

St. Gaspar's Letters

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901

May 17, 1824
Fr. Pietro Fusari
Fumone

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon¹

Even though I will be writing to Rome to order a cincture and crucifix for you, nevertheless it would be good for you, as a precaution, to borrow them.

You should be in Frosinone for the evening of May 29th. Let us be in agreement on this.

It is a good idea to bring along your writings. You will not be able to give the main sermon, since this would be a new experience for you, but you will be giving the instructional sermons in the early morning, as well as the oratory at night. In the morning, you will treat the precepts of the decalogue, and I notice that you have a number of topics already. In this respect, you might be able to make good progress by using the *Cristiano istruito* by Father Segneri - a gem of a book. You should never treat of questionable themes, only what is certain. More, when we meet in person. Entrust your apostolate there to good hands. Pray a lot for me, and, with esteem and affection in Jesus Christ, believe me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, May 17, 1824

902

May 18, 1824
Fr. Pietro Fusari
Fumone

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father

Yesterday I sent another letter for you to a man in Alatri in keeping always with the will of God in your regard.

I am delighted that you will soon have the cincture and crucifix. With Friday's mail delivery, I shall write and have them sent to you.

You are free to come here, to this your House, whenever you wish. In desiring to devote yourself entirely to our Institute, which is something that I yearn for too, seeing in you very clearly the will of God, it will be necessary for you to be released from the care of souls there, as well as those ties that may seek to hold you responsible there.

Recommend me frequently to God, and, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

¹ This letter did not have an addressee, but by comparing it to the following letter, it is, without doubt, directed to the same Fr. Pietro Fusari.

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 18, 1824

P. S. If you will be free after the Mission in Gaeta, I shall assign you to the House in Benevento, and you will continue your travels.

P. S. In my last letter, I indicated that your departure should correspond to the 28th or 29th of the current month. Entrust your oratory to good hands.

903

May 18, 1824

Fr. Placido Paparello

Itri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Vicar

With disappointment did I learn of the decline in the works of the Lord there, works intended to bring about a stable and enduring fruit. However, difficulties must not discourage us. We shall speak further about this when we meet, and we shall see what can be done to produce better results; let us offer many prayers and do so assiduously. In my passage through Itri, this time, I shall stay with Giovanni Simone, since I would like to show you, the mayor and the aforementioned Giovanni equal affection. However, you will not be lacking the opportunity of undergoing some inconvenience in behalf of one of my companions. I am convinced of your kindness in doing me this favor. Pray for me and, with esteem, believe me to be wholeheartedly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 18, 1824

P. S. I ask you to extend my special greetings to Fr. Erasmo Pompa in Castellone and to Fr. Sigismondo. Do not forget this. Give my best regards to everyone there.

904

May 20, 1824

Msgr. Francesco Bonomo

Bishop of Gaeta

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am confirming my previous letter which you probably have already received. I am adding these couple of lines to ask you to get word to the Customs Office of Fondi to allow free passage for the case containing the Crucifix, the most holy Mary and other materials for the ministry. In the hospices, it would be good to have one or the other extra bed readied, in case it would be needed, in addition to the ones that I mentioned in my last letter. I kiss your hands. Please give my greetings to Primicerio etc., and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 20, 1824

905

May 22, 1824
 Msgr. Francesco Bonomo
 Bishop of Gaeta
 Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I mentioned that you should add one or the other extra bed available for another companion whom I will have come, depending on the needs of the ministry as it progresses, as we will discuss more in person. On the morning of the vigil of Pentecost, the retreat for the clergy will be begun after choir. This good work must be initiated immediately, otherwise the penitents will pile up and there would be hard feelings. So, it is fitting that the reverend canons should be willing, according to the practice, to anticipate choir in such a way that there will be time for the retreat before the noon hour.

It is usually the custom, also, of sending word to the Regulars of the area, insofar as they might like to take part. Also, if there are nuns or teachers there, they should be alerted to be prepared for the morning of the Saturday before Pentecost, in order that they will have time to receive a bit of spiritual encouragement, along with the announcement of the Indulgences. Then, too, this will point out the concern for those absent from the ministry, and later, other programs, to which the mind can be directed, will be presented.

At this point, I believe that everything that is substantial has been stated. On the Friday morning before, a Missionary will arrive and he will conduct the entrance. I have already informed my companions of the place of our gathering and I hope in God that everything will go along well. I kiss your hands, most reverend excellency, and with esteem and respect and a very special affection in Jesus Christ, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged

G. C. del Bufalo

M. A.

Frosinone, May 22, 1824

P. S. If it is not inconvenient for you, and for the sake of economy, would you favor us by sending your coach early Friday morning to get the Missionaries at the Chiesa del Carmine in Castellone. I ask, however, that it come on time. Please send your reply to Fr. Erasmo Pompa. In the meantime, please offer special prayers for me. I have sent, by way of a dinghy, the Missionary who is to arrive beforehand.

906

May 23, 1824
 Msgr. Andrea Lucibello
 Bishop of Aquino, Sora and Pontecorvo
 Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

With the greatest consolation to my spirit, I received a letter of yours to which I am now sending a reply. The Mission in Roccasecca will, may it please God, begin immediately after the one in Gaeta. With the beginning of June, the aforementioned Mission in Gaeta will begin, and immediately after that the one in Roccasecca, and, as you observed, we will be in time, just before the harvest season. The weather, too, will give us the opportunity for preaching in the open square, if necessary. So, I ask, as a singular favor, that you take care of the enclosed information.

With regard to my arrival in Sora, an unexpected inconvenience arose for me, from which I am presently freed, impeding my greeting you in person. I am referring to the assignment of giving the retreat to the nuns; concerning this matter, I do not know now just what your deliberations are nor the wishes of the nuns. For the sake of saving time, perhaps it would be possible that your most reverend excellency might be able to have another priest supply for this good work, and then, in another year, God-willing, we might be able to compensate for what is not able to be accomplished now because of the great crowds attending the Missions.

Finally, with regard to the Missions that Fr. Giovanni Merlini was not able to conduct, please be sure to give me a note and you can be certain that I will send workers for that time that you will indicate to me. I shall await your reply in Gaeta at the residence of Bishop Bonomo. Lastly, it would be a good idea for you to grant me and my companions the extension of faculties, usually supplied for Missionaries, for the period of time that we are moving about within your jurisdiction, so that we can do whatever good work that God may offer, thus, cooperating and working with the knowledge of the respective pastors and vicar foranes, to the greater glory of God. And, if another man is required for the nuns, I will be able to supply him only during the Novena of the Assumption of the most holy Mary into heaven, and its octave. Most reverend excellency, I kiss your hands, and with the fullest esteem and respect, while asking you to encourage the good intention of having one of our Society's foundations there, I declare that with all the affection of my heart, I am completely at your service.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 23, 1824

Please give me the names of the pastors with whom I must correspond in order to have the Missions conducted with precision.

907

May 1824

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon²

In reply to your letter, I tell you that I am awaiting from Rome another five crucifixes, coats of arms and cinctures to complete the order of 20, and you will be receiving these as soon as possible; have no doubt. I would suggest that, in the meantime, that a partial collection be taken and

² This letter has no date, but by comparing it to the letter written to the same person on May 16, 1824, we conclude that it came just a bit later.

with that collection we can proceed with a further order of ten, bringing the total to 30.

Try to direct Canon Ceriaca³ to the study of the B. Liguori and I am convinced that keeping himself busy and at the same time showing blind obedience will free him from every inner feeling of anguish. It is a case that hearing confessions should not cause him to feel jeopardized. You might add that I have seen so many timid souls who, after dealing with the consciences of others, have acquired peace for themselves. I add further that sometimes God presents certain practical testings for those who are engaged in the work so that he might become, theoretically, a master. In short, I do not feel that I need to change my opinion. I simply would tell him to continue reviewing moral cases and, within a short time, I would urge him to take the examination. In the beginning, the work will be moderate, and later he will do much good in hearing confessions. Pray over these principles.

Give my thanks to Livio Gorirossi for the payment of the six *scudi*, thereabouts, and I thank you also for your charity. Recommending the enclosed to you and extending my best wishes to Abbess Mattei, consider me to be wholeheartedly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

908

May 26, 1824

Msgr. Francesco Bonomo

Bishop of Gaeta

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

I am writing this letter from Vallecorsa where I am staying over a day or so in order to do a bit of good work for the greater glory of God. I cannot tell you how pleased I am to receive your gracious letters and how much more delighted I will be to see you again in person to profess once more my feelings of esteem, respect and special affection in Jesus Christ. Since we will then be able to speak, at ease, with one another, on the Thursday preceding the entry for the Mission, you, if it so pleases you, might be kind enough to come to Castellone to the Chiesa del Carmine, at any time during the morning. I shall be there with the hope of being able to give them some reminders on that Thursday in the⁴ of S. Erasmo. In that way, the good work will be conducted in an orderly and methodical fashion to the greater glory of God.

