

St. Gaspar's Letters

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1001

December 1, 1824
Fr. Luigi Cocci
Grutti

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Luigi

Filled with feelings of obligation toward you, I now am asking you with this letter whether you would be able to go for only two Missions in Sabina, around Christmas. See if you can do me this favor, and recall the advice given by Monsignor Strambi. Father Biagio will be coming to Giano; send retreatants there. Wholeheartedly and with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, December 1, 1824

After your prompt reply, we will make further arrangements.

1002

December 1, 1824
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

Soon the feast of our Xavier and God inspires me to write you a couple of lines in order to recommend myself to your prayers and to get news of your health. Furthermore, I have learned that the young fellow, Gentilucci, is quite favored by the Holy Father. May it be to the advantage of Fabriano. Pray for me who, with the fullness of esteem and respect, remains and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, December 1, 1821

1003

December 1, 1824
Fr. Angelo Primavera
Bolognola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Angelo

With this letter, I am sending you my thanks for the Retreats. *Dominus retribuet pro me.*¹ Around Christmas, two Missions will be conducted in Sabina, and I would like to have you be the director; they would be held while you are making your way towards Rome. Let me know if you will be able to do me this favor. Recommend me very, very often to God, and with esteem and respect,

¹ The Lord will repay in my behalf.

believe me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, December 1, 1824

1004

December 1, 1824

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am sending you a reply to your most appreciated letter, as well as reaffirming my feelings of respect, esteem and most particular affection which I have nourished toward you for so long a time, which, *animo tantum exponendi*,³ allows me to inform you of the following, to the pure glory of God, and as a clarification of the matters that are pending, so that the closest and most sincere harmony might always be maintained in our dealings.

1. You speak to me of the absence of Gonnelli from Pievetorina, and to this I reply that the affairs in that House, because of some urgent rescripts concerning which the aforementioned Canon wrote to me, have required his presence in Rome, or in the vicinity of Albano, where he could be of help in the urgent situations. Up until November, he remained in Pievetorina, but then later had to leave.

2. You tell me that two members are not adequate to handle the programs of the Institute in Pievetorina. I agree with you on that, but, for now, it is necessary to handle that foundation in an economical way, until further provisions can be obtained; and, for these we place our hope in the most lovable bounty of God. Prudence has compelled us to make this decision; it was not a capricious move. When there is need, help will be sent from Giano, and that is why I begged you to please go along with me so that we can mutually promote the glory of God. Ceccarelli is quite aware of how we, on our own, are managing to provide daily sustenance in so many, many economical ways, as well as to look after the sacred cult of God. *Satis de hac re*.⁴

3. You chastise me as though I had done injury to your jurisdiction when I invited Father Angelo Primavera to conduct our Retreat called for by our rule. However, I can assure you that I never gave that a thought; it must have been that I forgot every principle of my ecclesiastical training. You know very well that every year we ourselves, in preparation for the feast of St. Xavier, go into retreat and we invite those who sometimes conduct this type of apostolic ministry, as long as they are free from their duties. Last year we favored Father Stramazzi; this year, it is very true, we asked Father Angelo. Now, if in some way I have been in error, you can be certain that I erred without realizing it. In the future, you should caution me.

4. You speak to me concerning the change of Superior in Pievetorina. To this, I reply that I

² Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

³ To be set forth with the mind only.

⁴ Enough about this thing.

notified you in my recent letter that, since our community remains small and realizes the incessant responsibility for handling the preaching, a change of preachers is something that is pleasing to the people. We notice that this is something that is similarly practiced by other institutes. But even that will be settled easily in Pievetorina, when the number of our members gradually increases. Then, in regard to Father Camillo Rossi, I say that you will be able to see from the facts the caliber of man that he is. I need not utter any words of praise; the facts will speak for themselves.

5. For any Missionary of ours who is travelling there, just as is done by other bishops and for whom I usually supply my own humble letter of introduction, it would be sufficient for you to grant him faculties vocally, and so you can be at ease about that. The whole misunderstanding, as I have heard it, was caused by a young man who, after coming to us, had to return home because of the death of a parent.

5. I want you to know that I have suffered very much in not being able to see you again, but because of trying to be economical in travel expenses and also, on my way back, the anxiety of being on time for the Retreat for the clergy in Ferentino, all of this has prevented me from having that pleasure. I hope that you are persuaded of this because of our close relationship of long standing as well as our union in Christ Jesus. Now, in regard to the difficulties in Pievetorina, I want you to know that I do not understand a single thing. Everything is put into Father Gonnelli's hands to whom I do not fail to recommend them, in general, knowing that he himself is already worried about them.

