you since they are traveling to other Missions in the Province, and some of them are presently engaged *in exercitio ministerii*.¹⁸ In turn, the Mission Houses are providing help in accordance with the needs.

¹⁷ Fr. Giovanni Merlini notes: "This was written from Albano where he was in the process of preaching the Novena for the feast of Christmas".

¹⁸ In the exercise of the ministry.

In my last letter, I spoke to you of the founding of other Houses, particularly to bring consolation to your spirit which so sincerely loves the greater glory of God, and also so that you would keep them present in your prayers, just as you, in your charity, have assured me.

With respect to the Confraternity of the Stimmate, all that was needed was a word from you for them to be children of obedience. From the moment when the Lord entrusted this flock and this diocese to you, your Eminence has been a witness that I have never spoken a word concerning that matter. With a holy indifference, I have taken care of those things that regarded my work. If, during the past Missions, things were done differently, it was due to the directions of his eminence Mattei, who, quite aware of the differences, gave me his instructions which I then adhered to. I am telling you this because sometimes, through lack of reflection on the part of some, they might mistakenly interpret the reasons that motivated the now-deceased bishop to give me those instructions. Since he set up the Oratory following the pattern of the Caravita, the benefits of which are incalculable, and discovering that the members of our associations, by Apostolic Brief, have the title to be assistants during the Mission, he deduced that it would have been an empty title unless they were joined together in holy concordance to provide assistance for the holy Missions in Velletri. I tell you all this as a matter of history; but, whatever you will, that is also my will, as long as the Lord is glorified. Most reverend eminence, take care of your health and, while kissing the sacred purple, I have the honor to profess, with profound esteem and homage, that I am

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Canonico del Bufalo

Missionario Apostolico

Mission and Retreat House in Albano, December 19

512

December 19, 1821

Fr. Andrea Butirroni

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Fr. Andrea

I have written to Rieti with regard to the Mass chaplaincy. Canon Blosi replied that this must be granted to a relative of the House and must be fulfilled in Rieti. As for your own small interests, I ask you to take charge of them yourself. I am in a sea of work, even though we are not worthy to be God's workers. As you know, Bedoni has died. What do you suppose happened to the deed for the House? If it belongs to us, everything can be worked out with the Pope. I intend to initiate a correspondence with Cristaldi a bit later, for we must begin considering Rome. Indeed, now with so many Mission Houses, it simply is not right that Missionaries coming to Rome should have to bear those expenses on their own. Prayers. Thorns and woes will not be lacking. That is for sure. Happy feastdays. Pray for me. If some worthy priest should come to your attention, keep him in sight. Take care of your health. I am etc.

Affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

On the way to Albano, December 19, 1821

513

December 20, 1821
Fr. Luigi Locatelli
Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon

I thank you wholeheartedly for the concern that you show toward the Missionaries in Sonnino. For my own information, let me know whether you are to be reimbursed. Based on your statements, I am pleased with the selection of the cook. The House in Velletri has been temporarily set up in the summer Seminary building until our locale is readied. The retreat for the public, preached by the bishop of Nocera, will begin on the second feastday. I shall not cease insisting about the Collegio. I wrote to Falsacappa concerning your monastery. I recommend to you the Oratory and the association of St. Aloysius in keeping with our established norms. Please always use your influence to the advantage of the Mission House in Terracina. Do not forget to locate the document of aggregation which you will then send to Fr. Giacomo, and also keep in mind all the other things that we have discussed.

The House in Velletri has kept me a bit occupied. Now it is necessary to hasten the other foundations. After that, we shall see each other again, but it cannot be for this Christmas, which I wish will be a happy one for you, but a bit later. We are agreed. Write to me in Segni where I shall be conducting a Mission. Send there any letters that I may have received in the mail, and do so with diligence. Pray for me who, with all my love, am wholeheartedly

Affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

December 20, 1821

514

December 20, 1821
Mrs. Caterina Ranghiasci
Sanseverino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious lady

I am taking care of your request; tell your uncle that I shall send him a reply within a short time. You can be at ease for you will become a bride of Jesus Christ without doubt. In the meanwhile, read frequently the treatises on perfection written by Rodriguez of the Society of Jesus. I shall not be lengthy in this ordinary mail-delivery. Pray a great deal for me, and, while wishing you every blessing during the upcoming solemnity, believe me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission House in Albano, December 20, 1821

When you must write, send your letter always to Rome. Now, however, wait until I send a reply to your uncle.

515

December 20, 1821
Gonfalonier of Sonnino

Jesus Mary Joseph

Dear Chief Magistrate

I thought that the most reverend bishop would have informed you already that the Lenten preaching would be handled by one of our Missionaries and that the anticipated income would be used to meet the actual expenses. In January, there will be the ordering of foodstuffs. In the meantime, efforts should be made to get the people to grant now one thing, now another, and thus provide the locale as best as possible. It is a matter of setting things up for a small community. If one donates a napkin, for example, another a lamp, etc. very soon all the needs will be met. Doing it this way encourages religious zeal. That is how we have done it in other places. You are a young man and wholeheartedly seek the glory of God. Act with courage and do not be fearful. I shall be in Sonnino as soon as possible. As the proverb says, the goal is achieved by moving ahead steadily.

What I am recommending is indeed that orders be given to the forces that they keep watch over the place at nighttime. I do not know if the post is nearby. A great good would be done for souls, for that alone is what we must attend to, and blessed is he who in this way fashions for himself a special crown in heaven. In time, the locale will be furnished well and will be looked after. Now, what is sufficient is that inhabitable rooms be provided. Presently, I am on my way to Segni. If you find need to write to me, address your letters to me there. I am trusting in your cooperation, and, with esteem, remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission House in Albano, December 20, 1821

516

December 21, 1821
Missionary Fr. Luigi Gonnelli
Pievotorina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon

I give thanks to God for the excellent news that is made known concerning the exact observance of the rule there and the spirit of fervor that exists. I hope that the pastor from Sanseverino has arrived. Later, Tarulli will join that House and after the month of the most Precious Blood he will arrive. Otherwise, write to Lucarelli of Sarnano and then the new members will come.

A thousand greetings and season's wishes to you and all the companions, but give special salutations in particular to Fr. Vitale. I am swamped with work, and taking care of temporal things tends to give one grey hair. On the desk, things assume one look, in practice they are otherwise. But that is no one's fault; for pious works are born amid thorns. A great deal of good work is being done and that is indescribable. Believe me, God is being glorified. Look after the business of that House. Pray for me and again consider me to be

Affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. Four of the Houses have already been opened. Now I am proceeding to open the other two. If fit workers should happen to come to your notice, propose their names to me since the requests are very numerous. Have Nucini take care of his matters with the Treasurer, for I am not able to assume that now. If you wish to write to him from Pievetorina, go right ahead and do so, but presently *non expedit*,¹⁹ since this is quite a serious thing to fret about momentarily.

