

St. Gaspar's Letters

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June 7, 1822

Mrs. Caterina Ranghiasi

Rome

Most illustrious lady

I was delighted to receive your letter and to learn of your retreat in the monastery. In case things do not work out there for the present, you might consider Tor de Specchi. Finally, you could also keep in view the Ursulines or the Carmelites in Trastevere, S. Antonio Abate. Prayers and patience. You will need to select your spiritual director, and that could be Father Giuseppe Mugnaj, at least for the time being, so that you can ask him for his assistance. In case he is unable to do so, try to get a certain Fr. Pacini, Fr. Andrea Butirroni, Monsignor Santelli, or Canon Galli. These are the ones that I presently have in mind. You will have to get the Cardinal's approval. With my visit to Rome coming up, whatever you may want to relate to me can be done as I flit around here and there like a bird.

At any rate, I shall not fail to pay a visit to the monastery. Be courageous in adhering to the resolution you have made. God is with you, so what do you have to fear? Read Rodriguez often as well as the works of St. Francis de Sales, especially his volumes of letters. Give my best wishes to Monsignor and let me know, in a letter of yours addressed to me in Benevento, when he will be available in Rome. I have a very precise necessity to write to him. Pray a lot for me. A thousand greetings to the Mother Superior who surely will do all she can so as not to lose you. I would not expect you to have any particular difficulty with regard to the lease; in my opinion, there should be enough. Pray a lot for me. As often as you can, remain in the company of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. I hope that my return there will be delayed only for a short time, but I cannot presently be more precise. I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Terracina, June 7, 1822

602

June 8, 1822

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Ever since the 6th, the carriages have arrived here from Benevento, and, according to the instructions that they have received, it was agreed that they be subsidized. I should not be distressed by such eventualities, for under the supposition that I would find the passport here, they had already been given orders by the officials of the Delegation. So, now, I am sending word immediately to the most reverend Delegate so that he does not become upset. I likewise express my regrets to your most reverend excellency since the delay is in no way due to you. I have decided that it was best, *in*

circumstantiis,¹ to cancel the carriages. God will be able to draw out his glory from all things.

I am enclosing a letter from the very excellent Canon Betti, who, supported by the tender devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, I hope will obtain the successful outcome that I so ardently desire. I would be doing wrong to your constant zeal and efforts for the Society if I were to add now further recommendations. I imagine that the matter does not involve a great to-do. Perhaps other endowments could be cited. At any rate, see that you offer him consolation, and even though there should be no room for him in Benevento, he knows well enough that the Society would be able to appoint him to other foundations and, in general, to some program of our ministry.

If the passport is in order, without awaiting the regular mail-delivery, perhaps an express delivery might be used. Pray for me, your most reverend excellency, who have the honor of declaring myself

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. d. B.

M. A.

Terracina, June 8

603

June 12, 1822

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

I would be happy to hear the results about Sermoneta. I shall continue thinking about the aggregations that are still pending. I shall write to the bishop of Sanseverino.

It is now seven months since the Society has been set up in the Episcopal quarters, though I do not know how. I would like to have this documented, since there is no other evident proof than the fact itself. Furthermore, wherever the Society is set up, its possessions go along, but that should be no concern for the government, that is the matter of possessions, since it is sufficient for them that the Society is in existence there. You understand this better without my giving any further explanations. Now, with regard to giving retreats, we are asking for a second locale; finally, while trusting in the merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ, I hope that we will take up residence in the beloved place selected by the saintly Albertini for the Society. If Lawyer Angeli wants an authentic document, since it is a question of sacred property, I see no other recourse than to contact the episcopal Chancellor. With the forwarding of the request, he will receive it. Use your most concerned efforts, which are so characteristic of the tender affection that you have for these very holy endeavors.

I will try to wind things up by asking the Good Government to assign to the Society the 100 *scudi* per year that were included in the listing of grants for the Passionists. Thus, when the Society ceases to function here, so will the grant, since it would be attached to the building etc. See what you think about this, and consult with Lawyer Angeli to whom you will give your recommendations as strongly as possible, getting him to realize that the expenses that are incurred call for the most

¹ In circumstances.

deliberate action and the most decisive attention. Inform him also that we shall soon have to return the beds, both because of the agreement made as well as our obligation to do so. Lawyer Angeli, then, can calculate *quid sit sentiendum*.² I give thanks to God who never fails to give me courage even in the most difficult situations, and hence I have no fears. *Qui confidunt in Domino, etc., etc., etc.*³

Now, let us take up the matter of S. Agostino. I am not too sure whether the Dottrinari have members there or not, whereas in Segni, where they have a very beautiful place, I discovered that they have only two, if I remember correctly. At any rate, I would be scrupulous about impeding another good work except if God would will it, *et rebis sic stantibus*.⁴ I am happy that the Dottrinari may be leaving. We are content to remain in the House where we are. Good work is being done, but the people would like to have us in St. Agostino.

With regard to the aggregation in Ferrara, there will always be doubt whether we, already possessive of distinct briefs, can enjoy the privileges, etc. without having a special precise declaration of dispensation. Though I may be mistaken, such is the practice of the confraternities which I set up in the exercise of our ministry, and perhaps that clause may be found in our briefs likewise; I am not sure.

Your letter got to me opened, since letters are not permitted to be delivered sealed.

If Tinetti should not be able to give his services for the septenary, I think it would be a good idea to ask Monsignor Tuscolo; if he should not be available, then ask Fr. Adriano Giampedi, an acquaintance of Butirroni and the sub-prefect of the Caravita; or, Ponzileoni whom I would be delighted to have after Tuscolo. Finally, there is Canon Mastai who, if he is informed in time, would work out fine. Pray for me. Have many others offer prayers for me too, and, *in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit sanguine*,⁵ believe me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Terracina, June 12, 1822

If Tuscolo is unavailable, you might first check with Bacolo, and then follow what I indicated above.

We are still awaiting the arrival of the passports. Ask Lovatti for them and send me word about this. Remember about the *Biography* of the saintly Albertini, and remind Santelli specifically about the portrait.

604

June 12, 1822
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

² What should be experienced.

³ Those who trust in the Lord.

⁴ All things standing thus.

⁵ In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified, who redeemed us in his blood.

I am enclosing another listing for the Missionaries *in subsidium*⁶ to be printed according to the directions given to you in my previous letter. Where it says NN., it means that there should be a blank space there for the insertion later of the name. In a hurry, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Terracina, June 12, 1822

I urge you to be careful with the spelling and with correctness. Send me 500 more copies of the Chaplet, as usual. Let me know the cost which I do not recall now, including the expense for the certificates which are to be done in the open, regal form, and the paper to be of a sufficiently good quality, but economical.

Order the picture also, as I mentioned in my other letter.

I think about Fabriano.

I would like four reams of letter stationery.

Excuse the innumerable inconveniences that I give you.

605

June 12, 1822

Msgr. Francesco Bonomo

Bishop of Gaeta

Gaeta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious and reverend Monsignor

The recent Mission, carried out through divine mercy with particular success in the region of Vallecorsa, awakened in the souls of the clergy and people, sanctified through the ministration of the divine word, a holy enthusiasm for the establishment of a pious Mission and Retreat House under the title of the most precious Blood of Jesus and the patronage of St. Francis Xavier, thus providing in a permanent fashion advantageous benefits for those souls redeemed by the same Divine Blood of inestimable price. Considered for this project was the old Convent of S. Antonio Abate, which, being in a somewhat worn-out condition, it calls for an output of money that is quite formidable. That, however, is lessened by the ease with which materials can be found, and very edifying too is the example given by the priests in personally seeing to the necessary transportation of those materials, for that is something that they do regularly.

So, without allowing any opportunity to go untried which might facilitate the attainment of that end, the Lord would suggest one more, and that is the intervention of your most illustrious and reverend lordship, through which we would be pleased if you would deign to select two representatives from each single place under your jurisdiction, and, encouraged by the zeal that is so characteristically yours, after informing Father Giriliani in Vallecorsa, they could be given your directions to seek out the help of the faithful. The latter, then, will proceed to set up not only the center for missions, but also an asylum for so many souls within your jurisdiction who would like to withdraw to make a retreat, a work that is significantly pressing for the newly-ordained.

⁶ For support.

With humility of heart, I beg God to illumine you with his extraordinary lights that will bring about a quick attention to this most important project. In the meantime, your illustrious and most reverend lordship can be certain that we shall never cease imploring God for copious blessings on whatever may be your needs. That, indeed, is what this letter is meant to convey. If, at present, you might have need for sending someone for a retreat, since the House in Terracina is neighboring on your diocese, and, for the convenience afforded to your diocesan men, all you have to do is send word to me, addressing it to Rome, for the sake of securely having it forwarded to me wherever I may be.

Likewise, in Vallecorsa I anticipate no difficulties, because of our harmonious relationship with the Father Guardian of the Retreat House, in arranging for the lodging of retreatants in that same Retreat House (it is understood that this is temporary) and placing our missionaries in charge of the ministrations of the divine word and whatever else is necessary for that sacred time of retreat. This arrangement with the Father Guardian can be handily concluded by me as the opportunity arises. However, in whatever need you may have, I ask that you send me word sufficiently in advance and with a reasonable amount of time allowed, so that everything will be carried out in due order.

Most illustrious and reverend Monsignor, kissing your hands and recommending myself to your prayers, I have the honor to declare again that with the fullest esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Missionario Apostolico

Terracina, June 12, 1822

606

June 12, 1822

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most reverend excellency

I adore the divine dispositions, but I would not know to what cause I could attribute the lack of your letter-writing, except because of your health, and, without looking for a miracle, I wholeheartedly pray to God for you, since I do not know how you can stand up to the work that you are called upon to bear. I beg you, therefore, to take good care of yourself.

The passport has not come, and so I thought that I should no longer retain the carriages that I had to pay for each day, since I was still doubtful of the outcome. I have recommended myself greatly to God and in this matter of the carriages, I have already begun to make plans to remedy the situation, in view of the fact that God wishes that the Mission be given.