With regard to the retreat for the clergy, for my own devotion, I would like, if possible, an opportune place prepared in the basement of the cathedral, which is, I feel, a place where the spirit can contemplate in a special way. However, I always abide by your advice. Most reverend excellency, I kiss your hands and, with esteem and respect, I remain, in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

³ On other occasions, he spells it *Cerica*.

⁴ Understood is *Chiesa* [Church].

Vallecorsa, May 26, 1824⁵

909

May 31, 1824
Mr. Michele Perrone
Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Michelino

One of my companions will be arriving from Benevento for the Mission in Gaeta. I ask you, as a distinct favor, to be kind enough to have him stay at your house, and I will be most obliged to you. With esteem, consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Fondi, May 31

910

June 22, 1824
Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giacomo

I advise you to arrange your travel to go as far as Fondi and there you will find two mounts ready to go on to Vallecorsa. In Vallecorsa, there will be another for getting you to Roccagorga. You should arrive a day later; it is necessary to follow this arrangement since I do not believe that you should go to Terracina since I will be closing the House and this is not the time for a change of air, etc. I will send mounts to Fondi to Canon de Giorgio.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Terracina, June 22, 1824

911

June 24, 1824
Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Giovanni Francesco

In reply to your letter, as I return from various Missions that have delayed my response, I wish to let you know that I am informed of the reception of the three packages, and, with regard to Primicerio in Lanciano, I hope that within another year, through your intervention, the month of

⁵ The copy has the date 1827, but it is evident that 1824 is the year involved, mindful of the other letters to this person.

June will be promoted. So, from now on, you should undertake the holy task of promoting it wherever possible. More and more have the Missions been blessed by God; but, pray to the Lord that the Missionary who is writing may truly become entirely God's. With respect to his spirit, do not be distressed. God is a God of peace; we are in service to a good master who prefers a gentle spirit. Indeed, internal sufferings are signs of the refinement of love. So, should we not always be ready with the scalpel of mortification? Is not a helmsman who steers his ship safely through violent winds more worthy of a greater reward than one who indeed fulfils his duty, but through favorable winds?

Therefore, be courageous. *Confortamini in Domino, et notentia virtutis eius.*⁶ The answer lies in the thought: what may one not await from prayer etc. Perhaps you may not feel that you can hold to your mode of life, and, if that is the will of God, why get upset? The basic consideration is that in aspiring towards God, with whatever inner groanings there may be, in being convinced of the divine presence, the substantial nature of prayer is not lost. What is necessary is that we maintain the intention of serving God without becoming discouraged. I conclude by saying that you are like a person who sings out, but at the same time being deaf, does not hear the harmony. Think about this etc. God is strengthening you in humility, so, with his grace, work hard; and, I repeat, be courageous. Above all, be mindful of me and ask your wife and family, along with Micheli, to do the same. Then, the one from among our group who is first to go to Paradise, should remember the ones who still remain behind, etc.

Furthermore, I ask that you keep a record and write down all of your beautiful spiritual thoughts or examples from the lives of the saints that most deeply impress your spirit. Later, at your convenience, you can send them to me. This will be greatly useful for me. I realize that you are overly concerned about the activity of your mind, but, in the relationship between the mind and the body, much discretion is required. Therefore, let there be a special room in your dwelling place which might be called the discretion room. Virtue is something sweet, pleasant and completely permeated with peace: *posuit fines suos pacem.*⁷

With regard to your son's problem, what can I say? I confess that I am very tenacious on such matters, and I base it on the experiences that I have had in the ministry. At any rate, my esteem for Father Giovannelli is such that, with no hesitation, I say that you can be perfectly at ease in following his advice and, along with him, work out as best you can a solution to the situation. Miserable thing that I am, I shall not cease offering prayers; but you know how little I pray. To the best of my ability, I shall make up for the lack.

Do me the favor of finding out whether Tarulli has actually taken possession of a canonry or not. I know nothing for sure about this. I would appreciate a definite bit of information.

I give thanks to God for the progress being made in the Oratory. Let us hide ourselves in the wounds of Jesus Christ, and, on the first Sunday in July, let us offer many prayers for the welfare of the Society which, shortly, is going to set roots in Rimini.⁸ With the fulness of esteem, respect and particular affection, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁶ Be strengthened in the Lord and in the power of his goodness.

⁷ He established peace in his territory.

⁸ The year is 1824, when the House in Rimini was opened.

Mission and Retreat House in Sermoneta, June 24

912

June 27, 1824
Cardinal Luigi Ercolani
Rome
Your Eminence

I am sending this letter to your most reverend Eminence in order to recommend to you Sister Maria Metilde Eusebii, a native of Bassiano, who has, for so long a time, been seeking to have fulfilled her wish to take the sacred habit of the Institute of the Holy Family. May your most reverend Eminence be pleased to assure her of a dowry. Concerning other matters, I shall write to you from Frosinone and I shall give you a report concerning the sacred visitation.⁹ But, right now, the mail is ready to go out. So, I will limit myself to this. Most reverend Eminence, while recommending myself to your prayers and kissing the sacred purple, I am and will constantly be

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sezze, June 27, 1824

913

June 29, 1824
Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
S. Nicola in Carcere
Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor and beloved brother

I read with particular pleasure your most appreciated letter, and I am very happy to see your writing. I thank you for the Lovatti payment; please do not cease to insist on the next due payment. If you will, thank the Duchess of Sermoneta for her kind arrangements, and perhaps for this year there will be no further need of searching.

Continue zealously with the gathering of data on our very dear Albertini, and do not fail to use all of your energy for this purpose which I so many times have urged you to do.

Our plans are the following: you will organize the Archives of the Archconfraternity, and I, that of the Missions; then you will further prepare a report on the Life of our beloved Founder, with whom it seems that I am still talking; I go on obeying him as though he were still living.

Later, I will willingly enter into correspondence with the Bishop of Marsi. But you may say to me: is Marsi in the Kingdom of Naples? And is the Episcopal See really Marsi?¹⁰ Do not be doubtful, I will do all I can to conform myself cheerfully to your edifying concern.

⁹ St. Gaspar concluded this visitation on June 28, 1824.

¹⁰ Diocese of Marsi: extends throughout the Abruzzo, around Lake Fucino, now all dried up, with the Episcopal see first at Pescina, then at Avezzano, where it still remains. The name of the Diocese derives from the name of the people, the Marsi, one of the oldest in Central Italy. At the time of St. Gaspar, it belonged to the Kingdom of Naples.

Let us not be discouraged about the Month. It must always be handled by one of our men. This year it will be Canon Betti, who has a special gift of unction. Other Institutes emphasize the various gifts of their members too. At any rate, good will be done: Within a short time, after certain things have been realized, the Church of S. Nicola will not be big enough for the Month. Do not fail to encourage the members, and do not cease to recommend the regulations to them. Greet them for me cordially.

Think only about what is to be done in the Archconfraternity. I will think about everything else. God will provide. Do not become distressed.

Keep the Bedoni matter in mind and the suffrages for the few contributors, when the situation occurs.

Finally, I will repeat my concerns to Card. Falzacappa in this same mail delivery, and God knows with what zeal. Let me know if you want me to write to Msgr. Marchetti, or to Cardinal Sevaroli, or to Cardinal Galeffi. Pick from the three. Would to God that I could do more. Let us not cease in our persistence. On Sunday in particular let us be united *in vulneribus J.X. qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*.¹¹ And with the usual true affection and cordiality, be assured that I am

Your devoted servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, June 29, 1824

P. S. If you have any printed matter or devotions that are useful for Missions, give them to Severini and I will be most obliged to you. *Ora pro me assidue*.¹² My greetings to Canon Ribecca, etc.

914

bis July 1, 1824

Monsignor Ottavio Zolio

Bishop of Rimini

Rimini

Most venerable Monsignor

Appointed by the Holy Father to the directing of the Missions given by the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, I now fulfill my obligations to your most illustrious and reverend lordship in setting up there one of our foundations (the fruit of the particular zeal of Monsignor Marchetti), and thus put into action that special effort which is so urgent in bringing about the hoped-for reform. I have already had the honor of meeting you in person on the occasion of my visit to Rimini and I am well aware how earnestly you seek to promote whatever will lead to the greater glory of God and the sanctification of souls. Now that the Lord has called you to be pastor of that flock there, I am completely assured of your fullest efforts in lending a helping hand to the initial work of our Society. In the meantime, I shall not cease continuing my encouragement of Monsignor Marchetti who will, though he may be far away, keep up his assistance in this very holy endeavor. When things are more definitely settled, more will be done, which is what we so sincerely desire. Most illustrious and reverend lordship, while asking you for your

¹¹ In the wounds of Jesus Christ, who redeemed us by his blood.