Have Fr. Vitale urge his friends to join the Society.

517

December 21, 1821

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Bassiano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Albano, December 21

Most illustrious Father

For my own information, I would like to know whether you have decided at least to stay in the House in Sermoneta, thus being able, from time to time, to visit your father. Things can presently be worked out in that way, since you do not wish to go further away. Send your reply to Segni where I am going to be taking care of the other two foundations. Having completed that, I shall go to Sermoneta and then to Bassiano. Give my good wishes to Fr. Gaetano Gnessi and tell him that the income from the Lenten series in Sonnino will be used for the installation of the Mission House, an unexpected circumstance, and that the bishop will write to him about it. If he should accept another preaching duty, in that case, I will go to visit him myself, when he sends me word. One is able to take on more, and surely everything will go along fine. In Sonnino, one of our Missionaries will be doing a bit of good work from the pulpit during Lent. Even Fr. Gaetano can cooperate thus in the greater glory of God by being patient this year if he is not able to carry out the preaching assignment in Sonnino. Who knows, perhaps there will be an opening in Segni. We shall see.

Pray for me, and consider me to be, with esteem,

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

The bishop is very happy that you are joining the Society.

518

December 21, 1821

Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli

Sermoneta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

House in Albano, December 21, 1821

Most beloved Canon

The foundation in Velletri has kept me quite occupied. Now I must tend to the other two.

¹⁹ It is not expedient.

After that, we shall see each other in Sermoneta and we shall do good work. Presently, we must exercise a bit of patience to allow the roots of these new plants to grow deeper. Be cooperative in the one in Sermoneta, where there is that very beautiful Crucifix which is of particular devotion for me. I shall say nothing of what I have written to our companions.

Would you take care of the Lenten preaching in Sermoneta? Let me know your intentions and send your letter to Segni. Our Society is now in need of great help, prayer and action. When you are in the House, you will serve as the president in charge of the observance of the rule. Later you will take care of the month of the most Precious Blood. After that, you will return to your residence, and your duties will be substituted for by Canon Gonnelli. So, at times we must be together, at other times, separated, according to the needs. Perhaps, within a short time, I shall assign you to another small Mission. Encourage the making of retreats, if possible.

Be inflexible with regard to the observance of the rule, for, little things can so easily slip away, as I have noted in Albano, where, however, everything is now on an even keel. I am sending the rules to Fabriano to be printed. I cannot tell you how many requests there have been for foundations. *Rogate Dominum messis ut mittat etc.*²⁰ Contact a certain Fr. Stefano Pizzi and, in behalf of the bishop also, try to interest him in joining the Society, and offer a lot of prayers for this intention. Scruples keep him quite inactive, but he is a holy and learned man. Get him to realize that we cannot be Carthusians. Give him my best wishes. Try to succeed in this effort. With all my affection, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

One day, these new foundations will open up the field to the Kingdom of Naples, which is so greatly needful.

519

December 21, 1821
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

House in Albano, December 21²¹

Dear Camillo

You will be getting help from the Office of Allotments. Offer prayers for a good result. Monsignor Muccioli will be acting industriously for Fabriano. You, too, could write to him and give him encouragement. Shortly, I shall be sending to you a compendium of our rule. You will give it to the printer to look at, find out what the cost will be, send the information to me and then we will decide what to do. As for the young lady who wishes to become a nun, but is poor, she could get in contact with a certain Reverend Bernardino of St. Elpidio, a Capuchin who is located in Fermo, for there may be opportunities open there. If she had been from the nobility, perhaps in Fermo, I might have been able to place her without dowry and only with the covering of the expenses.

²⁰ Ask the Lord of the harvest, that he send etc.

²¹ The date does not indicate the year, but it is evident, by comparison with the letter to Tarulli written on the same day, that the year is 1821.

Ask Cinotti to do what he can for the Congregation. Recommend study to Gentilucci. You have done well in entrusting the man with ringworm to Cartoni. I certainly was unable to do anything for him. Tell Marani that he should have the petition prepared in detail and in precise terms by the pastor. We, then, will do whatever is possible. I shall see the soldier that you know about. Otherwise, direct him to Monsignor Benigni, since I am presently traveling about to look after our foundations. I have learned nothing more precisely from the pastor in Sanseverino. I do not know what he is going to do. I entrusted the matter to Tarulli with whom I have been corresponding. Happy feastdays. A thousand greetings to the most reverend bishop. Pray for me. If I have forgotten something, please remind me. May Jesus fill us with his love. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

520

December 21, 1821

Fr. Francisco M. Pierantonj

Sermoneta²²

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Venerable Fr. Francisco

Finally realized is the foundation in Velletri, located, for the time being, in the summer Seminary building, until the regular site is set up. This work has kept me quite busy. What is of interest now is the disentanglement of the other two; then, we shall look into Sermoneta, *et os ad os loquemur*.²³ I am supplying you with the 10 Sc. to be delivered by Msgr. Santelli. You deserve everything.

The allotment for your sustenance will be issued in January.²⁴ In the meantime, it has been the policy for the people to take care of the first instalment. Also, it has been worked out with the Bishop that the income from the Advent and Lenten series should be used for the expenses of Mission work and for other urgent matters. So, a Missionary will give the Lenten series from a platform. I suspect that the allotment will be less than we imagined; but it will provide sufficiently for the normal needs, have no doubt of it.

You will have companions, but for the present time, for reasons of economy, it is not practical to have any. If you should become acquainted with some priest who is adaptable to the work of our Society, propose his name to me. I do not intend to transfer the Brothers. Find out if they are content, and write to me at Segni. With reference to the third Brother, check with Canon Mancini. Insist on great cleanliness in the kitchen, something that I keep urging in all our communities. Insist on the observance of the rule, and on this matter be inflexible. Activate our pious associations. Borrow books. Pray a great deal.

²² Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Sermoneta (House at) and Velletri (House at).

²³ We shall speak face to face.

²⁴ The allotment for sustenance. This is a reference to the monthly allotment, granted by the Papal Government for the maintenance of the Mission Houses in the Province of Marittima e Campagna. The Saint had hoped that those Houses would be duly endowed with their own sources of income. Instead, as he noted, "the endowment is not set up to meet the demands of the time, but is simply a budgeted monthly allowance". That allotment consisted of 300 *Scudi* a month; the Saint would distribute these *scudi* according to the needs of the various Houses.