At any rate, I am asking you, in your charity, to let me know by the ordinary mail-delivery whether it should be included or excluded. May Jesus and Mary be with us, and, most reverend excellency, with the usual esteem and respect, I remain invariably

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Terracina, June 12, 1822

P. S. I hope that you received my other two letters.

607

June 12, 1822

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Giovannelli

Only my affection for you has led me to invite you to the Mission in Benevento, for which we are still awaiting the passports that I note have been delayed through no fault of my own. *Quod Domino placet fiat.*⁷ I also comprehend the reasons that you submit in your letter and I see them in God's light. Oh how edified I am by the zeal that you show in behalf of the pious organizations. How many merits will be yours! I shall keep insisting for the church of S. Agostino.

As for the conservatory, I have written once again to Lawyer Bonaccioli. As for the institution for penitent women, I would go along hesitantly with the Treasurer's first idea. Presently, I do not know what lies at the basis of the difficulty. There is no obligation for changing the officers of the pious organizations unless it would be noticed that one or the other has shown the incapability of participating. After being questioned as to the reason for the absenteeism, if that is the case, the leader of the Organization of the Apostles should propose three names and the ballot box should be used for the election. If there should be a tie, he has two votes. It may be needed to change the duty of one office to another, or one person for another, provided that *ita expediat.*⁸ From what has been stated, there is no specific obligation other than what I have just explained. The members adhering to the St. Xavier group do not need a new aggregation, since they are already aggregated to the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood, and no other is required. It can enjoy all the privileges that the other confraternities have (unless the bishop were to be opposed), as long as the rights and temporal benefits of other confraternities are not interfered with. For this, the bishop's statement will be sufficient. The printed regulations for the members can be obtained from Mr. Possenti in Fabriano. I do not know if I have explained myself well or not. If not, let me know in your next letter.

A thousand heavenly greetings to our Fr. Vincenzo Belenghi and anyone else who has a remembrance of me. Likewise, inform Fr. Martino Bertocchini in Teramo that he should write to me, addressing it to Rome to be sure that it will be forwarded.

As for the Treasurer in regard to the Conservatory, I am mistaken; as for the institution for penitent women, send a new memorandum in due order.

With respect to your Congregation, I will wholeheartedly recommend it at the first opportunity; but I do not know whether any endowments can be had for others. Furthermore, the bishop has done well in submitting the reasons; let us hope for the best. As for the 126 *scudi* for your church, another memorandum will be needed. I am convinced that in matters such as these, really what is needed is a specific person in Rome who can then continue to insist and remind them. Perhaps you may have such a one. Otherwise, in the sea of problems there, many of them will be forgotten, and for that reason, the things that are said are far from corresponding with the things that

⁷ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

⁸ So let him provide.

are done. In addition, I am not at all sure just how efficacious recommendations are.

With all my heart, I ask for your prayers. They have requested a Mission in Teramo, but Rome wants a letter from the bishop, addressed to me in the usual proper form. Let this be between us. I have written to the aforementioned Fr. Martino. This notification is meant for you too. I do not know just what God will dispose. Once again, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Terracina, June 12, 1822

Send your reply to Rome, to be certain.

608

June 15, 1822

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am writing to you in the greatest hurry this time. I shall speak to you of everything in another letter of mine. What is urgent now is the memorandum which I am enclosing. It calls for the greatest energy that is so proper to your zeal, so that *in actu Missionis*⁹ the locale can be prepared with the things necessary there, and, once the Papal Blessing has been given the Missionaries can leave immediately. You can be sure that the Government does not perhaps have any place that is requiring, promptly if not instantaneously, the attention that is required here in Benevento; it is very needful of such an institution. His Eminence thought it a good idea to ask the Collegio of the Scolopi Fathers since he notes that it is only hopeful that the Jesuits, urged by Rome, may soon be returning. The expenses that the Scolopi Father paid out in the reacquisition of the already sold locale is perhaps the difficulty involved. It might be possible to figure out a way to solve that.

Finally, I would like to ask that you try to get a deferral for a short time of the assignment of the new tax, for this is causing a bit of ferment of displeasure which I cannot describe. I shall try to continue to exhort, advise etc. I see that God is giving his blessing, for the penitents here are in crowds. As for the travel expenses, I shall take that up *ad alias*.¹⁰ In my opinion, we would not be doing harm to the Scolopi Fathers if, in their deficiency of members and the urgency experienced by the people, this substitution would be made. They could be told that when they do have the members available, another place could be obtained etc. With esteem, and begging you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Benevento, June 15

609

⁹ In conducting a mission.

¹⁰ For another time.

June 17, 1822
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I have made known the desire that the expenses for the Missions should have been covered under the account of Ecclesiastical good works. His Eminence, however, has already made some contributions from what I have learned, and the Gonfalonier¹¹ said that he would not have been able at all to supply. I did not even wish to manifest the letter for the Marquis. It is only a partial help, and insistence should be made that the expenses fall under the administration of Ecclesiastical good works. After another letter from you, I will manifest that. The Commune is unable to meet those expenses. What happened to the passports is that they sent them to Naples and from Naples they were forwarded to Terracina. This brought on another notable expense. I am writing in a hurry since the crowd of penitents is a veritable siege. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Buf.

Benevento, June 17

610

June 27, 1822
 Fr. Vincenzo Bonacci
 Piglio

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Your letter of the current 12th was most pleasing. I shall recommend your petition to the most reverend Treasurer.

However, I am not sure whether your request will be obtained because of the present circumstances of the treasury. At any rate, we shall help each other and offer prayers. Furthermore, what you need is to have a person there in Rome who can keep track of the results, and keep on insisting, which is something that I am not able to do because of my work. I give thanks to God for the good progress of the pious organizations which I recommend once again to your well-known zeal. a thousand greetings to the pastor, *et ad omnes nominatim*.¹² Dear Canon, in the hearts of Jesus and Mary, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Benevento, June 27, 1822

611

July 13, 1822
 Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

¹¹ This word was abbreviated, and its legibility is not sure.

¹² And to all by name.

Bassiano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father

I would like to make arrangements there in Bassiano this year for the Missionaries from Sermoneta. I say this year but we are hoping to be in that area also next year. Let me know if this can be done, otherwise I will check in Norma. But it is the sacred image of the Crucified Lord there in Bassiano that thrills me. It would be necessary to have a vacated house, at least as best as can be done. I shall cease sending other companions to Sermoneta until the hospice there is set up. So, keep me informed. In order to avoid problems of transportation, it would be good to investigate what is needed and arrange to have it on loan. We will take care of the maintenance. The people will draw much good. With esteem and respect, while asking for your prayers, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, July 13, 1822

Communicate this information to Lanni in Norma.

Get in contact with Fr. Francesco Pierantoni, the Superior in Sermoneta. Oh how I love Bassiano! Have people pray for me.

What has Canon Santangeli decided? Give my best wishes to him *cum caeteris omnibus*.¹³
Recommend me to God.

612

July 13, 1822

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

Thank you for the reams of stationery and for the certificates. The copper article is not yet correct. Ledi still has not been seen. *Quod Domino placet fiat*.¹⁴ The sentence that was omitted in the Rule is where it speaks of study: "On Wednesdays and Thursdays, part time is for Moral Theology, part time for Scripture." That is what has been omitted. I am hoping to have good results with the matters dealing with Fabriano. Prayers. Just when I will be back in that area, you will learn from the good Tarulli who has already returned home to visit with his folks. In general, I will be coming soon. He should not be distressed because of his trip to Pievetorina; I will not be able to conduct the retreat. Give my greetings to the most reverend bishop, to Fr. Bufera etc. With sincerest esteem and affection, I remain constantly

Your servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 13, 1822

¹³ With all the others.

¹⁴ Let what pleases the Lord come about.

613

July 1822
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
 Bishop of Agatopoli
 Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph
 Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My beloved Monsignor¹⁵

Upon seeing Monsignor Falsacappa, please inform him that I have received the following notification from Caldarola: "Recommend etc. the collegiate Church of S. Martino" and its pastor Fr. Emidio Gratani. It is a matter of supporting the parochial rights with regard to the erection of cemeteries, and the most reverend Secretary knows that in the area of Caldarola, they are not going to disturb in any way the privileges of the Regulars as the recent document shows.

I know very well that in such matters, recommendations do not carry weight; at any rate, I was obliged to carry out this commission. What I am able to say is that the pastor of that collegiate church, who writes this to me, is a priest *omni exceptione major*,¹⁶ and is not capable of promoting things that are unjust. I know him very well. However, I am not aware of all the facts of the case.

Once again I recommend to you the concern for Maria Giuseppa. At your convenience, speak to Monsignor about her, but be certain of the principles laid down which cannot be offset nor any delay be countenanced. It is necessary, therefore, that you act with the enthusiasm and courage which the deceased Albertini deserves, the one to whom all of this has reference. It is certain that when the Countess arrived in Rome, you would have gotten in touch with her. But now there is a just motive, that is, Maria Giuseppa's health, and so in the meantime she should be taken in as a boarder. It is not a good idea to make her go back to the room that she inhabited in S. Rufina. She has too many vivid memories of her sister, in addition to the other things that we discussed in person. Monsignor Santelli came to see me about this same matter yesterday evening. I have no difficulty, should it be necessary, to speak to the President myself. Up to now I have maintained an indifferent attitude, but now, it is a matter of health, and I know what has to be done in order to see this lady settled in, so that not even you will have to worry about her.

I am

G. C. del Buf.

I am writing to Sempronj for the four *scudi*. Cencio will give you the 12 *scudi*.

614

July 21, 1822
 Fr. Vincenzo Bonacci
 Piglio

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I enclosed your letter to the most reverend Treasurer and please remember that I told you. However, despite a search, your petition in behalf of your Chapter, could not be found. So, please prepare it again immediately and in my name submit it to Mr. Filion, General Secretary of the

¹⁵ Cf. Gasparian Hisotry and Trivia: Institute of Adorers of the Most Precious Blood.

¹⁶ Greater by every exception.