¹² Pray for me continuously.

prayers, I repeat, with esteem and particular respect, that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, July 1, 1824

915

July 2, 1824

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Camillo

Oh how delighted I was to receive your very dear letter and how obligated I am to you for the little song that you have put into notes! *Laus Deo in omnibus*.¹³

With regard to Fr. Filippo Ledi, tell him that since God is truly calling him to join our Institute, it is necessary that he come to Rome to our hospice of *Buon Consiglio* where he will get further instructions concerning the House to which he will be assigned and where he will do great work. I want to place him under the direction of Fr. Biagio Valentini so that he can learn well the spirit of our Institute. Only his first trip will be at the expense of Fr. Filippo. Later, the Society will take care of everything else. I have named Fr. Biagio since, at present, he has been assigned to the formation of new men. However, he himself is to decide when he will be coming. Write and send me precise details and let us be agreed on this. Furthermore, he is to take care of getting his release from his bishop.

Along this line, tell me: has Canon Tarulli taken possession of a canonry? I would like to have detailed information. He has made a big mistake, thinking, however, that he is doing something good. I ask you to take care of getting some Chaplets that I am in need of. My dearest friend, let us put our trust in this very great devotion! It must surely placate our eternal, divine Father. I am never forgetful of you; in fact, more and more do I join you in your holy intentions. Let us be united in the Heart of Jesus, for then we shall one day be reunited in blessed eternity. Keep insisting on the pious organizations and let us do whatever good work we can and as widespread as possible. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, July 2, 1824

916

July 4, 1824

Mr. Vincenzo Aversano

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

¹³ Praise be to God in all things.

My dearest in the Lord¹⁴

I was delighted and will always be delighted to receive your letters, and I do not cease expressing to you my thanks for the assistance that you gave us during the Missions. I am happy to hear of the fervor of the Gaetani people and I am eager to see it grow more and more. Try to see to the care of the gifts to the most holy Crucifix offered during the time of the Mission. I am sending along some devotional material in honor of St. Francis Xavier. Recommend me to this great saint, and with greetings to you father, believe me to be

Affectionately yours

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, July 4, 1824

917

July 8, 1824

Fr. Pietro Torsani

Pievetorina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

In reply to your letter, I send you the following:

1. I sent a message to Severini, by way of a letter, concerning the eight Masses.
2. You will be receiving three *scudi* for the mailing expenses that you will expend for the church. I am not able to do more; but, be assured that I consider cooperation in doing good to the honor of the Lord to be the highest glory.

3. It is quite true that I had forgotten about the Masses, due to the many cares that I have and that are increasing more and more. By this time, however, another letter of mine concerning this matter should have arrived, addressed to Fr. Vitale who was pressing me about it.

4. I am hopeful, indeed, that Fr. Vitale will stay in the Institute. That you wish to be away for a short while because of the reasons you stated to me with regard to your relatives is the will of God, and I say nothing more. But, if you are running away from inevitable crosses leading to holiness of life, I do not see how I could approve of your decision. I recognize, however, that the first reason could arouse you, but not the second one, since *Calicem quem dedit mihi pater, etc.*¹⁵ These words are addressed to all, and wherever we may be, Jesus Christ will offer the chalice to us. The place or anything else will not exempt us. Indeed, you promised me that you would remain for all of September. So, for the present time, I am governing my decisions based on that.

6. As for the retreat to the clergy, prayers. It will not depend on my coming or not coming. So, I shall send someone who will be of assistance and I myself will contact the most reverend archbishop.

7. As for the exchange of 70 *scudi*, I know nothing. The word exchange is not admissible with regard to pious places, and in secular ones, there is need for theological titles.

8. I am surprised that Canon Aloysi does not work out well. Indeed, I shall send him to Giano. I will pray over this. Since he is a newcomer among the recent arrivals, it will be necessary to

¹⁴ The address has this specification: "to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Commune".

¹⁵ [Do you not wish me to drink] the chalice which the Father has given me?

stimulate him.

9. I will be fully content that you will go to the foundation in Romagna. I do not look upon you as someone outside the Society, but simply absent for justifiable reasons. So, let this be our understanding.

10. From various letters, I have gotten word of the imprudent rumors spread about concerning Pievetorina. I forgive everyone. I have had to see verified what had been foretold to me (and I could not believe it) that my own confreres would have spoken ill of the Institute. I repeat, I forgive everyone and I love them all in Jesus Christ. I did not go about looking for those letters, but, accidentally, they got into my hands. I join this to all the other crosses that the ministry bears along with it. I do not complain about any of them. I kiss the holy Cross, and I plant it deeply into my heart. God's works are born only among thorns.

11. It seems that I have nothing else to say except that I want you to love me in Jesus Christ as I have always loved you in the Lord and always will. Keep me in your prayers so that as I come to the final days of my life *id unice signatim exoptem quod a me enixe exquiratur: Gloria Paradisi. Sum tuus ex corde, in corde Jesu Christi crucifixi.*¹⁶

Your humble servant

G. Can. del Bufalo

Mis, Ap.

Frosinone, July 8, 1824

918

July 9, 1824

Cardinal Luigi Ercolani

Roma

Your Eminence

With this letter I am asking you to name two dowries for the novice Vincenza Benedini, in the monastery of Sezze, who shows excellent promise for the Institute. She is always mindful of your Eminence's charity and, because of that, she will never fail to keep you in her prayers. It seems to me that now a document would likewise be helpful. I am enclosing some pages relating to the visitation.¹⁷ Later, I shall communicate to you other matters relative to the accomplishment of things that are to be taken into consideration.

Asking you for your prayers, most reverend Eminence, with distinct esteem and respect, while kissing the sacred purple, I remain

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, July 9, 1824

919

July 9, 1824

¹⁶ I should eagerly desire only that which is zealously sought by me: the glory of paradise. I am yours from the heart, in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

¹⁷ Cfr. the following.

Cardinal Luigi Ercolani
Rome

Memorandum
for His Eminence Ercolani

On the occasion of the visitation, it was discovered that in the church of the Sisters of the Holy Family in Sezze, when they celebrated the feast of S. Antonio Abate, the alms that were donated on that occasion were distributed, generally speaking, *ad libitum*¹⁸ of the nuns. However, after really examining the situation, the faithful intended to have them administered either for Masses or for the altar itself. Since it is morally impossible now to come to any solution, your Eminence, their protector, is asked to speak to His Holiness about this, since the nuns acted in good faith, and are disposed to act more prudently in the future. May your Eminence grant a favorable response for their peace of conscience etc.

920

July 12, 1824
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

I begin by giving you a report concerning Mr. Tagliaferri who more and more is showing a spirit of fervor for the greater glory of God, and is yearning for the moment when he can leave for the House of S. Felice in Giano where he will become even more closely united with the Lord; and, with care, he will not cease becoming well-founded in the sacred sciences. In time, we will have the dimissorials sent to our bishop in Norcia, Monsignor Bonanni, formerly the first superior in Giano, and a close friend of Monsignor Domeniconi. It will be necessary to check with the chancery to see whether Tagliaferri has or has not received tonsure, for there seems to be some doubt about this. It is a good idea to gather together all the testimonies and other papers for receiving tonsure and minor orders in Norcia, along with, I repeat, dimissorials for Monsignor Bonanni.

Likewise, it will be required to have a passport or an authentic document from that commune. After all of that has been done, he will begin his trip and in Giano he will be invested as a cleric. I ask you, however, to look after this carefully so that there will be no delay in fulfilling his wishes for solitude that is not so easily attainable in Frosinone, even though, there is no cessation to the insistence on exact observance of the rule in that place.

Keep urging Mr. Molella for the design. I do not fail to pray for our Antonio. For his messages that you communicated to me, I give you my thanks. Give my wholehearted greetings to the most reverend bishop, to Canon Domeniconi, Canon Tarulli, and to Canon Cerica whom I recommend to you in order to get him to take on, more and more, the active life. Compute the boarding fee for Tagliaferri starting from the time that he is in Frosinone, for you are quite aware that our Society has immense programs, and those 50 *scudi* do not allow even for 15 *baiocchi* per day.

Let us pray to God that the Society will have an abundance so that it can do more without any charge, and that is something that I truly would want to see done. Recommending myself to your

¹⁸ At [your] wish.

prayers, with esteem and a very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, July 12, 1824

921

July 12, 1824

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

I hope that now you are in an improved state of health, which is something that I sincerely desire, and that the Lord will preserve you well. Antonio Gulielmi is seriously ill and I am fearful for him. I cannot express to you how moved I am whenever I visit the sick who always bring home to me another new example of human frailness.