Love me in J.C., and I leave you in His Most Sacred Heart, wishing you every blessing of the approaching solemnity, and I am
 Your affectionate servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 (Albano) December 21, 1821

521

December 22, 1821
 Fr. Gregorio Lucarelli
 Sarnano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Gregorio

With our Society facing urgent situations, everyone must offer his services. So, if you should receive an invitation from Pievetorina, please do not refuse it. Your pastor has already been informed. If other permissions are required, they will be obtained. While wishing for you every blessing during the approaching solemnity, Fr. Gregorio, and asking you to pray for me, I remain wholeheartedly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, December 22, 1821

If some priest wishes to dedicate himself to our Society, please propose his name to me.

522

December 22, 1821
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
 Bishop-elect of Agatopoli
 Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus

My dearest in the Lord

I do not in any way at all doubt the sincerity of your sentiments, for which I thank you as much as possible. The Lord grant you a hundredfold blessing in all that you do. I shall await your other letters in Segni, if our letter writing so requires it.

We already have four Houses opened: Terracina, Sonnino, Sermoneta, Velletri. I am going to Segni with the hope of expediting another two. Prayers. The benefits cannot be measured. Requests for foundations are innumerable. Pray, however, *dominum messis ut mittat operarios*.²⁵ Oh, how many needs there are! *Oremus ad invicem*.²⁶

It is very true that the Holy Father empowers those priests who dedicate themselves to the ministry to remain without patrimony *ad triennium*,²⁷ as long as they live in the Mission Houses.

²⁵ That the Lord of the harvest send workers etc.

²⁶ Let us pray for one another.

²⁷ For three years.

That favor, however, applies to the six Houses of the Province of Campagna. This is the reply that you can give freely.

Give my best regards to Monsignor Falsacappa and Bottaoni.

I am, *in Xti Sanguine*,²⁸ while stealing a bit of time quickly, and begging prayers for me your

Humble, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Albano, December 22, 1821

Velletri has kept me busy during these days. There we have the Bishop of Nocera.²⁹

523

December 25, 1821

Fr: Adriano M. Tarulli

Sermoneta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most beloved Canon

Thank you for your holiday greetings, and God knows how greatly I wish that you receive copiously every heavenly favor so that you will become more and more saintly and filled with the love of God so as to be able to instill fervor in the people through the holy Missions and whatever else you promote with zeal. May glory be given to God in all things. Be assured that your letters are forwarded. Once I have completed the Mission in Segni, I will set out to visit the newly-founded Houses. We shall see each other in Sermoneta, *et os ad os loquemur*.³⁰

If you would like to have some of the principles of De Sales with reference to your spiritual life, I shall send them to you. In the meanwhile, I shall recommend you in a particular way to God. Continue repeating *ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima*.³¹ May God refine you for holy Paradise. If it is necessary to conduct the Oratory at night with the help of the priests, it would be a good idea to return home after the Oratory, as is done in Pievetorina, as long as you are accompanied. You can lessen the inconveniences of celebrating the feast by having it a bit sooner than usual, provided that the men are at liberty. For the time being, prudence would require that the rule be observed until I get there. Activate the organization of St. Aloysius for the feastdays, and anything else that is associated with our Institute. Be insistent on full observance of the rule. May the grace of Jesus abound in our hearts. Amen. If ever you men would be able to conduct a shift of Retreats, the Society would be enhanced thereby.

Dear Canon, with esteem and particular affection in Jesus Christ, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Montefortino, while on the way to Segni, December 25, 1821

²⁸ In the blood of Christ.

²⁹ Msgr. Luigi Piervisani: cf. Additional Biographical Data

³⁰ And we will talk face to face.

³¹ Behold in peace my most biting biterness.

524

December 26, 1821
Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni
Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Francesco³²

I am sending 30 Masses to be said at a privileged altar. You have a personal altar a few days of the week, but these will have to be applied by others, and you can take care of those that are free of that requirement. If we were to have a privileged altar in the church, it would have to be requested from the Franciscans. The privileges are varied. It would be a good idea for us to request that, and you could write to Canon Pier Francesco Muti, a Canon in the Vatican Basilica, in my name. I am in a hurry.

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo

The offering for each Mass is 15 *baiocchi*. I shall give you the money when I see you, or, if you wish to have it sooner, write to me.

525

December 29, 1821
Gonfalonier of Anagni

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Chief Magistrate

Thank you for your recent letter. I note in it that you think that the maintenance of the Society could or ought to be the responsibility of the Commune, whereas it is the responsibility of the Government. The Commune was supposed to take care only of the Canon assigned to the place provided by Mr. Trajetto, and, for the time being, it seems to be the one best fit for the purpose. In my opinion, time would have removed even this burden in the absence of any other locale. No one has ever doubted that there would be someone there to assume the task of preaching and everything else.

However, in Anagni, there will never be a place to have Retreats for every group and class of people, no establishment of the nightly Oratory for men based on the Caravita system, no organization or congregation for the young people on feastsdays, but only the benefit of Missions in the area. I say this so that you will be informed of everything. Ask your brother in Terracina what these establishments are. The *Buon Governo* has approved the Canon. Now that you have received these clarifications, I would like to have a new response from you, after which this good work will be set up elsewhere. Most illustrious sir, with distinct esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. I beg you to send a prompt reply which you should address to Carpineto.

³² The letter does not bear a written date. It is derived from the postal marking (Albano, December 26). The year must be 1821. As a matter of fact, in December of 1822, Fr. Pierantoni was President of the House, not the Superior.

526

January 2, 1822

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci
Ancona

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Anacleto

Oh how indebted I am to you for your most singular goodness towards me in your letter of the 18th of this past December. *Doiminus retribuet pro me*,³³ and God knows what blessings I wish for you for the coming year and ever so many more to the greater glory of God.

I know nothing about the parish priest in Montetfalco. How is it that we have never met! Presently I am with our Father Biagio on the way to the Province of Campagna for the founding of six Mission Houses. At any rate, write to the parish priest that in whatever way I can be of service to him, all he has to do is send me a line or two to my house in the Palazzo Savelli and it will be forwarded to me. I know that you have better supporters, but nevertheless I am prepared, even though quite far away, to help you in everything that is related to your very excellent brother. In the meantime, asking you for your prayers, I remain, wholeheartedly and with esteem

Your humble servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo
Mis. Ap.

Segni, 2nd of 1822

527

January 2, 1822
Mr. Luigi Fuschi
Norma

Jesus Mary Joseph

My dearest Luigi

When I get to Sermoneta, I will come willingly to Norma to set up an Oratory. Offer prayers for me. While asking also for the prayers of others in behalf of several projects pertaining to the glory of God, with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
Mis. Ap.

Segni, 2nd of 1822

528

January 2, 1822
Fr. Luigi Gonnelli
Pievotorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

³³ The Lord will repay in my behalf.