Treasury. I have already forewarned him. Likewise, a person should be assigned to look after the matter and keep insisting. If the need arises, write to me in Rome from where my letters are forwarded to me. I should have written to you concerning this matter much sooner, but, partly because of forgetfulness, partly because of the shortness of time, I have been deprived by them of carrying out what I would have liked to do in attestation of my attachment to the people there. However, you can be sure that I shall never cease doing all that lies within my power. Pray for me, and, with the fullness of esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice in Giano, July 21, 1822

P. S. You should urge Mr. Filion to give prompt attention to the petition, as I have no doubt you will do.

615

July 21, 1822

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

From the reverend pastors in Frosinone, I have received the enclosed document which I am forwarding to you.¹⁷ I considered it a good idea to entrust it to your most reverend excellency since

¹⁷ We transcribe here the original document as it is preserved in the General Archives of the Missionaries of the most Precious Blood:

Jesus Mary Joseph

We, the undersigned, the Minister Superior of the Collegio of the Fathers of the Holy Redeemer, located in the Madonna delle Grazie church in Frosinone, and the reverend pastors in the same city of Frosinone, as soon as word reached us of the existence of a spirited recourse tending, in general, to be harmful to the very commendable reputation of the reverend fathers, the Missionaries joined together under the direction of the very reverend Canon del Bufalo, recently established in Frosinone and the province, do hasten to solemnly declare with this document that such a recourse, undertaken with the sharpest and most diabolical malice to appear as though it were our doing, has never, never been our intention to utter, or even imagine as an opposition to the conduct of the praiseworthy reverend Missionaries, our colleagues, certainly because their operations have been most laudable from every aspect that one might consider, and because this procedure is diametrically contrary to good morality, a calumny and a deprecation against the evangelical law, and finally, because that sort of procedure would be totally in opposition to our characteristic way of acting, to our education and to the laws of society.

Therefore, ever ready to give room to the truth, as well as to quell that false calumny, we deemed it proper to issue, as we presently do, this declaration to which we append our respective signatures and seals, while asserting our promise to ratify this by oath in the presence of any Judge and Tribunal. Given in Frosinone, this day, the 7th of July, 1822.

Giuseppe Maria Mautone, Minister and Superior of the Collegio in Frosinone of the Congregation of the Holy Redeemer; I attest to all the above with my own hand.

Canon Nicola Gaspari, Vicar Curate of the venerable parish church, the outstanding collegiate church of Santa Maria; I attest to all the above with my own hand.

I, Fr. Angelo Sellari, Rector and Pastor of San Benedetto, not only attest to all the above, but I affirm in addition that, since the aforementioned Father Missionaries have their domicile under my parochial jurisdiction, they have been more than an advantage to my parish and their particular conduct has been an edifying example to all of the parishioners.

we note how displeased the devil is, in every imaginable way, with the work of our Society, God's Society, and that he never ceases pursuing it in every location.

Furthermore, the saintly Albertini used to say that there would always be times when there would be reason to repeat: "*Deo autem gratias qui dedit nobis victoriam per D. N. J. C. etc.*"¹⁸

I am also enclosing the petition in behalf of the Oratory in Alatri.¹⁹ It seems to me that it is presented in the proper terms. As a distinct favor that is so proper to your zeal, I beg you that, after obtaining the rescript from Fr. Girolamo, you have it sent with a simple outer sheet to the bishop of Alatri, who has recently returned to his diocese. That will make more convenient the handling of this matter which is so very, very close to my heart and which I recommend to your charity, so that, despite the multiple and serious occupations that you have, you will give this the quickest possible consideration.

I ask that you send your reply to Camerino by way of Pievetorina, if you send it through the rapid delivery; otherwise, to Ascoli.

I have already given instructions to Mr. Gulielmi concerning the 50 scudi for Vallecorsa, as soon as he gets word from you. Pray a lot for me and, most reverend excellency, with profound respect and esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

July 21, 1822

Mr. Gulielmi will get in touch with the head of the House in Frosinone.

616

July 21, 1822

Pope Pius VII

Most blessed Father

We initiated in Alatri, just a short while ago, a nocturnal Oratory for men, so as to remove them from idleness and thus promote the spirit of prayer in particular, so necessary for imploring from God the most bountiful blessings. That was set up only in a temporary fashion in the Cathedral church, while another fitting place was being sought that would be more convenient to the people who found it difficult to continue to frequent that church.

However, in view of the situation noted that everyone is reluctant to offer, for this or that reason, their own church for so salutary an institution, we, priest-workers, humbly petition your Holiness to deign to grant the faculty to the bishop to deliberate on his own, and be able to decide what is expedient for establishing firmly this holy institution, aggregating it to some confraternity, or activating it on its own; that etc.

In behalf of the workers of the nocturnal Oratory in Alatri.

I, Fr. Angelo Marchetti, pastor of the church of Santissima Annunziata, declare by my own hand that everything above is true.

¹⁸ But thanks to God, who gave us victory through the Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ See the following document.

617

July 24, 1822

Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Camerino

My venerable Monsignor

I thank you endlessly for the goodness that you deign to show me. I had already prepared my letter, as usual, but then I forgot to put it in the mails. However, I sent it quickly to Canon Gonnelli to keep things in exact order, when I saw that it was too late to get it in the mail-delivery.

My stay here in this House this year is a very quick one since, with the advancement of the summer, I will have to go for a mission in Teramo because of a most insistent request that came to Rome. I am yearning to see you again, and I trust that, at least on my return trip, the Lord will afford me that opportunity. In the meantime, let us continue our union in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and once again I thank you for the singular affection that you have for this House of ours, where others will be coming to be of help, as soon as the weather cools down. Your most reverend excellency, while kissing your hands, with the fullness of esteem and the most particular affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Pievetorina, July 24, 1822

618

July 25, 1822

Mr. Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Pievetorina, July 25

Dear Camillo

My stay in this beloved House in Pievetorina will be a quick one since I will hurriedly be on my way to the Mission in Teramo. If something is sent to you for me, please forward everything to me as quickly as possible to Ascoli in care of Father Giovannelli. Let me know what money I have yet to pay to you, taking into account what was mentioned in another report; my obligations are immense. Within a few days, I shall be sending you some materials to be printed. In the meanwhile, give this information to the printer. It is not necessary for me to recommend to your charity exactness in the printing, along with the greatest economy. Finally, the usual binding should be applied to the Chaplets; the paper that is used should not be the type that is easily dirtied, but rather paper that has a color that stands up well with usage.

Tell Father Bufera that, until a few members return from the Missions, I would be greatly pleased if he would come here to Pievetorina to be with Canon Gonnelli for a few days. The months now are not that busy. So, see that upon receiving this letter, he should depart immediately for the Mission House and, since he is already aggregated to our Society, it is understood well that he will become a Missionary. I shall be most obliged to you for doing this favor for which I am designating you as mediator. A thousand greetings to the most reverend bishop, his brother etc. I hope that we will see each other again upon my return. I would like that copper plating to be done over so as to

bring out, with the proper emendations, the face of the Saint and his companions, so that they do not appear to be deformed. Send me word of the price to Ascoli, and I will charge Father Giovannelli to forward any letters that would arrive for me. Indeed, if there are any letters in that small bundle which you will send on to me, forward them to me beforehand, just in case Father Giovannelli might delay sending them. I leave all to your good judgment. I am hopeful of the best results with regard to the foundation. I am and shall always be

Your humble servant

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

Please arrange to get a sufficient quantity of cloth which is necessary for making six shirts for the three brothers in service in S. Felice in Giano. Send me the bill; and, then, please send this package in my name to Mr. Francesco Saverio Tomassini in Fuligno to whom you will give the directions to send it on to Father Luigi Achille, the Missionary Superior of the House of S. Felice. Write a letter beforehand to Father Achille, advising him about this. *Dominus retribuet pro me.*²⁰

619

End of July, 1822

Mr. Carlo Feliciangeli

Gonfalonier of Pievetorina

Most illustrious sir²¹

I am sending you a response to Your most appreciated letter of May 27th regarding the assignment of preaching for the Lenten series, concerning which I must advise you of the following points. According to our regulations, our institute attends only to the giving of Missions and Spiritual Retreats, and prescinds from branching off into Lenten series which are not in keeping with the purposes of our ministry. We take on Lenten work only in the places where our Mission Houses are located, as long as that assignment is a help for the pious institution. In that case, the preaching is done from a platform since that procedure is much more effective in bringing out the divine word. The selection of the preacher is to be made by that Pious Institute of Missions and Spiritual Retreats. It must be admitted that they are much better acquainted with the individual talents of the members than are outsiders. Furthermore, the Lenten series is never entrusted to one who is desirous for the tangible returns from the ministry. Putting aside all other arguments, the designated time of ten years is ample for the Commune of Pievetorina to freely consider what it is to do whenever the ministry is not carried out as it should.

Our practice of giving Missions and Retreats makes it clear that whoever does not wish to apply himself to the study of preaching should not consider joining this institute, nor would the Institute admit him. We cannot depart from these policies because they are unalterable according to our rules. In your good judgment, let this be known as widely as possible.

²⁰ The Lord will repay you with sweet blessings.

²¹ This letter has no date. By comparing it with the letter n. 552 to Mr. Luigi Gonnelli on March 3, 1822 we deduce that it belongs to 1822 and probably to be dated the end of July, when St. Gaspar went to Pievetorina for the first time in 1822. The two letters to Gonnelli and Feliciangeli were placed together in Volume XII of the writings of St. Gaspar with the following annotations by Merlini: "Can. Del Bufalo is writing (to Gonnelli) that the Lenten preaching is to be done from the platform, otherwise it is to be refused." "Can. Del Bufalo is resolving the problem of preaching from the platform, as well as the naming of the preacher." Therefore, the two letters are concerned with the same problem.

I note that the Good Government deigns to grant a few subsidies from the various sections of the Commune in favor of the pious House of Missions and Retreats under the title of the Blood of Jesus Christ. You who, along with us, must seek, with the zeal that we nourish for the glory of God, to have clarity and order in the matters that deal with the future. You will agree with me on the principle that a duly prepared copy of the rescripts involved is needed and that furthermore, an explanation by the local mayor should be given, namely, that maintenance and travel expenses for the Missionaries in the fulfillment of their ministry must be the responsibility of the respective towns, otherwise the designation of funds to the various hamlets, which we are speaking of, would have no purpose.