In your first audience with the Holy Father, please ask him to authorize the erection of a portable altar in one of the prisons of Gaeta so that they can fulfill the precept. I had forgotten to write to you about this before. Furthermore, I would like to ask you for a bit of help to cover the many extraordinary expenses incurred in carrying out the ministry. Recommend me to God, most reverend excellency, and with esteem and a very special affection, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, July 12, 1824

922

July 12, 1824

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

The large number of projects in the ministry and also local circumstances have always kept me occupied in the Missions, but I am indeed content because of the good work that is being accomplished. At any rate, I am truly desirous of visiting again our foundation in Pievetorina and I do not lose hope, in general, that I can be there in the autumn, if the Lord will so will it. However, by way of precaution, I would ask you to indicate to me the time that you would like to have the series of retreats to be conducted for the priests. In an extreme case, I will be sending another capable member to be of assistance to the men presently there in Pievetorina. He is already prepared for giving retreats to priests and so this work which is so pleasing to the Lord will not be delayed. Monsignor, do not forget to keep me in your prayers in which I trust so much. Let us maintain our holy union in the Heart of Jesus Christ where I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 House in Frosinone, July 12 ¹⁹

923

July 18, 1824
 Fr. Domenico Agresti
 Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Domenico

I do not forget our discussion relative to the Canon theologian there whom I did not have the opportunity to meet at the time of the holy Mission. So, you should determine which months you would like to be of assistance in exercising the ministry with our man and in which province or diocese. Be informed that according to our regulations, after one year *a die petitionis*²⁰ you will receive your certification. Give my best wishes to the aforementioned Canon. May both of you pray for me, and, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, July 18, 1824

924

July 19, 1824
 Fr. Pietro Torsani
 Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Fr. Pietro

Please inform Gherardo that the action that he undertook in Giano by leaving unexpectedly and going off is of the greatest discourtesy. I pardon his ignorance, but tell him clearly that he should in the future try to regulate himself better, and in not doing so, he should leave the Society. God does not need men. With esteem, consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, July 19²¹

P. S. Monsignor Gaspari writes to me that he has resumed with Father Vitale the discussion held in Rome concerning the shrine of the Madonna del Piano from which Canon Bertoni has departed in order to be in S. Chiara in Rimini. He asks me not to stand in the way of the foundation in the aforementioned shrine. Father Vitale, however, will be more acquainted with the situation than

¹⁹ The year is 1824 as is evident from the following annotation placed on the outer covering by someone else, perhaps by Mattei himself: "Have the reply sent before September or send another capable member. July 20, 1824".

²⁰ On the day of the petition.

²¹ The year is 1824, as is evident from the reference made in the postscript to the foundation in Rimini.

I and he can make the decision as God inspires him. I will stand behind whatever he will decide to do. I am sorry about the void that might be caused there, but since what may occur is not of my doing, I pray that matters be handled with prudence and not with idle chatter. I shall await a reply.

At any rate, it will be necessary to see to the arrival there of a person capable of governing that foundation. Gaspari tells me that the aforementioned shrine already has come into the possession of something etc. I know that there were not a few difficulties involved. He tells me that everything is leveling off and that Father Vitale is in agreement with his ideas. I am not acquainted with that foundation. I shall willingly offer prayers and I will entrust myself to the most holy Mary. You should, in the meantime, continue your apostolate to the glory of God etc.

925

Middle of July
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

You propose to me a young man who, I suppose, is old enough to become a brother-in-service. So, if he is interested, it will be necessary for him to leave immediately for Giano.

There, he will have three months of probation and during those three months he will have to provide his own clothing. His first trip there will be at his own expense. However, if he is poor, I shall take care of it as best I can. But it is necessary that he leave at once, otherwise it will not work out. There, in Giano, I have a Brother who is sick. See that he has all of his papers in order. I shall have your sash ready tomorrow. Pray, etc. In a big hurry

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

I repeat, send the candidate immediately.²²

926

July 21, 1824
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

After sending you a letter of mine, I have received in the mail the money you know about and I am forwarding it immediately to Rome. I thank you for your exactness.

Presently, I have your sash ready for you and, since for a long time now, I should have given you a rosary, now instead, the sash will be my acknowledgment to you.

I inform you that the young man, Tagliaferri, has already been invested as a cleric and has left for Giano. I learned this from a letter sent from Rome. I recommend him to God. I am indeed hopeful that he will turn out well and that he will be happy.

²² This letter does not have a date. By comparing it with the letters written to the same person on July 21 and 23, 1824, we conclude that this one must have been written around the middle of July 1824.

I did not fail to do good in S. Agostino in behalf of our deceased Gulielmi, and I hope that *in pace sit locus eius*.²³ Meditating on death is truly an important thing. The Divine Blood encourages us to do so. Miserable thing that I am, I do not cease praying for you, and I would love to hear that you are in good health. Continue sending me news. As for your uncle, doubt *nihil*.²⁴ He should take care of himself and likewise take a bit of the blessed water of St. Francis Xavier.

Stimulate the good Gorirossi to look after the oratory. Set up a union of the workers and have meetings with them. I recommend this good work to Diamante, the brother of the cleric Tagliaferri etc. God rewards *secundum laborem et non secundum fructum*.²⁵ So, have meetings often. Pray a lot to God for me and may he who has united us in the unity of the ministry, reunite us one day in blessed eternity.

With esteem, consider me to be wholeheartedly

Your humble servant and affectionate friend

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, July 21, 1824

P. S. At your leisure, send me the first trimester for Tagliaferri and I will forward it to the economist in Giano.

927

July 27, 1824

Fr. Luigi Moscatelli

Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearsst Canon

With pleasure did I receive your letter, and I only regret to learn of the disturbing situation that you made known to me. Sometimes, even among the best people, certain misunderstandings arise, not for the heart but for the mind, thus allowing the most lovable God to remind us to acknowledge the profound abyss of our lowly status. St. Philip Neri did not leave S. Girolamo della Carita in Rome just because one of his companions was a test of virtue for him. He was accustomed to say: "This companion of mine will take me to a higher place in heaven." Let us apply this to ourselves. Bitter situations (as Father da Ponte used to say) are annoying to our human susceptibility, but then they turn out to be sweet since the more sensitive our humanity is, so much the more glorious is the victory. The grace of God will not be lacking. So, be courageous.

Also, among the reminders left by St. Philip, there is the one that says: do not be worried if you are despised ... pardon the intention and keep on moving forward ... everything is good for the attainment of paradise. And the saint's ejaculatory prayer was: "I thank you, my Jesus, that things do not happen according to my way of doing things". As long as we are here below, there will never be a scarcity of suffering. The way of the Cross is the royal road to heaven.

As soon as I can, I shall try to get to Albano. In the meanwhile, make use of that prudence which distinguishes a priest in seeking God alone, just as these must surely be your sentiments.

²³ May his place be in peace.

²⁴ Nothing.

²⁵ According to the work not according to the fruit.

Little by little, everything will be worked out satisfactorily. Be tranquil and calm. Love of God makes everything gentler. I am consoled to learn that you are supported by wise counsel to remain confirmed in the Society which is indeed God's work. Let us not lose our intimate union in Jesus Christ and let us love each other, directing ourselves toward Paradise which is the only center for our happiness.

During the upcoming vacation period, do not abandon the House and be zealous, as I have no doubt you will be, for the honor of the Institute which, I repeat, belongs to God himself. I conclude that, for the present time, you continue to control yourself to the best of your ability and according to God's inspirations.

Give my best regards, in particular, to Agostino for I am sincerely sorry to hear about his poor status of health. My dearest friend, courage... May Jesus be our delight. But Jesus *est in hac vita fasciculus myrrhae etc.*²⁶ With the usual feelings of affection and esteem, desirous also of seeing you restored to peace of mind, for which intention I shall not fail to pray to the Lord, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, July 22, 1824

P.S. For whatever you may desire or for whatever need you may have, please write to me, since you will be doing something pleasing to me etc.

928

July 23, 1824

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Have no more worry about the cincture. Keep insisting on the design. I give thanks to God that you enjoy good health. I have not received, in this ordinary mail delivery, a response from Giano. The Brother has already departed from Frosinone, and from Rome he will continue on to Giano. So, Tagliaferri will have someone from his home town. I like this young man's character; I hope that he turns out successfully. I would like to write more at length, but the mailman is waiting. *Ora pro me miserissimo. Sum tuus ex corde in Corde Jesu Christi crucifixi qui suo nos redemit Sanguine.*²⁷

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, July 23, 1824

929

July 23, 1824

²⁶ He is in this life a bundle of myrrh.