Dearest Canon

Here I am sending a reply to your letter; continue sending yours to Rome. With regard to the Retreat to the nuns and being the extraordinary confessor, *nulla osta*,³⁴ since one of our titles is that of giving retreats, and in giving retreats it is necessary to sow and then reap. If you were only the ordinary confessor, that could not be done at all. But, one must always take along a brother in service. I, however, shall request the Archbishop to reserve everything for spring when the new men will be assigned, for reasons of economy in making the trips, to fill the places open in the Mission Houses, and, in that event you are to keep me advised. Otherwise, in your task of maintaining the observance, get the help of Frs. Angelino and Lucarelli from Sarnano. I believe that since they are approved by the diocese in one place, they are in a position to hear confessions *ubique*.³⁵

I am enclosing the letter of request for the new foundation. You are to send a reply in my name and discuss everything with the person involved and extend my best wishes. Inform him, however, that the expenses for the inspection of the site for the foundation will be incumbent upon the new installation. Perhaps it would be better to conclude matters in the Curia first, and after that have a letter sent to me in due form, and then it would be possible to make the trip there.

Just what you will be able to obtain from Rome I am not able to say. I certainly will not be able to take part in that. Note, with regard to the priest who is seeking solitude and wishes to get to know the spirit of the Society, he could spend eight days in the House in Pievetorina for a retreat, and he would thus have every single detail before his very eyes. Otherwise, send him a summary of the spirit of our Society.

Let me know whether Ledi has arrived. I say this because if he decides on our Society, I would like to send him elsewhere, and then make other provisions there. I am, however, reliant on your counsel. With regard to Piersanti's expenses, in keeping with the rule, that will be the responsibility of the House. The only thing that I would ask is that the Canon, out of kindness, would be charitable to the Society, since he is not a poor man. You might also mention to him that in the future he should look after his health and nothing more need be said. Pray for me. Goodbye.

G. C. del Bufalo

Segni, 2nd of 1822

529

January 6, 1822
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

Here is the rule that I have been wanting to have printed, but the copyist made several mistakes which compelled us to have the corrections made, for the sake of exactness. Now, it will be

³⁴ No entrance.

³⁵ Wherever.

up to you to be kind enough to have them copied again with exactness and correct spelling. Meanwhile, consult with the printer to see what the cost will be for having 100 copies. Write and let me know, and we will take it from there.

The Director of Allotments sent me a reply concerning the grants to the Marche, that the Treasurer has made other decisions, which I am not aware of, and about which I was unable to do anything. Presently, I am giving a Mission and I do not know what decisions were made. If you will inform me, I will do whatever I can, even though I am far away.

I have recommended the Fabriano matter to Monsignor Muccioli and he will not fail to get things moving. With regard to the man with the ringworm, I am so very, very sorry that I was unable to help him. Urge Canon Cartoni to see whether he can get him settled in some inn. I beg you for your prayers. Continue to send your letters, as usual, to Rome. Have as many people as you can recommend me to God. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Segni, January 6

530

January 8, 1822

Mr. Luigi Fuchi

Norma

Dear Luigi

Perhaps after I am finished in Carpineto, I may be able to come to Norma. We shall see. Pray for me. I thank you for your letter. Do whatever good you can for God. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Carpineto, January 8, 1822

531

January 8, 1822

Fr. Francisco Pierantonj

Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Dear Fr. Francisco

Thank you for your letter. We shall see each other after the Mission at Carpineto. I ask you to

prepare a room for me that is a bit more airy, since you are already aware of my physical condition.³⁶

We shall discuss everything. The selection of the church, with which I am well acquainted, is adaptable for our work. However, take good care of our property, the church and its surroundings.³⁷ The measure taken by the Government there, instead of providing police protection as they first promised, does not alter our policies. I am wholeheartedly, with greetings to the Companions and begging you for prayers, in a hurry

your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del. Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Carpineto,³⁸ January 8, 1822

I have written to the Treasurer to request the allotments, and I have suggested the apportionments to the respective Superiors, etc. With holy impatience, I am awaiting the answer.

532

January 11, 1822

Monsignor Luigi Piervisani

Bishop of Nocera

Velletri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Monsignor

With all my heart I thank you for the devotions that you were pleased to send me, *et Dominus retribuet pro me.*³⁹ On Sunday, the 20th, this Mission in Carpineto will come to a conclusion, and, on Monday or Tuesday, Fr. Biagio will be coming there to Velletri. Tell Marchetti that the order must not be delayed, and that I have again received new assurances. A thousand best wishes to Fr. Luigi Mosconi and Fr. Pietro Moroni. I would be doing an injustice to your zeal if I were to recommend that foundation there ever more and more in the evident necessity which it is facing in Velletri. At times, one might be prone to say *cor meum dereliquit me,*⁴⁰ but then *Dominus autem assumpsit me.*⁴¹ May the lives of the Servants of the Lord be our guide. Pray a great deal for me, as I kiss your hands, and, most illustrious and reverend lord, consider me to be, with the fullness of esteem, gratitude and particular affection in the Lord

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Carpineto, 11th of 1822

P. S. Tell Marchetti that I will not be writing to him now since I have already addressed one of my letters to him in another ordinary mail-delivery.

³⁶ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Air, Gaspar's Need For

³⁷ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Sermoneta (beginning of foundation)

³⁸ *Carpineto*. Cf. Geographical Data

³⁹ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

⁴⁰ My hearts forsakes me.

⁴¹ The Lord, however, lifted me up.

533

January 14, 1822
 Mr. Luigi Fuschi
 Norma
 Dearest Luigi

Next Monday, I hope to be in Norma so that I can get to Sermoneta by the evening. I will arrive with the mounts and the footmen from Carpineto. So, it would be good that two mounts be ready there in order to get to Sermoneta, and perhaps also footmen. I do not know, we shall see. On the way, I shall do some preaching; we could have a meeting of the brethren. To spare temporal expenses, I shall take the usual fare prepared during Missions. I am etc.

G. C. del Bufalo

Carpineto, January 14

If Norma were to set up a hospice, I would have the Missionaries stay in Norma for the summer and in Sermoneta during the winter. You are to write to Fr. Giorgi in Bassiano and inform him that I will be in Sermoneta Monday evening, but that I will be in a hurry. So, if we are to have a discussion, he should be there then. Also inform my companions in Sermoneta, and let them know that on Tuesday evening I shall have to be in Sezze. So, they should prepare a couple of mounts as well as have footmen readily available. I shall stay in Sermoneta Monday evening and on Tuesday up to dinnertime, then, after dinner, on to Sezze.

534

January 15, 1822
 Fr. Luigi Locatelli
 Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Father Luigi

I have written in behalf of the Collegio. Thank you for your letters. If there is a brother in service available, as I hear, I will recommend him to you. *Caetera os ad os loquemur.*⁴² With esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Carpineto, January 15

Within a few days we will be seeing each other. In the meantime, look after the Oratory.