May it please you to take charge in bringing about a resolution of whatever must be done in order to make things clear and manifest. You can then consider this procedure of yours as a renewed attestation of your affection for our Society. In the meantime, most illustrious sir, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your devoted servant
House of Missions and Retreats, Pievetorina

620

July 26, 1822
Fr. Luigi Cocci
Grutti

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father

I ask that upon receiving this letter of mine you will please go to Giano to be with Fr. Luigi Achille, since, until a few other members return from the Missions, it is necessary that you help him out in that Mission House as much as you are able. Please do me this favor. Send your reply to Ascoli. With esteem and respect, I am and will always be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspere C. del Bufalo
M. Ap.

Macerata, while traveling, July 26, 1822

621

August 1, 1822
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

Some difficulties that must be looked into in Teramo etc. have deferred the Mission until September. I do not know whether I will be able to take care of that personally.

Therefore, I am on my way to Forlimpopoli where I shall be expecting your letter. I long to see you again in person. *Utinam!*²² Settle things with Severini concerning the 2 *scudi*.

As for the cloth, however, that you are sending to Giano, write to me about that. With respect

²² Would that!

to the matters to be printed, let us be in agreement. You made me laugh with that beautiful comparison you made: "that removing Bufera from Fabriano would be the same as cutting the head off of a corpse"; you are right. Is the artist depicting Xavier just as you know I would like? When are we going to check out our ideas concerning the sacred place? Let us do so quickly. Pray for me, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Porto di Recanati, August 1, 1822

P. S. I told the Treasurer everything that I could, and I shall not cease doing so. I am hoping for good results. Prayers.

622

August 1, 1822

Fr. Andrea Butirroni

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Porto di Recanati, August 1

Dearest Father Andrea

I am on my way to the Mission in Forlimpopoli after visiting the two Houses of Giano and Pievetorina. I have not heard the results of your meeting with Monsignor Muccioli. God knows how often I think about that Hospice, but I am short of means. A thought came to me which I would like to communicate to you and it is this: if you find some Masses that could be said *a commodo et ubique etiam domi*,²³ the offerings could be helpful, and I would see to their distribution, along with the other ideas that we shall progressively develop at the foot of the Crucifix. Pray for me. Go to spend a little time in Giano if you would like. Love me in Jesus Christ, and with all my love, I remain

Your affectionate friend

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

623

August 3, 1822

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I hope that by this time you will have received the rescript for the Oratory. In case you have not, please send word to me with a letter of yours addressed to Rome. I shall soon be back in your Province which is so very dear to me, *et os ad os loquemur*.²⁴ Tell Father Serafino that the two aggregators to our devotion of the most Precious Blood either have already received their certificates

²³ At your convenience and anywhere even at home.

²⁴ And let us speak face to face.

or they will get them within a short while. In the meantime, they should continue enrolling people. Give him my distinct best regards. I keep on working in behalf of the young lady wishing to become a nun. Asking you for your prayers, I remain distinctively

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Fano, August 3, 1822

624

August 22, 1822

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

It has pleased God that, this year, we did not see each other. Nevertheless, we always see each other in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. I shall await your answer to this letter in S. Felice in Giano. In the meantime, I am sending you Fr. Segneri's criticism of dancing. I would like to have this printed up in a good number of little booklets. Let me know what would be the most economical method of having them printed, as well as what would be a reasonable number, and then we will come to a decision.

I am leaving some money with Canon Gonnelli in reimbursement to you for the cloth sent to Giano. See that you find a way of collecting it.

I would like you to see to the printing of 1000 (a thousand) copies of another leaflet that is to be distributed in sacristies. The leaflet should be of a convenient size. You understand me, and please let me know the cost. See that this work is done quickly without any further directions from me, and simply write to me: I have taken care of it for so and so much. If I could have those printed matters while I am conducting the Retreat in Giano, beginning on Sunday for the lay people and the priests, assigning a different schedule for each group in presenting the matters of the Reform, I would be oh! so grateful to you. Get Father Alessio, whom you will greet for me, to proofread everything for the sake of exactness, and especially Fr. Segneri's criticism which is found in the *Cristiano istruito*. The title is already given.

*Ora, jube, vale.*²⁵ I say nothing to you about the deceased bishop. Only God knows how deeply moved I am with the loss of him. I immediately offered Mass for him. *Nunc hora instat pro nobis. Oremus.*²⁶

Your humble servant

G. C. del Buf.

Mis. Ap.

Pievotorina, August 22²⁷

625

²⁵ Pray, entreat, be steadfast.

²⁶ Now the hour is close for us. Let us pray.

²⁷ The letter belongs to 1822. Cfr. the letter (n. 618) to the same person written on July 25, 1822.

August 22, 1822
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Camerino
 Most venerable Monsignor

Oh how regretful I feel that I was unable to see you again. But, how can that be done since I have to go to Giano to conduct a retreat for the clergy, and I have every moment assigned, and up to this last moment, I have remained in this House that is so very dear to me? I shall say with the Prophet: *Holocausta medullata offeram tibi.*²⁸

I am leaving behind a companion of mine who has been approved already in your diocese for confessions, even of nuns; this is a young man *angelicis moribus.*²⁹ I have taken him along with me on a number of Missions, and now that he has learned the ropes, I am leaving him here in this House, together with Canon Tarulli and Canon Gonnelli. In September, another man will be coming; now that the Missions in the Province of Campagna are drawing to a close, the members are being distributed equally. I do not have to recommend to you this House of Pievetorina. I am fully aware of your zeal. Pray a lot for me. I kiss your hands, and with a very special affection and esteem, most reverend excellency, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

August 22, 1822

626

August 26, 1822
 Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli
 Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My very beloved Father and most observant religious

I thank you for the concern you showed in sending the package that I have received and also for your letters. *Dominus retribuet pro me.*³⁰ Let me know whether you wish me to send you the seventy *baiocchi*, since only in October shall I be in Teramo, and perhaps even earlier; or would you have a way of collecting them from Mr. Possenti with whom I have many business dealings and he could reimburse you? In case you can, write to him in my name. I shall expect your answer in Rome.

One simply cannot put into words the divine blessings, through the mercy of God, that have been showered down in Romagna. Give thanks to the Lord for me. I have received word again from Teramo, but since I must first travel to Rome, I would hope to be able to go there when heading for Naples. In the meantime, that is what I shall put as an answer to the letters that are sent to me, and I shall do all within my power to be there personally. Prayers. Take care of yourself. Tell Fr. Vincenzo Belenghi that when he has completed saying the Masses, he should please send me the document. While I am in Rome, I shall recommend the affairs of Ascoli to the Treasurer. A thousand greetings

²⁸ I will offer you a holocaust of marrow, etc.

²⁹ With angelic conduct.

³⁰ The Lord will repay in my behalf.

to the entire community of Capuchin Fathers whose very outstanding favors I shall never forget. Reverend Father, I kiss your hands; give my warm regards to your companions in the congregation. With the most special affection in Jesus Christ, *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,³¹ I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

S. Felice in Giano, August 26, 1822

Offer suffrages for the soul of one of our Missionaries who died in Sonnino - Fr. Torribio Lenta. You did not know him, but have suffrages offered for him.

627

August 26, 1822

Fr. Andrea Butirroni

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Father Andrea

I have already disposed of the 30 Masses. It is understood that they are to be fulfilled during this year; that is an inevitable condition; I shall give you the other 20, or I shall say them myself. We shall see. Upon my return, you and I will have a meeting and we shall see what will be able to be done. In the meanwhile, prayers. I understand that it will be necessary to come to some determination since the bases which were thought to be solid concerning the five *scudi* are giving way. I shall not delay in coming. In a hurry, I am

Your affectionate friend

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice, August 26, 1822

Give my greetings to Fr. Eugenio. By the middle of September, one of our Missionaries will be coming and perhaps also two of them for Velletri, along with a Brother in service.

628

August 28, 1822

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

With regard to the young lady wishing to become a nun, you probably have received by this time a reply from Fr. Biagio. Up to now, just between us, I have not sent a companion since I hope that the place would be prepared a bit more, at least to the extent of providing what is necessary. But, within a short while, upon my return I shall take him with me to Frosinone. *Gradatim*,³² God will bless the Society, etc.

With regard to the Church for the Oratory, Monsignor Cristaldi has taken charge of that, I

³¹ Who redeemed us in his blood.

³² Step by step.

shall continue to make new efforts to urge him. But, if the matter could be settled peacefully, I would be happier about that than getting the rescript. With another of your letters addressed to Rome, keep me informed. A thousand heavenly greetings to Father Serafino and to Canons Domeniconi and Tarulli. *Oremus ad invicem*,³³ and let us become saints. Dear Canon, I am and will always be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice, August 28, 1822

P. S. Let me know what you have put out for my cause so that I can reimburse you for it. Offer suffrages for one of our companions who died in Sonnino.

After you have received from Fr. Biagio the instructions relative to the young lady wishing to become a nun, you can initiate correspondence with his excellency, the most reverend Monsignor Fransoni in Rome.

629

September 1, 1822

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantonj

Rome

Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francesco

The demands that the ministry makes on me have impeded me from the good deed of answering your letters. I have understood everything that you told me about Br. Giacomo. Although I did not know anything about his departing for home, nevertheless, I was interested in obtaining for him some additional help from the Most Reverend Treasurer. I hope that it has been received through Merlini. Now, then, I have also had to pay for the trip and I shall have to face the expenses at Albano, because really that House at present, in my judgment, is the poorest of all. At any rate, all will be taken care of so as to give glory to the Lord. Unite yourself with me in prayerful humility so that He will bless our work. You know very well that the foundations are the products of prayer and virtue. We shall give thanks to the almighty for having selected us for so great a ministry.

I notice from your letter that Fr. Biagio may have provided you with a Brother, and I do not doubt that it is according to the rules. So, now you will have a companion, and I deem it expedient that you give my thanks to the young man that you spoke of,³⁴ for you know that in those small towns strong attachments develop which, if up to now you have not experienced it as yet while living there, you could do so in the very near future. However, you should do what you judge to be most in keeping with the greater glory of God and with our rules. I have also understood everything

³³ Let us pray for one another.