²⁷ Pray for me, a most miserable person. I am yours from the heart in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified, who has redeemed us by his blood.

Cardinal Luigi Ercolani

Rome

Your Eminence

In reply to your appreciated letter, I inform you that I have already communicated the paragraph from your letter dealing with the dowries; and, I am convinced that the nuns will immediately comply with your directions. I also sent them your Eminence's very letter so that they would have, should it be necessary, a document indicating those dowries granted through your charity to the new novices.

I have not forgotten about the Retreat to be given in your seminary; however, I have two things to request of your Eminence's outstanding kindness. The first thing is that you send out word that on the feast of St. Charles the holy Retreat in the seminary will begin after the noon meal, for if we were to delay that until later days it would interfere with another important engagement which is, indeed, the approaching feast of our St. Francis Xavier when we Missionaries likewise withdraw for our Retreat, and I would not want to defer that important time of recollection.

The second thing is that you send me information concerning the location of your seminary, that is, the roads to be taken to get to S. Salvatore. Here, in the Province of Campagna, we are not able to get that information. Starting from now, may you be pleased to grant all the faculties that you can. I do not know whether this Retreat is limited to seminarians and other priests that are part of that community, or whether it will also include other priests who are subject to your jurisdiction. If your Eminence sees the need for an additional helper for me, all you need to do is let me know that, so that I can regulate things accordingly.

It would be good, also, to know the name of the rector of the seminary to whom I will write as the time draws near; so, everything is arranged for this good work for the greater glory of God, as I trust in your prayers on which I fully rely. I shall await another letter from you in which details will be more precisely determined for my own instructions.

With regard to the monastery in Sezze, it will be necessary for your most reverend excellency to assure again firmly the grant that formerly was obtained from one of the public funds in Rome. Perhaps, on the earliest occasion, you can look into this. It is, however, quite true that the monastery has received other subsidies through your efforts, but, as you know, this additional insurance could be of even greater assistance in being able to handle their economical problems. By this upcoming August, I hope that you will obtain some other subsidy for the expenses incurred for the parlor. During the recent visitation, they discussed using the future Eusebj endowment for the restoration of things. The need for this was quite evident. I was there in person. I hope that this will be confirmed by your Eminence. Then, too, the Church of the Holy Family is in need of a cope. If, at an opportune time, your Eminence could extend your charitable consideration for this pious purpose, the nuns would have another new motive to show their thankfulness for your many favors. It would be necessary to provide this only when urgent. In the multitude of things that relate to your Eminence, one expects only that the value be weighed. Moreover, the economist of that community does not, at the present time, find means for providing for these things.

Finally, right now, I am occupied in a calculation of Masses, but I do not know whether we will be able to come up with anything precise. Monsignor Stracchini, perhaps, did not have time to make a calculation in this regard, or, perhaps, he simply forgot about it. In my visitation, done in conjunction with the Retreat, I too was unable to get to the bottom of things as I would have liked to do. During this year, I have come to a clearer realization of the status of things there and I

discovered that certain inadvertences were caused either from ignorance or from lack of consideration and that, ultimately, it will be necessary for the Holy Father to provide. I am sorry, indeed, to say that I am unable to give my services more extensively for the welfare of that community whose spirit and purpose certainly form the delight of my heart. But God will accept the little that I continue to do, supported by the interest which your most reverend Eminence has shown. While kissing the sacred purple, I have the honor to express again with the fullness of esteem and reverence, that I am

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Canonico del Bufalo

Missionario Ap.

House in Frosinone, July 23, 1824

930

July 23, 1824

Fr. Giuseppe Mugnaj

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Giuseppe, *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*²⁸

I wrote to Mother Agostina to have, through your kind help, some details concerning the investiture of the nuns, since I do not like certain vain practices that are, at times, used in such ceremonies; and, indeed, I have seen some strange ones on the part of seculars. These details are to be used, not for a new monastery, but for another monastery where the bishop wishes to get rid of some abuses, and has contacted me to give him some ideas. I thank you for your kindness in writing to me, and I cannot tell you how pleased I was to have seen your beloved handwriting again, which could, also, be done with greater frequency. But, even if we do not write to each other often on paper, we can nevertheless write often *in corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi ubi pax, et quies*.²⁹ Pray wholeheartedly to the Lord *ut flammis charitatis etc.*³⁰

On the first safe opportunity, I shall return to you the rules that you sent me. I would have been pleased if you had cited the text of the Pontificale of Benedict XIV and the exposition of the holy pontiff Pius VII. The dowry for the Capuchin nuns has shocked the Province. At any rate, I am acquainted with a fine director and I shall write to him about it. The life in common is a great and beautiful thing etc. As for the Paolotte nuns, I do not know whether the sum total would be 120 or possibly 1200 *scudi*. Give me some information about this. Remember to recommend me a lot to God and have others do so too. Tell M. Agostina that I thank the sister for the de Sales ribbon since mine was considerably worn out from the Missions.

Furthermore, I am sincerely grateful to you for the good work that you are doing for my niece, and I wish those blessings of sweetness to descend that are assured in the Holy Book, *et Dominus retribuet pro me*.³¹ I hope that our pious organizations, especially that of S. Galla, are getting along fruitfully. With esteem, respect and affection, consider me as

²⁸ Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

²⁹ In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified, where there is peace and quiet.

³⁰ As with the flames of love, etc.

³¹ And the Lord will repay on my behalf.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, July 23, 1824

931

July 22, 1824

Fr. Francesco De Vio

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Father

As a rule, the Holy Father does not grant the privilege for Christmas eve. I am enclosing, however, another rescript which I have obtained. I am waiting for the others. With distinct esteem and reverence, asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, July 27, 1824

932

July 28, 1824

Fr. Nicolo Palma

Naples per Teramo

House at Frosinone, July 28, 1824

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Oh, how pleased I was to see your handwriting! *Laus Deo in omnibus*.³² In practice I see the good that the union of the Clergy is producing in the questions of principle. The Bishops are becoming more energetic. In the event that there are new trials, *Deo ita permittente*,³³ so that his works might set deeper roots for the uninterrupted exercise of virtue, continue, nevertheless, to support this aspect of the good cause. Strengthening all with prayers, conclude it in such a way that you will obtain whatever may be necessary from the Nunzio (to whom I am going to write). What great blindness of intellect it is not to admit in principle the goodness of something that is such a bulwark against hell. Let us humble ourselves in the presence of the Lord, *et provoluti coram Domino, sine intermissione oremus*.³⁴ May you extend your ardent charity also toward the other places covered by the Missions, *ut fructus maneat*.³⁵ Above all, let us not cease to promote our devotion and that of our St. Xavier. I do not know if there is anyone there who enrolls in the Scapular of the Immaculate Conception of Most Holy Mary. In case not, I would be able to get you the faculty.

³² Praise to the Lord in all things.

³³ God thus permitting.

³⁴ And prostrate before the Lord, let us pray without interruption.

³⁵ In order that the fruit remain.

Give my best regards to the holy and fervent Workers there. I am and will constantly be, *salutando omnes nominatim*,³⁶ with esteem and respect and special attachment

your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House of Missions and Retreats in Frosinone July 28 , 1824
(inadvertently I have repeated the date)

933

July 30, 1824

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My Monsignor and beloved brother

I have already written to the Bishop of Marsi by way of Naples, not knowing how better to address the letter to him. Now you are saying the same thing, and that I should confirm my word of sending members there. I, however, do not know the route. It is necessary that the Bishop inform us as to the boundaries and also the custom regulations for baggage. Advise him, too, of the number of Missionaries that he will have to arrange lodging for. In case of doubt, we will come to some sort of understanding. In short, I wrote a letter of details; but I have never gotten an answer to it. So, you follow up on it; advise and write to him how things should be handled.

How is that well-known matter going? Have you learned anything new? God is still testing us in patience. With esteem in *X'ti Sanguine*,³⁷ I am

Your humble servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone

July 30, 1824

I am writing in a hurry because the mail is leaving.

I do not know where Tagliacozzo³⁸ is, nor even how far it is.

934

July 30, 1824

Mr. Giovanni Di Mattia

Vallecorsa

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni

Thank you for your letter. Concerning what you mentioned to me, please speak about it,

³⁶ Greeting all by name.

³⁷ In the blood of Christ.

³⁸ Tagliacozzo. Cf. Geographical Data

person to person, with Fr. Giovanni Merlini. As for me, I intended to do a good deed, since you insisted that you wanted to be one of us; therefore, I said that you could supply in the meanwhile for Francesco who has to go to Lenola on business, and then later return to Vallecorsa. Recommend me to God, and, with esteem and affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, July 30, 1824

935

July-August 1824

Fr. Giovanni Merlini

Vallecorsa

Observations concerning the paper

I like this Introduction better: The devotion etc. encourages sinners etc.