535

January 1822
 Colonel Lodovico Pecci
 Carpineto
 Dear Colonel⁴³

⁴² We will talk about the rest face to face.

⁴³ The letter does not bear a date. It was written during the Mission that the Saint preached in Carpineto from

Do not be surprised if the Father Prior was obliged to reside in another house, for because of certain reasons it was not feasible for him to stay in S. Pietro. When a priest comes, I would like to know whether, for greater accessibility to the central church, you would be able to have him stay in your house. Otherwise, provisions will be made in another way. Perhaps this will not be necessary, but I wanted to take precautions. With esteem, I remain

Humbly and devotedly yours
G. C. del Bufalo

536

January 1822
 Colonel Lodovico Pecci
 Carpineto
 Most esteemed Colonel⁴⁴

The confessors from Segni were not able to come. But I am grateful to you for the arrangements that you made.

I recommend the bearer of this letter to your charity, if you are able to help him. With particular esteem, and in a great hurry, I am

Devotedly and obligingly yours
G. C. del Bufalo
 Miss Ap.

537

January 21, 1822
 Colonel Lodovico Pecci
 Carpineto
 Dear Colonel

I ask you please, from the amount enclosed, to give 15 *baiocchi* to Rio Uberti, 10 *baiocchi* to Anna Teresa Petricola, the widow, 50 *baiocchi* to a certain Cicco (I believe his name is Francesco) Mancini, husband of the daughter of Antonio Sossi. I shall be awaiting your reply by the time I get to Acuto. Please excuse this inconvenience. Dear Colonel, pray for me for I am

Humbly, devotedly and obligingly yours
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.

538

January 27, 1822
 Fr. Giuseppe Leonardi
 Rome
 Dear Father Giuseppe

I am begging you urgently to take care of the week in Palazzo in place of Canon Moscatelli, whom I need in the House in Albano. He will replace you for a week during Lent. In view of our friendship of long standing, I hope that you will not deny me this favor and, if necessary, to inform

the 7th to the 20th of January, 1822.

⁴⁴ Cf. The footnote to the previous.

Monsignor Maggiordomo for whom this information may be necessary.

I seize this occasion, dear Fr. Giuseppe, to repeat with esteem that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Velletri, January 27⁴⁵

P. S. In case you are not able to fulfill this, try to find another companion; but, because of the arrangements for other Missions, please do not deprive me of Canon Moscatelli.

539

January 22, 1822

Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli

Gavignano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

Your letter of the 25th of last month was exceedingly pleasing to me. I thank God for the abundant blessings on the apostolic ministry that is being exercised there, and I pray that they will be increased even more as a reward to the docility of the people of Gavigano as well as to the clergy who, with zeal, are promoting the Mission. Try to catch one or the other for our society, and, in particular make every effort to get Trajetto to come to a decision, and give him my warmest regards.

I am enclosing a letter for Father Bassotti, to whom you will also extend my best wishes. Tell him that it is the response to his request to the Sacred Penitentiary.

The route that you are to take to get to Terracina, where you are eagerly sought after (may it be to the glory of God) is the one that goes through Frosinone. Thus, as you will learn from those who are acquainted with it, you are really not too far from that city. If you should stay over night in Frosinone, all you have to do is ask for a certain Canon Gaspari, a close friend of mine, and you will be lacking nothing. Or, you could contact the Liguori Fathers where I will pay my respects, within a short time, while passing through Frosinone or quite nearby. Also, Father Bassotti has been lodged there.

It is the will of God that you conduct the Lenten preaching in Terracina. The House is presently set up in the episcopal quarters. I recommend that you enforce the observance of the Rule and in particular to look after the education of the people involved in the fishing trade. Since he is one of the older men in our Society, you should keep an eye on the good Father Torribio, who is assigned as the President of the House because of his stability. You will, however, serve as the Superior of the House. We certainly shall see each other in Terracina; we will converse at length, keeping in mind the direction of our common father. I am totally confident in God. When you must write to me, address your letters to Rome, and they will not fail to forward them. Get the missionary staff and the discipline from Father Bassotti and bring them along with you to Terracina. Tell him that after he is finished in Gavigano, if he wishes to come to see me and help me in the Mission, he should come to Acuto in the diocese of Anagni, just a short distance from the City. (In secret, I say:

⁴⁵ The year, very probably, is 1822. In fact, as can be seen from the letter of January 30 to Pierantoni and the letter of February 3, 1822 to Cristaldi, St. Gaspar, after the Mission in Carpineto, visited the House in Velletri, then the ones in Sermoneta, Terracina, etc. also, the House in Velletri was opened in December of 1821 and closed in October of 1822.

do not force him) *quod Domino placet fiat*.⁴⁶ If he should come, he need not bring the missionary staff nor the discipline. *Ora, jube, vale*.⁴⁷

May the Lord make us saints and one day unite us in his most blessed kingdom. You know with what bonds God has united us. Father Torribio is thoroughly imbued with Albertini. He was his spiritual son. Pray, and have as many others as possible do the same for me. I have made the visitation of all of the Houses that have been erected. Those tender plants are continuing to set deeper roots. I learned in Sonnino that Father Bassotti did not spend a great deal for the trip to Gavignano. I hope that, in a prudent manner, he can be properly reimbursed for what he did spend. Mosconi will handle the Lenten preaching in Sermoneta.

Your devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Anagni, 28th of 1822

540

January 30, 1822

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Bassiano

Jesus Mary Joseph

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father

The remembrance of you is always most dear to me because I know how much Monsignor Albertini wished to have you dedicate yourself to our Society. The present bishop is not opposed to it, in fact, he has written about it. So, why delay? To facilitate matters, if you wish, you could even select, for the time being, Sermoneta or Terracina or any other House that we have in the Province. In reference to vocations, you know what the angelic doctor taught. I repeat, why delay? Would you like to come with me on a Mission in the meantime? Write to me, and address your letters to Rome. It will be sufficient to put Apostolic Missionary on the letter and it will be forwarded to me wherever I may be, since I do not, at present, have a permanent address. However, I am always somewhere within the Province.

Now we come to Bassiano. Let me know whether Bassiano would like to have a Mission, and whether the means are available, for they are not numerous. Then, for the travel arrangements, some mounts will be needed; the food is very frugal, so, by getting the leading families together, things can be worked out. You give me your instructions. If you are acquainted with other priests interested in our work, urge them to join our Society since *messis multa*.⁴⁸ Pray for me, and in the hearts of Jesus and Mary, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Anagni, by way of Acuto, 30th of 1822

⁴⁶ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

⁴⁷ Pray, entreat, be steadfast.