³⁴ Give my thanks to the young man. Here, as elsewhere in the letters of St. Gaspar, the word "*ringraziare*" has the peculiar meaning of "to release someone in good graces, to dismiss, to discharge, while showing, at the same time, gratitude for the services rendered".

else that you mentioned, and nothing more in particular occurs to me to say. All will be set in order a little at a time. I did not encourage any exchange of letters from Bassanio because I saw that you were opposed to the arrangement that I could not ignore. It was a good thing that you went quickly to Terracina: otherwise, I would have had to suffer a twofold grief because of the loss of the good Fr. Torribio,³⁵ *cui Deus det requiem sempiternam; nunc nobis instat magna dies.*³⁶

It is really a miracle that you are still well. I am convinced that in another year, when we are back in our own places, there will be nothing more to fear. Still, I shall not change our policy of leaving, when the climate is bad. Thus, all of our men should voluntarily and without any fuss, go along with this arrangement. In the wintertime, everything is safe in each of the places. So, if God will bless the plans that I am trying to draw up, there will no longer be any reasons for issuing warnings or taking precautions. I repeat that if you do not feel better, go temporarily to Bassiano, and do what you can for Sermoneta *a longe*.³⁷

Within a short time I shall be in Rome and I shall go about in Visitation of the Houses. But, from this moment on, I advise you that as long as the Society is set up in Sermoneta, I shall not send another man there until the air has been cleaned up in some way. No one would counsel exposure to danger such as that in the future. As far as I am concerned personally, I feel that I would have the courage to do anything; but, I cannot presuppose that for everyone. You do what you can: many will be the merits that you will gain; once the air is purified, we will set up everything according to the rule.

Do not neglect the surroundings. Make every study of the ways in which the Society can be helped, for it opens up a sea of opportunity. In order to get financial support, a special gift of prudence is required which God will not fail to provide for us, as long as we do not omit the usual means. I say this because you are expecting from me a Brother gardener. However, I have not been able to locate one in the Marche. To remove them from where they are and cause upheaval where there is order does not meet with my approval. So, you try to find one, and when I am in Rome, if you write to me that you have not been able to find one, I shall see what I can do about it. Look for one from that same province, for it is absolutely necessary to cut down on the expenses for traveling, as much as possible.

Even less have I been able to give much thought to the burro. You can realize that. I praise you for your zeal and your affection for the Society as well as for your thriftiness. But, in this whole matter, you simply could not have picked anyone more inept than myself. On the Missions, you know very well, there is scarcely even time to breathe; and while traveling, it is not an easy thing to find an opportunity to do anything.

You can be sure that it is not true that the Capuchins are in the process of getting hold of abandoned places. Even if it were true, it would not cause the least disturbance for me. Whatever is being said is only the gossip of Sermoneta, unless the Chapter of the sacred Institute has changed its ideas. With regard to the Legacies, prepare a petition; I am speaking of those of S. Francesco, and send it to me in Rome along with one of your letters. Do the same thing for the Hospice and any other undertaking that might require authorization for us.

I would like to have the farmer that you engage or that I do, with your consent, sleep in the

³⁵ Cfr. biographical section: Lenta, Fr.. Turribio.

³⁶ To whom may God give eternal rest; now the great day presses in upon us.

³⁷ From afar. Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Pontine Marshes.

Convent *ut custos*.³⁸ With it securely closed, there will be nothing to fear, nor will he be a temptation for the brigands since their presence is not felt there any longer, according to what I have been told. I submit myself in this matter to your good judgment. In Rome, I shall make an effort to obtain definite permission to stay there. If you should wish for a cleric, I believe that you can have him too. Be assured that I shall not cease doing what I can both for the Society as well as for the Companions. It is a grace of God that he makes use of my miserable being in some small way: indeed, I fear that my failings may delay even greater blessings on the Society. Therefore, *exercebar et scopebam spiritum meum*,³⁹ as David used to say. Everything is from God, we are pure nothingness.

I beg you not to involve me in the accounts dealing with Tarulli or anyone else. Do not suspend the Oratory, even if there is only one little youngster there. God rewards *secundum laborem et non secundum fructum*.⁴⁰ The Lord would have given his life for a single soul. Each one gives advice in his own field, whereas God *dat gratiam secundum officium*.⁴¹ Listen to me, and not to others, even though they may be excellent and learned. Feel free to write to me. You are aware of the attachment that I have for you, and I want you to be convinced of that.

I kiss your hands, and with esteem and respect, I am

Fr. Francesco, your

Humble devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

while travelling S. Felice of Giano⁴²

September 1, 1822

P. S. You could get someone to do the work, *pro interim, donec provideatur*.⁴³ With reference to the burro, this will be taken care of once the farmer is selected; at least, that is what I intend. When you go to Sermoneta, you could spread the word around (and I will present the first announcement) that I shall conduct a retreat for priests, for as many as the number of rooms will accommodate. What do you say to that?

630

September 2, 1822

Fr. Vincenzo Bonacci

Piglio

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Here I am sending a reply to your letter. Wholeheartedly I give thanks to God for the good work that is being promoted there. May the Lord increase evermore in each one a zeal for his greater

³⁸ As a guardian.

³⁹ I was exercising and testing my spirit.

⁴⁰ According to work, not according to fruit.

⁴¹ Gave grace according to one's office.

⁴² On his way back from the second Mission at Forlimpopoli, the Saint, while traveling towards Rome, stopped off first at Pievetorina and then at St. Felice in Giano, where he conducted a Retreat, begun on the 25th of August, together with the auxiliary missionary, Fr. Luigi Cocci.

⁴³ For the time being, until it is provided.

divine glory. That you have reactivated the Confraternity of the Blessed Andrea Conti was called for in gratitude to a Saint that is so particularly honored there.

With regard to the capitular affairs, they are continuing, requiring correspondence with Mr. Filion; I am referring to the promise of the Treasurer in accordance to your letter of reply. *Laus Deo in omnibus.*⁴⁴

I rejoice too that you have figured out the greatest economy in regard to the uniforms for the members of the Xavier group. Please give my regards to them, and have them keep me in their prayers.

Here now are the answers to your questions. The director can surely bless the rosaries for the enrolled men and women. It is understood that he has the printed certificate which authorizes him to do this, namely, the one that I would have left there. Even those women who are unable to read can be enrolled as long as the group is aligned with the Sisters of the most Precious Blood and have Xavier as their protector; they need only to recite seven Glory be to the Fathers, as you know, and there is nothing obligatory in conscience. Since the nightly Oratory is for the men alone, the women can select a time for prayer to be observed throughout the year either in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament or before some sacred image of the Crucified Lord, always praying for the Holy Father, the needs of the Church, for the Missions in the East and for all of our workers etc. With enthusiasm, filling out all the hours throughout the year or on feast days will be so many adorers of the mysteries of the Blood of Jesus Christ, uniting these devotions to those days. It is understood that all is done freely and with the faculty of making changes among the participants. If the means are available, they could also have the regulations printed; in this way, compensation will be made for the many sins committed against Jesus, in particular, blasphemies etc. The time of prayer can be carried out either in the home or in the church, kneeling down or seated.

As for the women who are capable of reading and are in the group devoted to the devotion to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, they too are to recite the seven Glory be to the Fathers, and, at least on Fridays, they are to promote the recitation of the Chaplet either in public under the direction of a priest or in private, also, if possible, on feastdays. Some, too, might recite it each night in the family circle. The more this devotion is propagated, the more will the copious blessings of God increase. In your area, there is that special sacred image of the Crucified Lord, of which so willingly would I love to have a casting, but I discovered that there is none available. I hope that they have observed the devotion during the month of June; if not, there is next year. The plenary indulgence granted on the feast is really applicable only to those who are enrolled. But, one can request it by submitting a private petition asking for it to be available in the most extensive terms to those who are not enrolled. If you send that request to me, addressing it to Rome for the sake of safe forwarding, enclosing it with your letter, I will take care of it.

With regard to the Mass of the most Precious Blood, we already have that for our Houses, on the first Sunday in July; this, however, is a privilege granted to us. If you people would like to have this privilege, the clergy should prepare a petition, and I will see that you get it. Make reference, too, to the Crucifix that you have there etc. And it is understood that the Office is not said on any other day in the year. In time, if they do not have a large number of patron saints, we could also have Xavier selected. More, *ad alias.*⁴⁵ This, indeed, must be a purely devotional celebration, and not one

⁴⁴ Praise to God in all things.

⁴⁵ For another time.

with a lot of popular hoopla. Then, at carnival time, I urge you to observe the sanctified carnival and, on Mardi Gras, to have a general communion.

In another paragraph of your letter, I see your reference to the solemn feast of the mysteries of the most Precious Blood concerning which I have spoken up above. I reiterate here everything that I stated previously. Three cheers. So, I have nothing more to add except to say how much I rejoice *in Domino*⁴⁶ for the good work that you are promoting, to recommend myself humbly to your prayers as well as those said in common. The Mission in Benevento was immensely fruitful, and I still have a Missionary stationed there who is completing the harvesting. Give thanks to Jesus for me. A thousand greetings to all the reverend Canons, to the men and to all the good people there. May Jesus make us saints, and, as it is his holy will to which we must correspond, bring us all together one day to Paradise. Amen.

Offer suffrages for the soul of a companion of mine who died in Sonnino. Patience. *Ita Domino placuit ...obmutui et non aperui os meum ... tu fecisti.*⁴⁷ With very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission House in S. Felice in Giano, September 2, 1822

631

September 2, 1822

Fr. Vincenzo Annovazzi

Civitavecchia

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable vicar

Excuse me for inconveniencing you with this letter of mine. A certain Girolamo Segapelo of the city of Castello has written to tell me that he cannot find a confessor who will absolve him. Let this be secretly between us, and I ask you to listen. There is question here of a soul and the Lord inspires me to ask you to arrange to have a meeting with this man, and then refer him to someone who will be able to help him. He wishes for a reduction in his sentence, but in such a case it is you who will have to submit the petition for him in due form. It should be stated clearly, for so often certain petitions are submitted that are ghastly. I do not know this man at all. At any rate, I will try to do whatever I can after I hear from you by letter addressed to me in Rome. Asking you for your prayers, with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

S. Felice, September 2, 1822

P. S. In another year, we will need to promote there the month of the most Precious Blood of Jesus which is presently being prepared by the printer. Tell the prisoner in confinement in that prison that it will not be necessary for him to write again; he should think of becoming holy etc.