7. With regard to chaplains *ad nutum*,⁵ oh! this indeed, my dear Monsignor, is the thing that would disband the Institute in Pievetorina where we shall be content with the little that has been accomplished up to now and for which we hope to receive a reward in eternity, having no other thing in view, by the grace of God himself, than his glory and the welfare of souls. I told the present Holy Father when I visited him that he should have left me as an individual member in the Society and that he should remove me as its director; but, he would not agree to that. I would not have found myself, at present, facing the disappointment of withdrawing from the foundation in Pievetorina where you summoned us in order to rekindle the fervor of those people. Out of respect for your person, I obeyed, even though things were not firmly established. So, how can you reconcile the idea of chaplains *ad nutum* with our Institute's character? The Sacred Congregation of Rites, in granting us a calendar along with other privileges, states: "*Societati Missionariorum, etc.*";⁶ and so in Pievetorina that is what is to be the case in any eventuality. Certainly what you suggest must not happen and let us be in agreement on that, without in any way at all altering the mutual harmony we have in seeking together to do good work. Either you will send a petition to the Holy Father of derogation from the Bulls that you cited, or, on the other hand, keeping in mind the tenuousness of the income (although I hoped that would improve) we would simply depart, still loving you as well in the Heart of Jesus Christ. That is your decision to be made at the foot of the Crucifix. It seems to me that our Institute is deserving of your condescension and furthermore, if you give our reasoning a bit of thought, I hope that you will reconcile things to the holy glory of God. If some institute of Regulars comes to Pievetorina, and I love them all in the Lord, the idea of chaplains *ad nutum* would cease altogether. Whatever will be the outcome, I am offering my prayers that the will of God be done, as I blindly surrender myself to whatever dispositions he wills. In your letter, you add that you think that you should not ask for papal donations for this cause, since our Houses are not firmly

⁵ At will.

⁶ To the Society of the Missionaries, etc.

established. To that, I reply by referring to the advice given to me by Monsignor Marchetti, Archbishop of Ancira: God's works are the fruit of tears, humiliations and sufferings. Ordinarily, it is impossible (for that is how God disposes things) to see the best results in a new plant. *Omnia cum tempore*.⁷ You are giving me a lesson. Yet, let us not cease praying. In my last letter to you, all I did was ask you for a word of recommendation to the Holy Father which the Treasurer would have presented to him, and you might have included me in it, thus the matter could have been warmly handled with care and there would be an immediate increase of members for Pievetorina. Please excuse me if I have been overly lengthy this time. Recommend me often to God, and, my venerable Monsignor, with the fullness of esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, December 1, 1824

1005

December 1, 1824

Msgr. Foscolo

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁸

Most venerable Monsignor⁹

I have been informed by the excellent Monsignor Muccioli, bishop of Agatopoli, that I should contact your most illustrious and reverend lordship so as to make arrangements for what will be necessary for the smooth programming of the two Missions to be conducted in Monte Rotondo and Scandriglia. So, if you approve, the two of them could be scheduled for the Christmas season in order to allow me time to contact by letter my companions in the ministry who reside in our House in Giano in Umbria, and thus immediately direct them to fulfill the obligation which will be accepted. Therefore, I ask that you kindly deign to communicate to me at this time all of the faculties that will be necessary for the fulfillment of that ministry, even those that are worthy of special mention, should that clause be necessarily included. Furthermore, I would be delighted to have the names of the respective pastors involved so that I can initiate letter-correspondence with them. It would also be helpful to know how many workers you think will be necessary and whether it will be our responsibility to search for lodging in the various places or whether they will take care of that. Awaiting your reply, I continue making preparations for whatever is required for the fulfillment of the ministry. If I should be able to go to these Missions in person, I shall do so voluntarily; otherwise, you can be certain of the fitness, the practicality and the experience of the ones who will be sent there. I take this favorable opportunity, most venerable Monsignor, to recommend myself to your prayers, while protesting at the time with the fullness of esteem and respect, that I am, now and

⁷ All things with time.

⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁹ This letter did not have an addressee. It came from the episcopal chancery of Sabina, along with a letter from Canon Flntonio Vitale, pro-vicar general, who asserts that from the date on which St. Gaspar wrote this letter, "it must have been sent to Mons. Francesco Spolverini".