⁴⁸ A bountiful harvest.

541

January 30, 1822
Fr. Francesco M. Pierantonj
Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Dear Fr. Francesco

By the time you receive this letter, I hope that Fr. Luigi Mosconi will have arrived. I have told him to assume the office of President, according to what we have agreed upon. He shall conduct the Lenten series and everything else should be to your liking. Just between us, to tell you in secret, I have had to struggle a bit to get him to come. He does not want to leave Velletri. In order to soften things, I pointed out to him all the spiritual reasons that I could think of, and he promised to go there together with the cook from Albano, the successor to Gaetano who will then move on to Velletri. The aforementioned Mosconi thinks that after he gives the Lenten series he will be returning to Velletri. As far as I am concerned, I assure you that if, by using your powers of persuasion, you could succeed in holding him there in Sermoneta, I would be very happy; even more so, since he has only those gifts of preaching and hearing confessions, but, by nature, he is most difficult and pusillanimous. Each one has his own gifts from God.

Matters will take a turn for the good in Velletri since it is being directed now by Merlini (let us keep this between us). In divine mercy, I hope so. Deal with Mosconi in such a way as though nothing had taken place between us. So, when you have gotten him to agree, then, write to me. Let him know that in the Hospice, when all the rooms are being occupied, the Holy Retreats will begin on a small scale. During the summer, if necessary, I shall get permission to occupy the fortress which stands high above the city. If you agree, keep all these matters in mind. Then, when Mancini leaves, I shall send a third man. It is difficult to do any more than this, for during Lent we have an endless number of Missions scheduled. Notwithstanding that, we shall see what can be done. I maintain that more than three permanent men there would be unfeasible, you understand, during the height of the Mission season.

Yet, we shall see what can be done. I shall assist with the apostolic ministry when I stop off. I shall have Msgr. Muccioli in Rome speak to the Capuchin Fathers. In short, I am not forgetful of all that we have agreed upon. With reference to the use of the disciplines and the missionary staffs, conduct yourself as I have directed you. In your letters to Cencio, always put: to be forwarded to the house of Canon Gaspare del Bufalo, Mis. Ap.; otherwise, I do not know if he will get them.

In regard to Fr. Mancini, either he will make a decision to join us, possibly after the Lenten series in Segni; or, otherwise, return to his own home. You are aware of our policies. The Gonfalonier told me that if he is to remain there, they would want the House to call in a third man from outside. If he makes the decision to join us, he could, if he so wishes, remain for the time being in residence in Sermoneta. Urge him, however, to renounce his Canonry. I have spoken to the Bishop about him, and he told me that whenever God should call him, he would not be opposed to it.

Activate well our associations according to the rules of our printed booklet⁴⁹ and make an effort to get the Fratelli to work for the extirpation of blasphemy. It would be a good idea if a priest and a layman were to dress in the garb of the Fratelli; for example, Canon Calleri, the Canon who is

⁴⁹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Method of the Missions

now only a deacon, etc. Recommend their own regulations to the Sisters of Charity and anything else that charity might suggest, with the association of the Fratelli helping out, if necessary.

As long as the rounds of Missions continue, I shall arrange the general Communion as follows: on the 1st Sunday, the Sisters of Charity; on the 2nd, the Daughters of Mary; on the 3rd, the Association of St. Aloysius; on the 4th, the Fratelli of the Oratory. However, you can arrange things as you see best. Tell Mosconi to activate the Association of the Clergy, for the Bishop will not ordain them if they do not show certification of being a member of it. You can form a list of them, etc. The regulation calls for a short spiritual discourse and a testing in chant and liturgical ceremonies, according to Roman usage. Write to Canon Gonnelli, brother to our Gonnelli, to obtain a creed from the Missionaries of St. Vincent de Paul.

All the Mission Houses have received 50 *Sc.*, including Velletri. You will get 30 *scudi* from Cencio, and please send me a receipt for this. You have already obtained 20 from me. I have mentioned to you that you should reimburse me for only ten of them now, and the other ten later on. But, speaking to you in holy confidence, the re-opening of the house at Terracina and the departure of the Bishop of Nocera, have placed me in financially embarrassing difficulties. Still, if you need ten more *scudi*, in addition to the thirty, write to me for them. Somehow or other, I shall manage. You deserve every consideration. I do not know how to tell you how much I would like to see you freed of all worries!

I presume that you have a copy of the rules. So, *Vigila, in omnibus labora, etc. etc.*⁵⁰ Pray for me, and with esteem and attachment in J.C., *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,⁵¹ I am, Fr. Francesco, your

Anagni per Acuto⁵² January 30, (1822)

P. S. I urge you to observe the Sanctified Carnival and Communion on the last Thursday of Carnival time.

P. S. We shall soon have our 5th foundation. Encourage Fr. Stefano Pizzi to join the Society, as well as Fr. Giorgi from Bassiano. A huge number of petitions are being made for our Houses.

(On the first facing, at the top, left, and on a slant:)

I would like you to put under surveillance the young women's dressing habits, as well as the teachers who are in charge of the young girls; also, look into the matter of beds. Fr. Stefano is well: perhaps he will be able to make an offering, etc. A priest, sent by the Bishop, will come for a Retreat. I ask you to welcome him. Mosconi is not equipped for doing certain things. He is an excellent man, but in his own line.

[on the fourth facing (outside), near the address:]

In Sonnino I have discovered that in every neighborhood they have set up the image of Mary, and all the inhabitants in the vicinity cooperate in keeping a lamp burning at each of the shrines: this also lights up the whole town.

January 31, 1822

Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli

⁵⁰ Be watchful in all things, etc., etc.

⁵¹ Who redeemed us in his blood.

⁵² *Acuto*. Cf. Geographical Data

Gavignano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

Make the announcement for 7 a.m. With particular care, establish well the devotion to the Sorrowful Mother, and the Pious Union of the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ which you will found, you will render evermore stable. Then, send me the notification of the Masses and let me know how our accounts stand. *Ora pro me et Dominus sit nobiscum.*⁵³ I am in a hurry, etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Acuto, January 31, 1822

543

February 2, 1822

Mrs. Caterina Ranghiasi

Sanseverino

Jesus Mary Joseph

Illustrious madame

In the course of this mail-delivery, I have written to your uncle and I told him that he should indeed get in touch with the Superioress of the Seven Dolor sisters, and everything can be worked out. You are to continue to nourish your vocation and do not be doubtful of the loving assistance of God *qui non deserit sperantes in se.*⁵⁴ Meditate frequently on the passion and death of Jesus Christ, keep on reading de Sales. Inform your uncle that he should favor me in writing with the matter that I entrusted to him, and add that if the Barnabites should not return, he should not forget about the plan to have a Mission House. Pray a lot for me, and believe me to be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Acuto, while giving a Mission, February 2, 1822

544

February 3, 1822

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most beloved Monsignor

Here I am with the report of my trip, reserving to myself the relating of other things in another letter of mine. As I indicated to you quickly, in Terracina, everything was set up in the episcopal environs. I realize that with regard to retreats, it will be necessary to abide by the instructions just as, for example, it is being done in the Collegio Romano. More will be done as God so wills. In the meantime, let us give thanks to the Lord for what is being done.