⁴⁶ In the Lord.

⁴⁷ It thus pleased the Lord ... I became dumb and was silent ... you acted.

632

September 3, 1822
Mr. Filion
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Mr. Filion⁴⁸

Please give the enclosed⁴⁹ to Monsignor and also read to him the letter from Canon Tarulli, my companion, with whom he is well acquainted, and say to him that I would like very much to see him contented. Asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice, September 3, 1822

633

September 8, 1822
Pope Pius VII
Most blessed Father

Canon Adriano Tarulli, desirous of offering himself to the apostolic ministry of giving holy Missions, petitions your Holiness to deign to grant him a pension or simple benefice for his canonry which he enjoys in the Cathedral of Matelica, under the title of S. Francesco di Paola, *ius patronato*,⁵⁰ granted by the Copeca family of that city, that is, an annual subsidy of forty-five *scudi*, and that the petitioner has the patrimonial title; that etc.

In behalf of Canon Adriano Tarulli from Matelica

634

September 4, 1822
Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
S. Nicola in Carcere
Roma

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

I will not speak to you of your deceased sister, since it is sufficient for me to have recommended her to God, which I will continue to do. David said: *Obmutui et silui quoniam tu fecisti*.⁵¹ Our relatives, however, are not lost: they simply precede us and a sweet bond of religion unites us to them in a marvelous way. *Nolite contristari de dormientibus*.⁵²

⁴⁸ The address is incomplete because only half of the sheet has been preserved. We can read: "*all'Ill. ... Il Signor ... Segretario*".

⁴⁹ Cfr. the following letter.

⁵⁰ A law for the patron.

⁵¹ I became dumb and was silent because you acted.

⁵² Do not be sad about those who are asleep.

You have probably learned already of the death of the good Fr. Torribio, whom likewise God has willed to take back to himself. I experience no remorse on account of the bad climate there, for as soon as the warm weather had set in, I had sent him to Sonnino. *Oremus pro omnibus. Nunc nobis instat magna dies! At Sanguis Jesus Christi est nostra spes et salus pro vita aeterna, etc.*⁵³ Let us go on to other things.

For thousands and thousands of reasons pertaining to the glory of God, I will enter into correspondence with the Bishops of Naples within a short time. I want you to remember to send the papers of aggregation to a certain Fr. Rocco Pellegrini, Archpriest of Pofi, and to a certain Fr. Constantino of Foggia, Vicar Capuchin in the Convent of Anagni. In case you have not already done so, send them promptly, and in my future visit there I will speak to them for my own peace of mind.

What about *Buon Consiglio*?⁵⁴ We will talk about that in person, as well as of other things. Although my stay will be short, because the new foundations are awaiting my attention, it will be quite a bit to set in order again the best way possible. I beg you to have ready for me the quota for Giano from the Lovatti Legacy, since I have to pay a debt incurred by that house, which is in so much need. But that is how the works of God are born: the fruit of hardships, of prayers and of patience.

For the services on the 14th of September, I imagine that you have already provided either Visconti, Della Monica, Giannoli, or *deficientibus aliis*,⁵⁵ Canon Reggi: Tell your Chapter that on my return I will hold a meeting at the Hospice and we will see how things stand. When a certain Fr. Vitale Corbucci comes to Rome, since he is heading for Velletri, where (let it be between us) the tribulations have been quite significant, please introduce him to the most eminent Dean, together with my best wishes. I say this, in case he arrives ahead of me; also, draw up for me a list of the Aggregations that have not been taken care of, except for the city of Segni, because of the discourse of Stracchini.

In Forlimpopoli, where I have executed the Legacy, they are already into another Mission. It seems to me that for the time being I have no more to say to you except that voluntarily we should stand at the Cross of Jesus Christ, *ornata Regis purpura*,⁵⁶ and there I am and will ever be constantly with all affection and attachment

of you, venerable Msgr.

Humble, devoted, obliged servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission House of S. Felice of Giano September 4, 1822

Do not forget to gather together the information on our saintly Albertini for the compendium, etc. How is the portrait getting along? You have probably reminded Msgr. Falzacappa of the dowry for Sr. M. Giuseppa.

To save time, include the certificates for the two aggregators requested by Father Lector Serafino from Monte S. Giovanni in the Convent of Alatri. Cencio will be able to handle the delivery

⁵³ Let us pray for everyone. Now the great day is pressing upon us! But the blood of Jesus Christ is our hope and salvation for life eternal, etc.

⁵⁴ *Buon Consiglio*. Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Hospice of Buon Consiglio.

⁵⁵ The others being deficient.

⁵⁶ The illustrious purple of the Lord.

by way of Frosinone.

635

September 4, 1822

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable and beloved Monsignor⁵⁷

Oh how willingly I received your handwriting! I hope to see you again in person very soon, even though only for a short while. The death of our wonderful Fr. Turrubio has reminded me of that text of David: *obmutui et silui quoniam tu fecisti*.⁵⁸ Let us adore the divine dispositions! The problems of our Society and especially the loss of one of our companions have obliged me to suddenly beg his Eminence Sevaroli to postpone the Missions with the definite promise of rescheduling them at the very earliest possible time. He truly deserves the greatest consideration since he has been requesting them for such a long time. But, let us do the will of God, for that is the flowery bed spoken of in the Canticle: *lectulus floridus*.⁵⁹

Vincenzo, whose exactness cannot in the least way be doubted, has really made the distribution according to instructions. With regard to the 100 *scudi* remaining in Rome, we had to give thought to Albano, where it was established with the members there to be greatly concerned about the clothing for the Brothers. It is only just that they should be provided with food and clothing etc. The situation has caused anguish since they are not able to handle everything. A complaint must have been heard because even the companions there at times appeared upset. Still, that is how the works of God are born. Perhaps, since I have been away, one or the other creditor, whom I had kept quite still, must have demanded full payment. So, we shall try to keep everything peaceful. I am regretful for having to tell you of the least small matter; however, it is not intended to cause you distress in any way whatsoever, you to whom we owe so very much, but rather to keep you informed. For the record, one must keep in mind that we are in service in so many churches, we have opened a number of Houses, we have Brothers to care for, we have in certain places buildings that must be repaired, traveling expenses, articles of devotion to be used during our ministry etc., food costs. In addition, it is necessary to consider now those places under the cover of wintry weather etc. Much has been done up to now, but we are still behind. The Communes that were supposed to provide beds, with the exception of Sermoneta, have done *nihil*⁶⁰ everywhere. One alleges this reason, another asserts something else, and still others claim that they have registered a petition with the *Buon Governo*.

You know very well the troubles that, especially in certain places, the begging collections aroused. In Rome, we have the upkeep of the hospice there, and right now the rent for *Buon Consiglio* is about due to be paid to the Archconfraternity of the Dottrina del pianto etc. etc. Despite

⁵⁷ This letter, which has no date, was certainly written "from S. Felice after August of 1822", as Merlini notes. It is easily deduced from the reference made to the death of Fr. Turrubio Lenta which occurred on August 17, 1822 in Sonnino. From the reference to the death of Lawyer Giuseppe Paolucci, whose death occurred on the 3rd, we conclude that, without doubt, the letter was written on the day after the funeral, namely, September 4.

⁵⁸ I became dumb and was silent because you acted.

⁵⁹ Bed of flowers.

⁶⁰ Nothing.

all, we are not discouraged. I would be disappointed if the Society were to be born either through opulence or through other purely human causes. But, oh! the good work that is being done. If I were to tell you all, it would be necessary for us to be together for quite some time, which is something that God does not will, at least at the present time. I say only this that in time even the Propaganda will be hearing of the achievements of this holy institution. We must get the Holy Father and the Secretary of State to acknowledge that our Society is in need of special helps because there is no doubt that it is making progress.

What St. Philip used to say is not to be applicable to us, namely: Be careful, that, by having possessions, you do not become lacking in spirit. The House in Giano and the one in Pievetorina have consumed the little that I had. Everywhere there is poverty. But, Jesus was born on straw and died on a cross, so we are not afraid. Presently, I shall have to make the rounds of the Province of Campagna, and with God's help, I intend to do that with my missionary's staff, thus making some savings; and St. Francis Xavier will be my help. Let us be joyful to the glory of God. You have promised 50 *scudi* for the construction in Vallecorsa, and 100 to Canon Betti for the young ladies wishing to become nuns, whom I found borrowing since he could not afford the rental fee; so, trusting in your promise, he hopes to be reimbursed. Just like you, bearing so many crosses, St. Francis Xavier was still able to say: *plura*.⁶¹ We, at least, are carrying peacefully the ones we have. But, the master whom we serve is so lovable that we say *si tam dulce est flere ante te, quid erit de te gaudere*.⁶² If I would be requested next year, I would feel inspired to visit again the Capellette of S. Luigi for our spiritual exercises.

Yesterday, upon the invitation of the people, I conducted the funeral services for Lawyer Paolucci; I myself had wanted to sing the Mass for him. I hope that he is already in heaven; nevertheless, we must still do our duty, and the remembrance of Purgatory must keep us far removed even from venial offenses etc. In every one of our Houses, every month, we continue to offer a Mass for you. That is the first thing that I ask whenever I get there. I shall remain just a short while longer here in Giano, and within a few days be back in Rome, but only hurriedly; it will be enough time for me to speak with you, at least to give you my greetings. Monsignor Albertini used to say to me: "Monsignor Cristaldi is the cornerstone that God has provided for the Society" and that is why I love you so much in Jesus Christ, never losing my feelings of esteem and veneration which are due to you for so many reasons. *Laus Deo in omnibus*.⁶³

As usual, you can direct for me to Frosinone the order of procedure. The House in Terracina will be reopened as soon as the climate improves. If it were possible to go to our place, since I hear that there is a continual guard on duty, oh how thankful I would be to you for the series of retreats. Otherwise, we shall conduct ourselves just as the Monks of St. Paul do, namely, winter in Terracina, summer in Sonnino. However, I see all of the Communities, including the Dominicans of Terracina, in Campagna; may the Lord inspire them to treat us in like manner.