In place of the text: *factus est nobis etc.*³⁹ it seems to me that the other text is more complete and triumphant, namely: *in omnibus divites facti estis etc.*,⁴⁰ and the arrangement of the decades is not changed by using that. But, also applicable is the other: *factus est iustitia etc.*⁴¹

As regards number three or the third day, where it expresses that the medicine is in keeping with the seriousness of the illness, I would add: "and with the nature of the merciful doctor" since in that way it relates to the nature of our Savior etc. and to our Remunerator etc.

In number five where it says that it does not diminish the power, I would put: "it causes despair".

It seems to me that number nine is better adapted to the second decade. You can give this more thought.

Second Decade

Under number three, I do not understand the use of the word "qualifies". Perhaps a clearer word can be found.

As for number eight, the word that is used appears to be which "*imbilita*"⁴² with the other expression in point number three.

The division made in number nine does not seem to be clear to me

[Third Decade]⁴³

In number five, it seems that the division is not well-founded. The essence of being Redeemer through the hypostatic union makes indivisible the essence of being the Son of God and

³⁹ He became for us, etc.

⁴⁰ You have become rich in all things, etc.

⁴¹ He was made justice, etc.

⁴² This appears to be the word that is written.

⁴³ In the left-hand margin of the sheet, St. Gaspar wrote: "I failed to distinguish the third decade, but it follows your paper etc.

ex dignitate subjectus:⁴⁴ perhaps number five could be switched to number four, moving number four to become five. You can consider this possibility since you have in view the complete distribution of the matters and the doctrinal teachings.

In number eight, I do not understand what is meant by "it shortens our tribulations"; and I do not know whether the expression "temporal good" is sufficiently well-defined. I would add: even the temporal, which would relate it to the area of the spiritual.

In general, I would say that the entire format is excellent. Continue to work it out, and be trustful in the merits of obedience.

I now reply to your letter

I shall see to sending either Paolo or Giovanni Battista. I find that Paolo is quite disposed toward the Society, but he cannot remain permanently. Still, he could supply and since he is not truly a Brother, it is not of concern that he does not have a coat etc. Welcome whoever will come, but it will probably be Giovanni Battista.

You, who know well the person there now and are fully acquainted with the situation, if you judge him to be suitable for the Institute, send him immediately to Carboneri⁴⁵ with a letter from you. If you judge him to be unfit, then tell him that he does not belong with us and then try to direct him to a place that will be advantageous for him, in keeping with the spirit of charity. I am presently experiencing this anguish and crisis, and I do not know why. I simply cannot say anything more. If you would like to have him for the shrine in Civita, then Fr. Giovanni, the procurator, should propose him for that. But do not fail to inform the young man etc. And it will be necessary that he be supplied with a paper from that community there, no matter what road he may take. It would be a good idea to talk it over with Di Mattia. Your statements to the soldiers who examine the papers will not be sufficient. I repeat, I simply do not know what to do for him. I shall recommend him to God. Without becoming overly anguished about this, make a decision.

I have learned nothing more concerning your faculty. I shall check with Cencio. Indeed, it will not be useable for the Holy Year, etc. Still, we shall try to obtain it.

I, too, realize that without Rossi, you are not able to leave, except for a short jaunt to Roccagorga, while I make my way into the Kingdom. This is not something of great difficulty and can be worked out. Then, you would return to Vallecorsa. From Roccagorga, you could send greetings to the neighboring towns, for God wishes this good deed either from you or from me, since we are quite well-known in those locales.

As for the spirit. "Wednesday". With regard to the question concerning the church, having the entrance on the outside of the house and no residence above it, it seems to me that the approval of the bishop would be sufficient. I do not know whether Liguori treats of this anywhere. Indeed, above a public church or even a chapel, to have rooms there requires special permission, for the Church must be independent and free. It seems to me that I have nothing else to say, except to ask you to pray for me and have others do so too, and that I am and will constantly be

G. C. d. B.

⁴⁴ Subject out of dignity.

⁴⁵ On August 6, 1824, in the economist's report in Sonnino, Fr. Gaspare Carboneri wrote: "For the carriage for the brother-in-service, Giovanni Mancinelli, from Vallecorsa to Sonnino: 70 scudi". Hence, this letter should probably be dated for the end of July and the first part of August 1824, as can be derived from other references also, namely: the Holy Year, the Missions in the Kingdom (Campoli Appennino, Penne and Atri), the presence in Sonnino of Carboneri, etc.

M. Ap.

936

August 2, 1824
Fr. Luigi Moscatelli
President
Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Here I am with a response to your letter. I give thanks to God for the good work that is being done there and for the good order which is substantially being observed. Little by little, the other matters will be brought to perfection and that will be the fruit of prayer and the practice of virtue which must identify us; we must be insistent upon that exercise and mutually help one another. The visitation called for by the rule will not be long in coming and then *os ad os loquemur*.⁴⁶

In the meantime, for the record, it would be good if you would take into consideration the points that follow; but, I want you to feel perfectly free to indicate to me where I may be wrong. At the time when I was in Albano, I recognized the necessity of putting the final touches to perfect observance of the rule in that foundation. So, since I needed to join the job of economist to another position in keeping with the rule, and not having the possibility of joining it to the position of the presidency, I, by necessity, had to decide between you and Canon Gonnelli with whom you have always had a close friendship. I already knew about your feelings toward being economist, but you, in your good judgment, can see the reasonableness of the motives which I am presenting to you here. I know well that you do not look for distinctions, and I also remember what you stated to me upon the arrival of Fr. Gregorio Giobbi. At any rate, I wanted to inform you about this, and I have also tried to preserve the government of that foundation in the hands of the older members.

Therefore, it is the duty of the president to look after everything that the rule designates and especially the organization of the apostles which I would like to see put into action, beginning even on a small scale and then developing into a congressus form, *de modo tenendi*.⁴⁷ Later, you will note that as the number of members increases, each one will be in charge of a particular duty.

We come now to the organization of St. Aloysius. The rule says that when a position is vacant, the President is to supply so that there will be no void, and whenever there is someone available to cover it, the void will not exist, and thus nothing more need be done. You are responsible for the general supervision of observance as given to the President by the rule, but the directing of the organization will be the responsibility of the one respectively assigned to it. Fr. Pasquale Rossi is appointed to that task and so he is to govern whatever is annexed to that position, and always completely in accordance with the rules. That does not stand in the way of each individual member being able to enjoy, to take part and to assist in the good work itself, but always following in the correct line and not otherwise.

But you will say to me: then why pick a pro-prefect for the church? Because in the Directory for our boarding schools (which I hope to God will be put into perfect operation) it states that when an ecclesiastic is already a priest, he is to begin to train himself for our duties (adapting them

⁴⁶ We will speak face to face.

⁴⁷ About the manner of holding.

however to each subject and we are speaking here always of the duties on a lesser scale) so that he will thus be learning how to conduct himself in the outside world. So, gradually, the individual members will be trained and the older members should be consoled to see them grow for the future of the Church, just as a father of a family, little by little, continues to train his child for his business. You can apply this in due fashion. Those new plants will thus be productive of fruits in the apostolate and for us a great consolation, to the glory of God itself. Hence, I ask you to reflect on all this and you will see that the rule will hold up and the provision of the means to that end will be noted, so that each one will mature toward a more perfect observance. I repeat, this does not prevent you from enjoying and participating in the organization's activities with[out] further concern etc.⁴⁸

I conclude this letter by imploring your prayerful help and a special memento of me in the holy Sacrifice of the Mass. May the grace of Jesus Christ be always abundant in our hearts. Dear Canon, I am and will always be readily at your service.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, August 2, 1824

937

August 6, 1824

Fr. Angelo Primavera

Bologna

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Angelo

I received your letter which was for me extremely distressing; I can say nothing more to you except that I am trying to resign myself to the ever lovable will of God. So, at the middle of September you will be leaving, and we shall come to an agreement. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, August 5, 1824

938

August 6, 1824

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

Thank you wholeheartedly for the Chaplets, *et Dominus retribuet pro me*.⁴⁹

I have understood everything; those people are off the track, and I have no scruples in saying so. God does not communicate his illumination to all, but to a single guide to be selected. So many

⁴⁸ The original is torn at this point.

⁴⁹ And the Lord will repay on my behalf.

feel that way, but I do not know how they can be happy with that method. This does not diminish the esteem shown toward all. I love them in Jesus Christ; but their way of operating has been a real lesson for me. They have been given advice ever since the time of Monsignor Albertini. So be it. But the job of direction is not a bread that can be chewed by all teeth.