Nevertheless, from the context of the letter, that is, the matter of arranging Missions for Monterotondo and Scandriglia, it appears that the name of Msgr. Foscolo is more acceptable, as is evident from the letters addressed to Msgr. Muccioli on the 1st, 15th, 22nd and 25th of December, 1824.

always

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, December 1, 1824

1006

December 1, 1824

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

S. Nicola in Carcere

Roma

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor and most beloved brother

I have written to Msgr. Foscolo about the two Missions. In order to be definite, in case I should not be available, I have already contacted the members of the House in Umbria at S. Felice in Giano. They are capable of carrying out the ministry with copious fruit, making the inestimable merit of the Divine Blood available to all. The Masses that are requested by the testator will be fulfilled. I am presently awaiting an answer from the aforementioned Msgr. Foscolo. Collect the 100 *scudi* and send them, please, to Vincenzo Severini to whom I will give further necessary instructions. Since the Missions, according to the current correspondence, are to begin around Christmas, it will also be an opportune time to begin the Holy Year as well.

Again I wish to remind you of the brief and concise life of the deceased Msgr. Albertini. If your health and duties do not permit you to write it, I would at least be satisfied that you supply me with the materials. I hope that the Bedoni legacy has been settled. Everything else will continue functioning according to our agreed upon plans and order.

During the Holy Year, the Month of the Divine Blood will be handled by our excellent Canon Betti. For the Octave I am thinking of inviting either Msgr. Bonanni or Msgr. Manassi who is coming for the Holy Year. Tell me what you think of this.

I suggest that the foundation conceived by Msgr. Gaspari¹⁰ is a very good and most praiseworthy desire, as of now. But, there are parochial obligations in the place where it is to be set up, and I do not intend to assume that. Also, there are no funds. When the Missionaries were sent there, Msgr. Marchetti sent them on to Rimini, and so now I am deeply feeling the responsibilities. However, with God disposing things well there, a deeply rooted branch of the mystical plant will be

¹⁰ This is a reference to the projected *foundation of S. Maria del Piano*, a small village near Rimini. The ex-Vicar General of Albano, Msgr. Gaspari, a native of that locality, had undertaken the job of opening a Mission House there. Merlini narrates that our Saint "sent one of his Companions to that place in order to take possession, to prepare and supply whatever would be needed in order that a group could be sent there. As a matter of fact, the Missionary did arrive and remained almost six months". But when the Saint found out that it was a parish, "he quickly gave him orders to abandon that project and recalled him. In this difficult situation Monsignor Marchetti (then Bishop Administrator of the diocese of Rimini) took upon himself the establishment of the Mission House in the city of Rimini itself. He released to them the Convent and Church of S. Chiara, one-time monastery of the Clarissas". The deed of grant stipulated April 26, 1824 as the date and the House was officially opened on August 24. So, instead of at S. Maria del Piano, the Missionaries found themselves in Rimini. Thus St. Gaspar was able to write to Cristalai: "I find myself launched into this foundation, so to speak, without really wanting to".

set which, I hope, will eventually spread its roots for divine glory. So, until we see the one at Rimini well-established, the other one can only be considered *in praeparatione medioium*.¹¹ Msgr. Marchetti is the one who promoted our situation there.

My respects to his Eminence Falzacappa. *Oremus ad invicem*;¹² make a remembrance of me in the recurring observances of Xavier's feast. I am and will constantly be

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House at Frosinone, December 1, 1821

For the *Tre Ore*, invite Msgr. Marchetti who is a full-fledged supporter of ours. Give him my regards.

Whatever you may have in the line of printed matter, useful for the Missions, please, if possible, send them to Cencio.

1007

December 8, 1824

Fr. Giovanni Mimmi

Acquasparta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Prior

Oh how sorry I am that your request arrived for me in Frosinone, forwarded from Giano! But, let us try to remedy things. I must send workers to Sabina; so, you might be able to supply by directing the Mission there, unless you prefer to have it in Lent. You decide. Do not worry about the traveling expenses. I shall await your response. Recommend me often to God, and, with esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Ferentino, December 8, 1824

Send your reply to "Rome"

1008

December 9, 1824

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

With indescribable pleasure did I receive your handwriting. I am sorry to learn that you are alone in the oratory, but, that means that God will give you more strength; in the meantime, do not cease searching for helpers.

With regard to the subsidy to be requested from Rome, if you wish, send me the petition for

¹¹ In preparation of the means.