Presently, the circumstances appear to have changed; for the missionaries, a mount is provided and they will not be called upon to suffer anything. In Sermoneta, however, our locale is very near the inhabited area. Oh! if only the retreats could be set in motion. They are still held here in Giano, as they note our Roman method, and incidentally, I inform you that because of the shrine

⁶¹ More.

⁶² If it is so sweet to weep before you, what will it be like to rejoice over you?

⁶³ Praise to God in all things.

of the Madonna del Fosco, we are working constantly, as though one were somewhere else, because of the gathering of neighboring people who appear here. It is a consolation on a feastday to see so many people in church. I am hopeful, within a short while and if God preserves me, to retire here and bring my days to an end. As for the arrear payments from the schools, *ut erat in principio*.⁶⁴

Initiate a discussion concerning Benevento with the Secretary of State. The people did not want Betti to depart. Read the enclosed letter which was given to me secretly. To be candid, it is God's will that the foundation be set up there and even more so since it is an isolated part of the Papal States etc. and the means are available there. Speak with holy freedom about it, now that things seems to be reaching a point of maturity.

With regard to Fr. Torribio, I have the consolation that, as soon as the climate began to get bad, I ordered him to go to Sonnino with two Brothers. And, his two companions, natives of Palliano, I sent back to their homes to rest, since in Sonnino, the hospice is not equipped with a sufficient number of beds. Here, in addition to good Achille, I have two new men that we are training for the Society. In Pievetorina, we have Gonnelli, Tarulli and a certain Torsano from Romagna. Please forgive me for giving you this annoyance up to now. And, most reverend excellency, kissing your hands, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. With the chaplaincies that the Camera has, would it not be possible to cut down the cost presently for the hospice in Rome, in order to lighten the expenses, by arranging etc. Prayers for me.

636

September 5, 1822

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

The indulgence will be taken care of. With regard to the Oratory, without having recourse to any authorities, things could be arranged as follows: the winter, in the collegiate church; the summer, in the Cathedral; at least for the time being, for time brings things to maturity. Send your reply to Rome. However, until the Society is fully rooted there, I would be pleased if you would adhere to this advice of mine, and be concerned about it.

Within a short time, I will be there in the Province. Be assured that in a Mission the final touch of the Society is given. Give my regards to all of your wonderful confreres. Never cease insisting *verbo, oratione et exemplo*,⁶⁵ so that all will do the good work that is proportionate to their abilities. I have written to Fr. Serafino: I hope that he has received it; tell him to send his answer to Rome. With esteem and particular affection in Jesus Christ, dear Canon. I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁶⁴ As it was in the beginning.

⁶⁵ By word, prayer and deed.

San Felice, September 5, 1822

P. S. To be candid, in Frosinone you notice few companions and to put it better, only Fr. Biagio; whereas, in Albano, for example, there are many, because anyone who is acquainted with Convents is discouraged. One will be going there within a short while; everything will be arranged, and I have written to Mr. Gulielmi that at least the building should be free for arranging things in good order. The key to all is prayer. I wrote to Fr. Biagio concerning the nun-to-be. I will find out more from one of his letters in Rome.

637

September 1822

Pope Pius VII

Most blessed Father⁶⁶

The priests assigned to look after the nocturnal Oratory in the city of Alatri present to you the following. The Oratory was erected according to the norm of Father Gravita⁶⁷ in Rome. It has been temporarily set up in the Cathedral and the recent erection is only a few months old. However, very notable is the benefit that has been drawn from it to the good of souls. Now, that the change in season is approaching, the locale of the Cathedral appears to become, in fact, too out of the way for the program to continue. They are requesting its transferal to other churches and oratories. One proposes this argument, another puts forth his own. The effect might be the suspension of the whole project of the Oratory. Therefore, with the hope that such a thing does not occur, your Holiness is asked to deign to grant authority to the bishop of Alatri to make a judgment on the matter as to what *in Domino expediri*,⁶⁸ so that each one will acquiesce to whatever he decides, always for the greater glory of God and the benefit of souls. That, etc.

In behalf of those in charge of the nightly Oratory of Aatri

638

September 18, 1822

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

A couple of lines in a hurry. Enclosed is the rescript of authorization for the bishop to deliberate on the matter of the Confraternity, *inauditis omnibus*.⁶⁹ Read the document and the bishop should regulate himself *juxta exposita*.⁷⁰ With greetings *ad omnes nominatim*⁷¹ to Father Serafino, I

⁶⁶ This petition does not bear a date, but it appears as though it should be placed in between the two letters, No. 636 and 638, written to Fr. Pietro Butti, namely, those of the 5th and 18th of September of 1822.

⁶⁷ This is how it is written in the original. One must read however, Caravita.

⁶⁸ To be freed in the Lord.

⁶⁹ Everyone being unheard.

⁷⁰ According to what was set forth.

⁷¹ To all by name.

remain yours with esteem. I have already assigned another member of our missionaries to Frosinone.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 18, 1822

639

September 18, 1822

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, September 18, 1822⁷²

Dearest Canon

I would be greatly pleased if you would be able to go to Velletri for a couple of days, but do so quickly. Within a short time I shall be passing through there. At that time we will get together for a meeting. With respect to the faculties, contact Merlini who is already there. If you have gone, send your answer to me. Then, you can return quickly to Terracina. Please see that you do me this favor. Make the trip with the most economical means possible. I am etc.

G. C. del Bufalo

640

September 20, 1822

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable and beloved Monsignor

On Monday morning at the 12th hour, I shall be there to inconvenience you and I shall tell you in person everything that I have been able to accomplish. Then, I shall have to depart from Rome. However, let us not neglect a single one of God's inspirations concerning Benevento, for you know how tender is that text: "*vinea mea electa ego te plantavi, quomodo etc.*"⁷³ That is what we must procure for a city where neither the Filippini Fathers nor the Jesuits can carry out certain religious programs so well known to your most reverend excellency. It appears that the locale and income of the Scolopi Fathers is not agreeable with his Eminence Consalvi; so we shall not say anything more. However, let us try to get another place which you will note in the petition that I am enclosing. For the love that you have for Jesus Christ, *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,⁷⁴ tomorrow you should obtain the following rescript, keeping in mind the Archbishop's age: "to the most reverend Delegate, that he should come to an agreement with the Archbishop for its execution, granting all the necessary faculties to the Ordinary". If you prefer a shorter rescript: "to his Eminence the Archbishop with all the faculties". I leave all this to your wisdom; the Delegate will act likewise.

⁷² The year is 1822 since the House in Velletri was opened on December 18, 1821 and closed on October 13, 1822. Merlini was in Velletri.

⁷³ My elect vineyard, I have planted you, how etc.

⁷⁴ Who has redeemed us in his blood.

Oh what a consolation it would be if you were to be able to get this rescript tomorrow. It is one that will not upset anyone and it will make provision for a great work that will unfold in the very Kingdom of Naples, where the spiritual needs are so many etc. With all my heart, I ask that you join your approval to my wishes and in the audience tomorrow, bring about its attainment. Once that rescript is obtained, everything will be set in motion; you can be sure about that. I, a miserable creature, shall not cease praying.

The Marquis del Bufalo will speak to you on Sunday concerning a certain Maria Boni, whose petition was forwarded to you some months ago, and for whom I forward to you the enclosed document from her pastor etc. She is extremely poor. Most reverend excellency, asking you for your prayers, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House, September 20, 1822

641

September 21, 1822

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Father

For the 60 *baiocchi* you shall have what you requested, as well as the hymnals. When I arrive in Teramo I shall be able to provide the other devotions that might be needed. With regard to the woman dressed as a man in Forlimpopoli, I, too, have heard this rumor, once the Mission, which was a complete success, concluded; however, nothing unusual or scandalous happened, and as far as I know, I think that it was more the result of someone's altered imagination rather than a substantial truth. Whatever the case may be, I can tell you no more than this. Teramo is very close to my heart and today I am writing in order to fix a definite date. But you can be sure it will be with a very notable inconvenience and disappointment. Indeed, we are not worthy to suffer and work for God. This remark should not be taken in the sense of a criticism, but as a holy, confidential comment in our friendship in Jesus Christ. Pray a great deal so that the devil does not set up new obstacles. Give my thanks to Fr. Vincenzo for the kindness in taking care of the Masses, for which he should send me a document; give him a thousand heavenly greetings. As for the Conservatory and the House for penitents, let me know whether Bonaccioli is still active. With regard to the roof, Monsignor must have sent you some sort of reply. I would like to know this for my own information, and be assured that I will do all that I possibly can. I am sorry that I am not staying longer in Rome. At any rate, let us be of help to each other. Continue to train Sterlini for your Congregation.

As for the devotion in S. Onofrio, which is a matter that should be filed permanently in the Archives, I shall obtain the paper when I get to Teramo and I will take care of everything. In the meantime, have them remain very much at ease. Pray a lot for me, a miserable one, and procure many other prayers extensively for the great work of the Missions. I kiss your hands, and wholeheartedly reassert my particular affection for you in Jesus Christ.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 21, 1822

Give my best regards to the most reverend bishop and to the Capuchin Fathers.