⁵³ Pray for me and may the Lord be with you.

⁵⁴ Who does not desert those who put their hope in him.

In Sonnino, I found people who arouse me to speak with compassion because of their response to the many challenges; they are truly concerned with the work of our Society. The Missionaries occupy an apartment adapted in such a way as though they were living in a hospice, with full liberty to observe our rules. One cannot describe the common feeling of pleasure shown by the clergy as well as the people, and good work is being accomplished.

In Sermoneta, they reside in the Capuchin Fathers' hospice, abandoned by them for the time being, and there are also a few rooms that are usable for retreatants, though in a small number. Already some people have begun to make a private retreat there, and so some good is being done. The buildings where, in due time, the Society will have its own location, are being prepared as best as possible so that they will be fit for the entire range of activities of our Institute.

In Velletri I have had some meetings in which I see that the Society will be secure. I discovered a change of attitude on the part of the Maestre Pie, but, without upsetting them, we shall work things out as follows: we will proceed to live in the small convent, formerly of the Vienna Fathers. With regard to the question of retreats, when the summer seminary is free, the retreats will be given there, and *viceversa*, when the seminarians go to the higher locale, the retreats will be given in the winter seminary. Time will bring about improvement in these matters. However, one cannot repeat too often the urgency that exists for having this foundation. With the departure of the bishop of Nocera, which came about quite unexpectedly, I have brought along with me one of our finest men to look after the foundation, as well as others as helpers. Thus, once they have set a firm foundation and by maintaining a regular correspondence with me, it appears that there will be no further reason to be fearful of a successful outcome. I have noticed this in the letters that I keep receiving, shortly after having left there. In certain cases, if one were to seek to achieve the optimum, then one would not achieve even the good. The locale that I am speaking of is in the care of a Canon for 24 *scudi*, and they have already found someone who will meet that responsibility.

In Anagni, where we are no further along than the talking stage, I discovered that right there on the main square there is a very beautiful church with a few rooms available, belonging to a Confraternity. I mentioned to the bishop already that the Society should be assigned there. As for the retreats, some way will be figured out to handle them, and that is what we are planning. There are some convents where the small number of religious causes us to hope that one or the other, as the situation matures, can be made fit for retreatants. If not, certainly there will be no difficulty in finding another building. Presently, the bishop is obtaining faculties from the Sacred Congregation of Bishops so that the Confraternity's locale will be turned over to us; he points out that the Confraternity is not capable of supporting both the cult and the building. However, they will remain there *in spiritualibus*,⁵⁵ something that will not disturb us at all. In fact, we insist that they continue to do good work.

While this matter is being brought to a conclusion, the requests for a Mission from the people of Acuto have been such that I am going there for a brief Mission, even though the number of people is small. I, who internally am a lover of solitude, cannot express to you the consolation I feel in being there. When I was in Velletri, on occasions, I had to travel back to Albano in order to restore equilibrium among the members and to provide a rest period for those who had labored *in vinea Domini*⁵⁶ during the Missions, as well as to send out those who had rested. While there, I had to

⁵⁵ In spiritual matters.

⁵⁶ In the vineyard of the Lord.

leave some money on loan. Likewise in Velletri, we had to work out economic matters the best way possible, and calculating everything together including the bishop's trips which were paid for by the money that was withdrawn, it is not surprising that one should feel the deficit immediately, especially with respect to the basic things. I shall say nothing about Terracina. At any rate, God will provide. I have decided to regulate things as follows: each House will get 50 *scudi*; you realize that it could not be otherwise. The 50 *scudi* remaining from the original 250 (including the 50 *scudi* for Velletri) will be used to extinguish debts and take care of incidental things, concerning which I have already spoken to you. With the monthly subsidy of February, things will be balanced out even better. Pray for me. I, a miserable thing, will not fail to do the same for you. Most reverend excellency, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Anagni, by way of Acuto, February 3, 1822

P. S. Segni does not have a church and interior locale available. It is true that there is one a bit distant from the inhabited area, but outside of town. It will be looked into later.

545

February 6, 1822

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail etc.

My dear Monsignor

I am writing in a hurry. I made an error in saying that I had the order correct. I checked with Mr. Trezza and I left the collection with Fr. Torribio Lenta, the President of our Society in Terracina, with the necessary instructions, as mentioned in another of my letters. Full of esteem, but still in a hurry, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Acuto, February 6

The petition is from a poor priest who, before my departure, begged me to give him hope of receiving some money on account in Rimini.

546

February 9, 1822

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

On my trip to Sonnino I got a petition from the secretary of that commune and, noting that he is requesting something in keeping with what the government has declared, it seemed harsh for me to deny him my recommendation to your most reverend excellency. Mr. Luigi Lampreda, the host for our Missionaries, has presented to me another petition which I likewise recommend to your

charity. It seems to me that what he is asking for is of little importance, but perhaps he will be consoled. I can assure you that the attention shown to my companions by their host has truly been very edifying. In this regard, I inform you that I have found still another family that has offered lodging for the Missionaries, until the brigandry is quieted down. I gave Fr. Luigi Achille the responsibility of balancing out whatever was most expedient *perpensis omnibus*.⁵⁷ Finally, I am enclosing a memorandum in behalf of Canon Betti. With respect to this, I would like to have, as soon as possible, a rescript from the Holy Father, since the renunciation of his canonry is indispensable for the coming Lent. With the deepest emotions of my heart, I beg you to obtain this favor.

The Holy Father has granted to the Houses in the Province of Campagna the faculty of being without a patrimony *ad triennium*,⁵⁸ while continuing to live in the Houses recently founded. It should be an easy matter to obtain an extension for a single individual, even though he is living in Giano, and sometimes is moving about elsewhere. In the meantime, I have managed to get for him a small chaplaincy of Masses from S. Maria Maggiore, but when one is dealing with a patrimony as such, one needs time to see what one can work out with the bishops. I hope to get another one for him from some prince, but I realize, I repeat, that these are things that cannot be counted on. At any rate, time will bring things to a fuller maturity. Please send the rescript to me, unless you prefer to send it directly to Giano.