Tell Ledi that I must confess my own ignorance, not having read, ever up to now, in the Council, the obligation of three years. Have him tell me the page number, the session of Trent, and then he will not speak again of the resolution to give himself to an Institute as long as it stands in the way of whatever tends to greater perfection respective to the calling.

Furthermore, in Rome, he should bring along only the clothes on his back. This is all. Ora pro me, mi charissime in Domino. Gratia Dei nobiscum. Sum tuus ex corde in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi.⁵⁰

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

House in Frosinone, August 6, 1824

P. S. I am hoping to get to Pievetorina. But, I do not know when that will be.

939

August 6, 1824

Fr. Domenico Agresti

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Domenico

I am sending you a few Chaplets, along with a hymn-book, not being able presently to get others. I thank you for your letter and I beg you not to be forgetful of me, who, with esteem and respect, remains

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, August 6, 1824

940

August 8, 1824

Fr. Francesco De Vio

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Francesco

In the Secretariat for memoranda, they would like to know whether you enjoy the indulgence for Mass on feastdays for the members of the family, guests etc. out in the open or only for the chapel in the House. Please send a prompt reply. With particular esteem, but in a hurry, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

⁵⁰ Pray for me, my most beloved in the Lord. The grace of God be with us. I am yours from the heart, in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

Gaspare C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 House in Frosinone, August 8, 1824

941

August 9, 1824
 Fr. Luigi Moscatelli
 Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

In reply to your letter, I say to you that in your first letter you spoke to me of various matters and different points, and I established a general principle for you which was, indeed, that of being mutually compassionate etc. I did not want to make any specific decisions, reserving for myself, with a little patience to speak to you in person when God would afford us the opportunity. You urged me later to make a decision about the organization of St. Aloysius, and I expressed to you my opinion that all was in conformity with the regulations and to reason itself. In every career, beginnings have to be faced so that one can mature for outside challenges as well as in certain things that do not constitute the substance of the government in the Houses.

Now, you write me a letter, full of agitation, and I do not understand why. No one has ever said that the young men must not be supervised by older ones. This is exactly how the devil confuses terms and makes people give things one interpretation when they should be understood in another way. If you, without getting upset, would carefully weigh both sides, you would see how easy it is to reconcile them. I think that I have clearly expressed myself; but if not, ask your questions and I shall write to you again, for I truly desire to see you at peace. And, I want to point out that God loves you very much; so, join all of this to the Cross, the royal way leading to Paradise. Meanwhile, with esteem and respect, asking you for your prayers, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, August 9, 1824

P.S. I repeat that you, too, can join with the organization of S. Aloysius; allow Fr. Pasquale to get accustomed to things and get along together, procuring the glory of God.

942

August 9, 1824
 Fr. Pietro Fusari
 Fumona

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Pietro

I would like to know whether you are willing to work in the Missions, asking you, however, to dispense me from speaking again to your bishop. You check over your duties and in the presence of God, make your decision, then send me a prompt reply. With esteem, and asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, August 9, 1824

I would like to know when you will be able to go on the Missions.

943

August 13, 1824

Fr. Pietro Fusari

Fumone

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Pietro

If you would like to come with me on the Missions, I find that it is necessary for us to meet on the Saturday after the Assumption. If you are not able to do so at this time, I will be able to assign you with other men for other Missions at the beginning of September. You make your decision and send me a prompt reply since I will have to bring things to a conclusion and see that everything is arranged well. I am trustful of your exactness in this matter. I am very much aware of your duties and I do not wish to be the cause of confusing their fulfillment. Quite a serious thing are the feuds that you are trying to bring to a settlement by means of a peaceful solution if it can be attained. I repeat, I would appreciate a prompt reply. With esteem and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, August 18, 1824

944

August 18, 1824

Fr. Pietro Fusari

Fumone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Pietro

In order not to make useless arrangements for the mounts for Arpino, I would like to know, by tomorrow morning, using express service, if you will be coming tomorrow to Frosinone by the Ave Maria hour, since we will be leaving at night time. I would like to have you come with me and be there for the opening. If not, I shall adore the will of God. With esteem, and in a hurry. I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, August 18, 1824

Let me know what I owe for what was sent.

945

August 19, 1824

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Father Giovannelli

I thank you for your letter. I think that the Mission in Atri and Penne will be scheduled for this upcoming Lent, or possibly sooner. It depends on a letter from the bishop, which I am presently awaiting, and in the suspension of things, by letter I have asked the most reverend bishop of Ascoli to lend me our Bellini for the Missions. I have had him working in the ministry with moderation. I have also written to Bellini that he should that be in Ascoli for the beginning of September.

In the meantime, the responses will be coming and we shall see what the will of God is. It seems to me, at the present time, that the grape harvest, the dust carts of Campagna and a few other things will give us little possibility of the apostolic ministry in the Kingdom. At any rate, prayers. I want only the will of God. Urge Canon Palma of Teramo not to give up on the work of the oratory. Recommend me often to God and with particular esteem and respect, while kissing your hand, I remain

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

House in Frosinone, August 19, 1824

946

August 20, 1824

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I was unable, with the current mail delivery, to send a reply to your most appreciated letter because I was occupied in assigning our various companions to the Holy Missions. I reserved a place also for myself, on second thought, and I have suspended a decision until the reply comes from the most reverend bishop of Atri and Penne. After I get that, I will set things in order in regard to the holy duties of the ministry. In the meantime, I continue praying so that the time of Lent will be selected since it will be more convenient for me, and even more so, since I will have to be conducting the retreat for the clergy in Ferentino, a most important work, calling for even more special prayers before God.

Our foundations in this Province are producing great work, but if Rome would fulfill their part, which is something that I have been wanting for so long a time, namely, of subsidizing these Houses and giving a helping hand to the Institute, then the good work itself would be increased immensely. I do not overlook the fact that, as far as you are concerned, nothing has been omitted in either your concern or your activity for the success of this holy plan. God, indeed, who brings things to maturity, requires us to be patient for his works are generated and cultivated through thorns, crosses and all sorts of hardships that accompany a ministry of the primary and essential relationship in the church of Jesus Christ. *Fides enim ex auditu, auditus autem per verbum Christi.*⁵¹

So, in order that your prayers and your zeal will draw the fulfillment of these desires of mine

⁵¹ Faith is from hearing, but hearing is through the word of Christ.

much closer, I am sending you enclosed herein a paper ⁵² which puts into detail the needs of the Institute and the manner in which the endowments might be set up. Most reverend excellency, with distinct esteem and profound obeisance while thanking you for the passports etc., etc., I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, August 20, 1824

947

August 20, 1824

MISSION AND RETREAT HOUSES

under the title of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ
and the patronage of St. Francis Xavier

The Holy Father, Pius VII, who is always for us of special and most grateful memory, established the endowments for the six Mission and Retreat Houses by granting a subsidy of 1000 *scudi* for each House. That endowment, for a Society that takes on so many well-known projects in addition to supplying daily food, maintenance of sacred functions, providing clothing for the brothers-in-service, purchasing sacred furnishings, covering the cost of illnesses (which are so often notable expenditures), not to mention the upkeep of buildings, travel expenses etc. etc., is scarcely sufficient for the Institute. Still, these are the subsidies that must be insisted upon, even though it is surely not necessary to remind your excellency, who has all of the documents before him, to press the Holy Father to order their fulfillment. The Retreat House alone, contemplated by our Society, is also something of great importance to see that this good work is carried out in accordance with the regulations of St. Ignatius Loyola, the originator of these retreats.

Up to now, the amounts that we have received have been used, speaking specifically of some of them, to refurbish buildings that were in disrepair, to supply churches that were lacking in sacred utensils, to maintain the Missions, the personnel and everything else referred to above. To this, you can add the providing of beds, linens, bed covers and other items. It is useless to expect the people of this Province of Campagna and Marittima to be of assistance since the economic situation, in general, does not allow them to be of help. One or the other who has the means might prefer to look to other pious works. Such is the blindness of so many, for whom we must pray. One day I was pondering the text of the Gospel in which one reads, with regard to Jesus Christ, that *principes et sacerdotes persequebantur eum, turbae autem sequebantur illum*.⁵³ We pardon everyone's intention, but we do not cease praying.

Furthermore, the Province presents a shortage of pious organizations. If we prescind from the few Capuchins and Passionists in their holy confines, the other communities present only a scarcity of members, but this, too, may be a good thing, as I pointed out in another paper. So, pointing all of this out is helpful towards recognizing those merits by which you can be enriched in promoting our Society, which, one day, will be supplying workers even in the Foreign missions. If having to live in hospices has allowed us only a slow increase in membership, nevertheless, the devil has been properly defied as we do our best possible in building up our membership. Good work has been

⁵² See the following.