Propagate the devotion of an hour of prayer on Fridays in order to offer to the Eternal Father the merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ in behalf of the desired reform and keep a notification of what is done. Also, promote the devotion of the Fridays in preparation for the feast of Xavier. They begin on the 27th of September. In case you happen to be in Teramo, surely you will be on hand to hear confessions etc.⁷⁵

642

September 21, 1822

Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli

Pievetorina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most beloved Canon

The matter dealing with the Congregation of Cases requires that a concise petition be drawn up, prepared well according to the regulations, indicating both the items of the deed as well as the detailed description of the method observed by those assigned for the composition of the petition, the collections taken up etc. That all covers the past. Now, to make arrangements for the future with this same petition, it will be necessary to obtain the consent of the two pastors contemplated for the institution, in keeping with the deed. Thus, in view of the benefit their flocks will enjoy perennially along with our Society, they should all be content that the petition, while healing the past, will have its full force upon the granting of the rescript. All of this should be forwarded to me, and we shall handle the matter, while supporting it all with our prayers. It would also be helpful for meeting current expenses, relative to the matter, to set up an annual offering for wax, requesting that no other burden be imposed; this would make things more orderly. To be frank with you, I know little or nothing about this whole situation since it was not sent through my hands. I am giving you this answer only in response to what I was able to deduce from your very dear letter. That covers one of your letters. Now I go to the next one.

Rector Giobbi, of Ascoli, will be coming there; you might contact him with a letter if he has not already arrived. As you know, he is one of our Missionaries *in subsidium*⁷⁶ and he will spend his vacation there. You, then, will be able to go to visit your people. The reply that I received from Rector Giobbi is in full agreement with what I have said here. Within a very short while, another man will be arriving there. Little by little, everything is being worked out, after much speaking with God in prayer. Since the nightly Oratory would be a hardship for Rector Giobbi because of the night air, and after a pep talk given by Fr. Pietro Torsani who is quite capable, you could conduct in church on one occasion the *Via Crucis*, on another occasion our most beloved Chaplet, and on still another, a meditation. We shall see what Canon Gonnelli has to say about him and we will recognize what God's will is with reference to this man.

As for everything else that pertains to you, here is my brief response. As long as I have been in charge of directing the Society, I have had no other concern than to serve the needs of the Society;

⁷⁵ This second paragraph was written at the top of the first page, vertically, in the left hand margin.

⁷⁶ For support.

never have I arrogated to myself any authority that was not mine. I have made requests of our companions according to the urgent needs, and nothing more. You should recall my first letter on this matter, and you will note that I left the direction of your ways in the future to your own wisdom, and, as far as I know, I would not have wanted to give you the least reason for being upset, since I was only too happy to obtain through your charity, that good which the Lord would inspire you to embrace and maintain, and that was always to be *juxta vires*.⁷⁷

What I truly recommend is the fulfillment of our agreements with the communes, preparation of a short but fruitful course of Missions, at a time that you feel is appropriate. If you think it good to exclude the time when we have our retreat, I am pleased. You mentioned to me that you would not want to conduct them, and I surely do not wish to cause you any anguish because of that. One of our Missionaries *in subsidium*⁷⁸ will be arriving from Umbria; I cannot tell you how close to my heart this matter is and I am hopeful that it will bear much fruit. If the men in Pievetorina are content to stand by our regulations concerning Lenten preaching observed up to now, I ask you to take charge of that. Do not forget the observance. The period of study can be held in the evening for the time being and also that it should not be neglected, for one must spare time for both hearing confessions and preaching.

On this subject, I feel certain, relying on your affection for the principles which God wishes us to adopt. I will think about the Missions requested by Monsignor Bonanni with whom I have already begun correspondence. As for the clergy, well we will take that up later. It seems to me that I have not forgotten anything. In case I have, remind me. Do not ever lose your tranquility and be assured that I shall do nothing other than to cooperate in bringing a stable peace to your heart. Do not ever be forgetful of your long-lived affection for me. And be assured of my similar and uninterrupted correspondence. Let us bear with one another; we are poor created beings; but, as De Sales says, poverty should not cause us to be miserable. For your own peace of mind, I wish to assure you that I do not fail to faithfully carry out the sayings of the saintly Allbertini. Let us pray for each other to God, and let us become saints. Wholeheartedly and with esteem, Canon, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome. September 21, 1822

P. S. If you would prefer to go to the Bonanni Mission and have me send another member to the commitments with the communes, all you have to do is make your desires known to me, which you should always do with complete sincerity. You know how much I have always loved you etc. As for the faculties for Rector Giobbi, write to the Archbishop as soon as Gobbi comes.

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September 22, 1822

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Achbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

⁷⁷ According to one's strength.

⁷⁸ For support.

Most venerable and beloved Monsignor

Be assured that the House in Pievetorina is extremely close to my heart. Members there will never be lacking. In the past months, it was purely accidental that the good Canon Gonnelli was, for a short time, all alone; let us offer many prayers for his good health. I have recommended to the most reverend Treasurer the problems pertaining to that House, but for the moment - nihil.⁷⁹ However, let us not lose courage. The Society is God's; God will look after it.

I was very greatly consoled to notice from your letter the contentment of soul that you experienced on making your second pastoral visit. May the Lord bless and confirm everyone in doing good etc., for which I do not ever fail to pray with all my heart. If it please you, I would like you to grant me the customary faculties that I have while giving a Mission, any time that I should find myself in your diocese, just as Cardinal Galeffi has done for me in Albano etc. I request this because, at times, I make unscheduled visits there. For me, if I can spend even a single moment in our Houses, I feel as though I am in heaven. Besides the three members that are already stationed in Pievetorina, I hope to be able to send another wonderful priest, a bit advanced in age, but one who is excellent particularly for conducting retreats for the clergy - something that is a most important work for our times. Take care of yourself, do not overwork, and pray a great deal for me. Most reverend excellency, I kiss your hands, and with esteem and respect, I again assert that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, September 22, 1822

P. S. Offer suffrages for Fr. Turribio Lenta, one of our Missionaries, whom God called into eternity this past August.

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September 24, 1822

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Giovannelli

*Laus Deo*⁸⁰ that you have received what you were wishing for in behalf of the Convertite. I imagine that the bishop has the spiritual regulations in reference to the establishment of that community. I shall express again my concerns with regard to the church of S. Agostino as well as your own. But first, I am awaiting your reply to my other letter.

I shall see to the withdrawal of your petition from the office of the most reverend auditor. Let me know whether a certain priest Giannavesi, if I am not mistaken, is located in Ascoli.

Pray a lot for me. I am awaiting a response from Teramo. I kiss your hands and remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 24, 1822

⁷⁹ Nothing.

⁸⁰ Praise to God.

Rector Giobbi will be going to Pievetorina for his vacation. Urge him to do so quickly; tell him that Fr. Vitale Corbucci is leaving Rome tomorrow to go to the House in Velletri.

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September 25, 1822
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Monsignor

At this point, I am leaving in order to visit our Houses and to prepare to reopen the House in Terracina, while joining to this, at least the Mission in Sezze. Please accompany me with your prayers, and do not ever be forgetful of me. For the time being, please address your much appreciated letters to my house from where they will be forwarded to me. I have tried to arrange things so as to avoid delays.

Keep close to your heart the petition from Benevento. In this morning's audience, you might obtain the rescript, and then please have it delivered to me. I shall say that I obtained it myself, without mentioning your name. I kiss your hands, most reverend excellency, and with the fullness of esteem and the most particular affection in Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House, September 25, 1822

In case the memorandum from Benevento might not have reached you, I am enclosing another one.⁸¹ The nightly Oratory has been attended by around 600 men each night.

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September 25, 1822
 Pope Pius VII
 Most blessed Father

The people of Benevento petition your Holiness to authorize his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop, who is very much interested in the installation of a Mission and Retreat House under the title of the most Precious Blood, the invocation of Mary most holy, Help of Christians and the patronage of St. Francis Xavier, to grant the income formerly assigned to the Conventual Fathers who are presently under the Ordinary's administration and who furthermore do not have a location in need of restoration since it is occupied in Government use, to be entered to the benefit of the Missionaries of the aforementioned Institute, with the deeply concerned representatives then assuming the task of erecting the Mission and Retreat House, and, in full consultation with his Eminence, the Archbishop, to select a location which will be adaptable for the project; that etc.

In behalf of the people of Benevento

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September 30, 1822

⁸¹ Cfr. the following document.

Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Do not cease insisting on getting good results from the Oratory, and I shall not fail to recommend it to the Lord. Right now, I am unable to tell you just when I shall be in Frosinone. Presently, I am on my way to the Mission in Sezze. I do not know whether you will be able to coordinate traveling plans with Fr. Biagio's trip. You two will have to work that out.

To my displeasure, I shall not be able to see Father Serafino in Rome. Write to him and give him my distinct best wishes.

I will take care of getting the indulgence. At the latest, after the period of vacations. Pray a lot for me, and, with esteem and respect, Canon, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Velletri, September 30, 1822

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October 1, 1822
Fr. Francesco De Luca
S. Lorenzo

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

With this letter I am seeking to find out what your dispositions are for taking part in the ministry, and whether you would like to go to a small Mission in the Province. Send your reply to Sezze. Pray for me; and with esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Velletri, October 1, 1822

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October 2, 1822
Fr. Andrea Butirroni
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Velletri, October 2⁸²

Dear Father Andrea

The peasant worker will no longer be needed; and, furthermore, it would not be in keeping with our rules. However, thank you very much for your efforts.

Cleric Sellaroli is not intellectually sharp, but he is a good man and nothing else stands in his way. However, realize that because of that first reason, namely, shortness of intellect, he is no

⁸² The year is 1822.

longer acceptable for our Society. Hence, a negative reply with regard to the room. Have him remove the black cincture that he is wearing after the pattern of the Missionary; tell him that he should go to his home in Cori, take up his studies with the Franciscan Friars of Cori, and become a saint. He is not for our group. Pray a lot for me and though in a hurry, consider me to be wholeheartedly

Your affectionate friend
G. C. del Bufalo

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October 5, 1822
Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
Bassiano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father

I am presently asking you to be kind enough to come with me to the Mission in Sezze, and even more so since in that area the works of the ministry do not draw large crowds. I hope that you will not refuse me this favor, even if only to remain for a short while. I will be awaiting you here in Sermoneta this evening at the hospice so that we can work everything out. In the meantime, recommend me to God. I am

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

Sermoneta, October 5

P. S. For your peace of mind, I will be satisfied only to have you give the pep talks, etc. I say this because the devil takes on a thousand different guises.