¹² Let us pray for each other.

the Holy Father, and I will forward it. But, realizing the many things that are underway in Rome, I do not know what can be hoped for. If you were to get thirty persons who would donate a scudo each, that would be the easier path to take. As an example, I shall begin the process by voluntarily donating two *scudi*. Pray over this situation and make your decision. If there were Masses to be offered, that too would be another means of handling it. That charitable collection could also be taken up by the good women, secretly, and even by people outside of Alatri. Trulli could donate a scudo; the same for Cerica and Gorirossi, and Domeniconi could give three. I shall send you my contribution at your request. One or the other leading family might also go along with this; even the nuns with permission, etc. Move forward, and do not be afraid. Fr. Biagio has already left and by this time is in Giano to take care of the House of studies. Tagliaferri is in good shape, but, just between you and me in secret, I would like to see him a bit more ordered in his discourses, that is to say, with a bit more civility. But those are just trifling matters, and really nothing more than inadvertences. Father Biagio will try to give him further formation. It is perfectly true that it is too soon to have him ordained *in sacris*¹³. Recommend me to God incessantly; let us renew our spiritual pacts, and with esteem and affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Ferentino, December 9, 1824

P. S. I am still awaiting the picture of St. Xavier from that young man. Do me the favor of checking with him; otherwise, tell him etc.

I received your other letter and in order not to detain the young man, I say to you that you will be supported as you say. The boarding fee will be just as you ordered. I shall send him to Albano for the retreat, but Albano is not for him, not as a permanent resident there. But, you decide etc.

Send the boarding fee to Canon Betti.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

1009

December 9, 1824

Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci

Guarcino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Vicar

You will be fully obeyed in your request which was most pleasing to me. You can read the rest that lies within my heart. I am writing this letter in a hurry. Give my regards to everyone. Let us all be united in Jesus Crucified. With esteem and respect, dear Canon, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

¹³ In Holy Orders.

Ferentino, December 9, 1824

Always send your response etc. to "Frosinone".

1010

December 12, 1824

Msgr. Ottavio Zolio

Bishop of Rimini

Rimini

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁴

Most venerable Monsignor

I am fulfilling my duties to your most illustrious and reverend lordship for the upcoming solemnity, by wishing you wholeheartedly the fullest bestowal of blessings that correspond to the desires that I have in my soul toward your sacred personage.

On this occasion, in view of the responsibility entrusted to me with regard to the foundations of our Institute, I do not cease recommending to you our House in Rimini. Offhandedly, I mention that Marchetti has urged me to promote a good work in that area, as a result of your particular zeal, and, God knows with what alacrity of spirit I will do so. So, what is necessary now is that all of us as one seek to improve the progress that has been initiated by the Society.

I am given to understand that presently the locale has been readied so that retreats can be conducted. This is a wonderful good work that will contribute to giving greater glory to God, especially since Father Luigi Mosconi is particularly trained in addressing the clergy.

I am told that the property and Convent of S. Gaetano would have been more appropriate for the Institute's goals. In your wisdom, you can give this further consideration at the foot of the Crucifix. Furthermore, I would regard it as especially helpful, and so much in keeping with your distinct zeal, if you were to write a letter of commendation of our Society to Monsignor Marchetti, I feel that it would be necessary, likewise, to send a second letter to the most reverend Treasurer, whom I, too, do not fail to urge the granting of a subsidy.

Then, also, Father Giovanni Battista Gaspari has been after me with respect to the Shrine of the most holy Madonna, but I am not at all able to help him since parochial bonds and responsibilities are not permissible for us. Our rescripts identify us *ad instar*¹⁵ with sacred institutes, and therefore we also observe in common in all of our Houses the Roman Calendar, etc. etc. For my own greater peace of mind, I would appreciate having your opinion, and may it please you to address your most appreciated letter to me in Rome.

Finally, if in your diocese you might have some temporal arrangement applicable to our Society, you would be doing me a big favor to keep us in mind. For the time being, because of economical considerations, we are limited to having only a few members available. Later on, other workers will be able to be added.

Recommend me often to God; and, most venerable Monsignor, please excuse me if I have been too lengthy. Kissing your hands and with esteem and respect, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

¹⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹⁵ After the fashion of.

Mis. Ap.
Ferentino, December 12, 1824

1011

December 15, 1824
Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
S. Nicola in Carcere
Roma

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor and beloved brother

I still do not have a letter from Msgr. Foscolo, unless it should arrive this evening. That is the reason why, not knowing the localities to which our Missionaries are to be assigned, nor the archpriests or Pastors with whom I should exchange letters in making the arrangements and preparations, I do not have the heart nor do I deem it prudent to send the Companions on their way.