⁵³ The leaders and priests persecuted him, but the crowds followed him.

done, is being done, and will always continue to increase even more, as long as they drop the idea of providing just an occasional subsidy which (as some people say) would not bring about stability for the Institute, as God would have it be. Therefore, if I am speaking out now with a certain amount of openness, it is indeed because God is impelling me to do so, and I am not to omit putting forth every indication of my concern for God's cause, which is the primary concern, and I do so with all my energy and with evangelical freedom.

With respect to the economical situation of these Houses, I add that the hospices have presented us with the major expenses, not overlooking the maintenance of the places assigned to us. I say nothing about the articles of devotion that are needed, nor of the people involved where the oratories have been set up, nor of the other pious organizations - the support of all these things requires the means and the courage to make them known and to use them to overcome the obstacles that these times so often produce.

I add furthermore that the House in Albano and the expenses for the hospice in Rome, used by our workers or our Institute in urgent circumstances, have offered us new worries, still another reason for anxiety and regret in not having the means necessary. Particularly, we must not overlook the church in Frosinone and the building in Vallecorsa. Despite our desire to maintain only five Houses in the Province, while having the idea of founding one in Rome, when the House in Terracina was inaugurated, not only five but six Houses have been put into operation, including the one in Albano which bears the greatest expenses because the cost of living is steeper there. Those Houses which are farther inland have a balance of other expenditures in view of the fact that the ministry is offered a much wider field of activity. Let this be for the record and a recognition of the urgencies that we are presently subjected to.

The most reverend Delegate has come to inspect the locale that we have and I am convinced that a word of commendation from him would help to get us moved to S. Agostino church, since the place that we now have, upon which we have poured out no little amount of money in restoring it, can be then used by the Carabinieri. In that church of S. Agostino, the Blessed Sacrament is reserved and that is where we ought to go. We are living in times when it is necessary for the Popes to declare this is how it is to be done and not in any other way, since in the communes, *tot capita, tot sententiae*.⁵⁴

I wish to assure you that the respect, properly shown toward you in every place, especially in Frosinone, is such that a word from you would conclude everything and be a saving for the church which is to be constructed. The glory of God is the sweet motivation that stirs your heart to welcome this suggestion, *et Dominus dabit tibi benedictionem de rore coeli et de pinguedine terrae*.⁵⁵ Monsignor Albertini used to say to me: "Always work things out with Monsignor Cristaldi, and open up your heart to him". I esteem all the others, but you *est homo missus ad reformationem etc.*⁵⁶ That is God's will. All that remains is for us to follow through in correspondence with him *transeundo per ignem et aquam, ut tandem simus in refrigerio*.⁵⁷

The number of our Missionaries is such that yesterday evening in Frosinone there were not enough beds to situate all of them. You are fully aware of the number or individuals contemplated in

⁵⁴ As many chapters as opinions.

⁵⁵ And the Lord will give you a blessing from the moisture of the sky and the richness of the earth.

⁵⁶ He is a man sent for reformation, etc.

⁵⁷ By passing through fire and water in order that we might at least be in a cool place.

the rescript of Pope Pius VII. They are increasing rather than diminishing. If you would like to have all of their names, I will send them to you. One group of our men has gone to Norcia, another to the diocese of Rimini, two more workers went to help in Benevento. *Laus Deo.*⁵⁸ But, please, help with the temporalities. This appointment of workers has nothing to do with a group who are presently conducting Missions in Verolano. Later, I too will be leaving, as soon as I get the responses, as I mentioned to you before. And even if I should not leave, I have a huge Mission awaiting me at my desk, with another heavy expense involving postage etc.

P.S. The Istituto delle Scuole say that the locale of S. Agostino is a pig sty. But I reflect that one goes for the sacred work in Veroli, another remaining in a different career, goes to Ferentino; for the farmers or for the artists, there is the project conducted by the Ignorantelli or some other Institute in a locale that is being restored by the Salvatore. Nothing more is needed. We belong in S. Agostino.

Pages to be read at ease, in the form of a meditation in chapel.

Notes made on the anniversary day of the death of holy Pius VII.⁵⁹

948

Canon Marchioni
Supino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I tell you that I will be greatly pleased to see you again in Frosinone, and, if you are unable to come to Frosinone, send someone in your place and I will send you the Rule. However, it seems to me that you are acquainted with it in substance.

I do not at all recall your request for the crucifix. Please remind me in detail. I suggest that if you wish to have a large crucifix made for use during Missions, it would require no small output of money; so, if you decide so, you can keep me informed. I am told that they are laboring hard also in Naples, but I am not in contact with them.

As far as you are concerned, it seems to me that the work of the oratory might well be entrusted to the priests there, whom you should encourage to have one or the other Missionary come in to do some good work. Likewise, I confirm again what I mentioned in another letter of mine to you, namely, that you should give yourself to our Institute. You will see that within a very short time you will be making, as they say, gigantic strides and will be enriched by many merits for heaven. Pray over this and you will hear more clearly the voice of God.

Dear Canon, recommend me often to God, and, with full esteem and respect, consider me as
Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, August 21, 1824

949

August 22, 1824
Msgr. Giuseppe Maria Pezzella

⁵⁸ Praise to God.

⁵⁹ These last two paragraphs were written on the outside cover.

Bishop of Teramo
Teramo

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

Despite the fact that I have not had the pleasure of greeting you in person, nevertheless I am inconveniencing you with this letter of mine so that, through the apostolic ministry which God has been pleased to have me exercise, I might recommend to you the practice of using the oratory, erected on the occasion of the recent Missions. This practice is in conformity with what is done in the Papal States as well as in various places throughout the Kingdom, with great benefit to souls. St. Philip Neri liked to bring people together at that very dangerous hour of the day, the *Ave Maria* hour, when, in a particular way, they would begin to give in to idleness. Oh what a consolation it is to see people joined together to do good, especially nowadays in these miserable times in which we find ourselves and for which we need a spirit of special prayer to God to show mercy towards us miserable people. The hour of the day is most opportune for cultivating the assembly to perform Christian acts each day, and for the laborers to be reminded of the care of their souls and hope for a blessed eternity. How many souls are drawn away from gambling groups, taverns and similar occasions; what a truly apostolic spirit is aroused in the clergy and especially the newly-ordained who, under the vigilance of Canon Palma and others, can be trained in preaching and in doing the work of the apostolate.

Add to this the treasure of gaining indulgences, the acts of suffrage that can be promoted, and, in short, the name of God being glorified. May you yourself be the first to frequent it and, by your good example, what great encouragement you can give to all! Urge the pastors and confessors to stimulate interest in their penitents for this great good which steers the heart away from this wretched world. Have apostolic strength in defending the works of God which is what God, nowadays, is awaiting from his good pastors. Permit me to remind you of a saying of St. Francis de Sales: "every word that alienates the accomplishment of good, even if it is uttered under the appearance of good, is not from God".

Oh! what a responsibility does one not assume in the presence of the tribunal of God himself, besides the scandal that the good people might endure because it is ignored! I am saying all these things because, in these days of ours, good works are ridiculed both by the evil people as a principle of theirs as well as by the good people - at times, not out of malice, but because of mistaken knowledge. Let this be my attestation of that true love of God which unites me to the people there, whom I hope to see again on the occasion of the Missions in Atri and Penne, as well as of the affection that unites me to your sacred character and your most respectable personage who, by duty of your ministry, must direct the performance of good works, promote them and follow closely the teachings, I repeat, of a St. Philip Neri, a St. Ignatius Loyola and other servants of God, given to us as examples in the apostolate. Praise, encourage, stimulate your priests and anyone else who may not belong to the group; here, I repeat that *aemulamini charismata meliora*⁶⁰ uttered by the apostle.

Most venerable monsignor, I kiss your hands, and, with esteem, respect and veneration, I assure you that I am

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

⁶⁰ Emulate the better charisms.

Mis. Ap.
Rome for Frosinone, August 22, 1824

950

August 22, 1824
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I have been informed from Giano that the young man sent there to be a brother-in-service has returned to Alatri, or, at least that he has decided to leave Giano. At times, one spends something in vain; but God sees what will be the outcome. However, you will not lose the merit you gained in having proposed him.

I would like to have you check the cost for the cloth, and request the mother of our Tagliaferri to send the trimester report which I would like to send on to Giano, making a computation from the time that he came to Frosinone.

I hope that you have received the painting wrapped in cloth.

Recommend me often to God, since I shall have to be conducting very soon a Retreat for the clergy in Ferentino. The time for that will depend on some letters that I await as well as on the duties of the ministry. With esteem, asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.
House in Frosinone, August 22, 1824