Speaking of Giano, I hope that you have not forgotten about that other petition in behalf of that House, dealing with the Masses and arrear-payments. Canon Betti writes to me that he is very grateful for the subsidy that you will provide to those desiring to become nuns. If he, once he has his own subsidy, would be able to get what he has implored through your assistance, then he himself would be able to supply the Monastery with the remainder of the dowry; without interest, which is something morally impossible to find, and he would be in perfect tranquility and peace. And the sisters, namely those who are becoming nuns and the Canon himself will never forget the very special obligation they have to you, to whom God has granted such special gifts for his greater glory. To him we must always direct the thoughts and affections of our hearts. If you can, please do everything possible to bring consolation as soon as possible to this petitioner.

With efficacious zeal, I urge Canon Muccioli to see to the holding of a shift of retreats for the barbers; this is usually done at the beginning of Lent since workers are more easily available then. He knows very well what it required to resume this practice, and God knows the need that exists for it, as well as the good work that is being promoted. We shall treat of other things *ad alias*.⁵⁹ Take good care of yourself, do not overwork, pray for me. Most reverend excellency, let us always remain in the hearts of Jesus and Mary; with particular affection, not disjoined from my feelings of esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Acuto, February 9, 1822

⁵⁷ Weighing everything.

⁵⁸ For three years.

⁵⁹ For another time.

547

February 9, 1822
Colonel Lodovico Pecci
Carpineto

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Lodovico

Receipts are not necessary for the small restitutions. I thank you wholeheartedly for the kindness that you show me, and you can be certain of my most extensive correspondence. I look forward to the occasions when I will be able to send you a reply with the facts. I recognize, however, my own inadequacy.

Let us be united in the hearts of Jesus and Mary; with each passing hour, let us seek higher perfection through which we close our eyes to the present, fleeting life so as to reopen them to the splendors of eternity.

Most illustrious sir, with particular esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Acuto, February 9, 1822

548

February 11, 1822
Fr. Francesco M. Pierantonj
Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J. C.

Dear and beloved Fr. Francesco

You probably have received another letter of mine and I imagine that Fr. Luigi Mosconi has already arrived there. Make an effort (let this be kept between us), as though on your own, to get him to be the President of that House. God knows how much I would like to see you at ease and peaceful. Without any blame on my part, sometimes a few things are delayed.

The people of Sermoneta should have sense to recognize that the various Missions keep our members very much occupied. As the third Companion for that House, one of our new men is to come from the House at Pievetorina, and he will be of great assistance to you. After Easter, we can think about a fourth man.

We shall see each other in Lent. Pray for me. May the Lord increase evermore in you the zeal for his glory and may he shower you with all those blessings that I wish for you.

I am in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

(Acuto) February 11, 1822

I want you to know that Fr. Luigi has not been able to get out of me a single hint of being the President, for various reasons which we will discuss in person. If you think it to be a good idea, have someone speak to him and convince him to stay on there in that House, instead of returning to Velletri. I have written to Rome concerning everything else that we have agreed upon *in omnibus*.

With respect to the cutting of the firewood, discuss it with the Vicar General Ricelli, both for the permission required as well as for everything else. Pray for me. As far as the Associations are concerned, you have our printed booklet. In reference to the rules for the Sisters of Charity, if you have not already received them from Merlini, I shall send them to you. All you have to do is drop me a reminder in one of your letters. The Directory for the Clergy⁶⁰ will be mailed to you at the beginning of Lent. Feel free to command me in any way.

549

February 11, 1822
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Camillo

Oh how pleased I am to see your handwriting; and how greatly do I love you in the Lord. With regard to the man with ringworm, nothing could be concluded. God will surely accept our good intentions. I do not know precisely when my return to Rome will be. The new foundations are keeping me quite occupied. But how wonderful is the good that is being accomplished! Write again concerning Fabriano to Monsignor Muccioli, the President of the Archconfraternity, and mention to him the situation concerning the Confraternity of Suffrage, if I remember correctly.

I will check again with respect to the endowments for the Marca. Expedite the printing of the 100 copies. Within a few days, I will send the seven *scudi*. Once everything is finished, I ask you to use the greatest haste. Send all the materials, addressing them to Mr. Vincenzo Severini, to be forwarded to the house of Canon Gaspare del Bufalo, Apostolic Missionary, Palazzo Savelli, near Piazza Montanara, Rome. I hope that the printer will be able to preserve the composition. Otherwise, patience. Recommend to the person who corrects the composition to be very exact, and if our copyist might have left out a word, the editor should supply one. It is understood that it will correspond to the sense of the sentence. Offer prayers for me. Always send your letters to Rome. Tell Fr. Bufera that the endowments for the Marca will be dependent on his efforts. With esteem and affection, and recommending our devotion and pious works to your prayers, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

February 11, 1822

Ask the printer whether he has any copies of the Month of the Precious Blood, and what cost there is for one hundred copies of the Chaplet etc.

You spoke to me about the title page. It seems to me that he has one. Otherwise, place the following: Guidelines for Mission and Retreat Houses under the title of the Most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and the patronage of St. Francis Xavier.

⁶⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Directory for the Clergy.

550

February 13, 1822
 Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
 Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

What will you say about my long silence? But perhaps you know about our new foundations and so you will be able to forgive me. Tell the members of the so-called company of the dead Christ that I have sent the petition that Canon Ottaviani entrusted to me to the Secretary of the Treasury, but that in matters such as these, it is a good idea to have their bishop submit his reasons which could support the good work that I wholeheartedly desire for these fervent brethren.

I hope that the pious organizations are flourishing and in this way you may weave for yourself an ever more glorious crown for heaven. Pray, and have many others pray, for me. Whenever a priest appears to be interested in our work, write to me in Rome, where any letters to me should be addressed. I would suggest that the Oblate nuns, insofar as it is possible, wear a red sash just as is done by the members of our Pious Union under the title of the Blood of Jesus Christ. I leave all to the judgment of their excellent foundress. Has the collegiate church been restored?

Now for your inquiry. I will express to you my own opinion and you can then also find out what Fr. Giovanelli thinks about it. With regard to the condition laid down in the deed, I would remove it at the opportune time which God will make known. With respect to the eight per cent, confer with the bishop to find out how pious places were regulated at the time, and pay attention to his opinion, since the case that will be presented will be under the assumed name Titius. Furthermore, if you would like to get the sentiment of the Penitentiary, you would have to send me the query anew so that there will be no mistake about the terms. In the meantime, let us become saints. Pray for me and believe me to be, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Santa Maria di Pugliano, February 13, 1822

P. S. We are drawing close to the feast of Xavier in March. A thousand good wishes *ad omnes nominatim*, etc.⁶¹ Do not forget about Canon Betti's sister, as soon as there is an opening with the Oblates.

⁶¹ To all by name.