As regards Monte Rotondo, I have understood. By now, you are acquainted with many of our personnel and can, with a certain knowledge, assure them of a choice. Up to the present time there has not been a single Mission given by our men which has not been accompanied by heavenly blessings, thanks to the merits of the Divine Blood. The results in Sabina right now will give another confirmation of that. However, we will not cease praying, since the glories of the ministry are the noble products of prayer and humility. All ultimately redounds to the greater glory of God, *a quo omnia etc.*¹⁶ Fr. Giovanni Merlini, Secretary General of the Institute, will go as Director of these Missions. Nothing will be spared so that these Missions, Retreats for the Clergy, the men, etc.

From all this, you can conclude that the precise beginning date cannot be set at the present time. In general, soon. The only thing to be taken care of now is to calculate the amount of time that would be required for an exchange of letters. By adhering firmly to our method of procedure, Msgr. Borsi will have the opportunity to give the money that he has to be used for the trips, etc.

As for the Octave, which you praiseworthy assigned to Fr. Luigi Pellegrini, I would say that during the Holy Year it would not be proper to overlook using one of our members, and so forth, into the future. Hence, since the Missions are held in S. Nicola every five years, for many reasons they could be combined into the last week of the Month in preparation for the feast, with Canon Betti and Fr. Giovanni Merlini working together on it, the latter whom I, for reasons of security, intended to entrust with the seven days after the feast. Thus the Constitution would be upheld. Furthermore, I would not put too much stress *quoad nomen Missionis*.¹⁷ I would allow it to be developed by the preacher of the Month, *quasi aliud agens*,¹⁸ mentioning that the last Week will have special observances for the greater solemnization of the glories of the Divine Blood during the Holy Year.

It will not be a regular Mission, but it will have an equal fruitfulness. I would like this matter to remain between the two of us. It is not necessary that a formal Mission take place, but I repeat, the Members will accomplish a great deal working together as a pair. By immediate return mail I would

¹⁶ From whom everything, etc.

¹⁷ As the name of Mission.

¹⁸ As if doing something else.

like an answer to this so that I can know what to do. Be certain, however, that this is the will of God.

With regard to the *Tre Ore*, I suggest the following: offer it to Msgr. Marchetti, you yourself personally as well as in my name. If he should refuse, select Fr. Giuseppe Spada who is very good. Fr. Luigi Pellegrini could help out with the Days of Recollection, etc. During the Holy Year it is appropriate to select the more mature individuals and those who are more gifted by God.

As to the Lovatti matter, I have written to Cencio. Meanwhile, I have heard of the payment of 20 *scudi*. I would, however, like to have the details required which Cencio will mention to you. Insist on this.

With reference to the Bedoni matter, try as quickly as possible to untangle and surmount the difficulties that arose unexpectedly.

It seems to me that I have nothing further of urgency, except to inculcate once again upon you the need for the materials on the Life of Msgr. Albertini, since I have already found someone who will develop it. Let us try to hurry matters in this regard.

Jesus be with us; let us become saints; let us love each other in the Lord. With the fullness of esteem and most particular attachment, extending to his Eminence Falzacappa my deepest respects and to whose prayers you will recommend me insistently, I have the pleasure of renewing myself *in Corde J.X. Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*¹⁹

of you, my most venerable Monsignor and most beloved

Humble, devoted, obliged servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone December 15, 1824

P. S. In Giano we have a select group of Subdeacons and Deacons who have offered themselves to the Society.²⁰ Within a short time I will begin correspondence with a Boarding School which is being set up in Piemont.²¹ *Oremus, etc.*²²

1012

December 16, 1824

Fr. Pasquale De Nardis

Benevento

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Father Pasquale

With pleasure I received your letter. In reply, I say to you that Father Vitale should have, in all, 5.90 *scudi*. So now you should calculate what was given and what the expenses are, and then let me know the final result of the account; thereafter, you will have no reason to be worried any further. Do not be frightened by the exercise of your office, nor lose courage in the face of any untoward encounter, but *signa apostolatus in multa patientia*.²³ Incidentally, I have no doubt that

¹⁹ In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified, who redeemed us by his blood.

²⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Giano (Ecclesiastical Boarding School)

²¹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Torino (Ecclesiastical Boarding School)

²² Let us pray, etc.

²³ Signs of the apostolate in much patience.

your doctrinal matter is taken from B. Liguori, but, *quoad modum executionis*,²⁴ you should do as follows. Form a number of questions and submit them to Canon Betti, the President, and pay attention to his conclusions so as to gain the merit of obedience and counsel which are the bases of sanctity. He, who is a man well-acquainted with Benevento, will help you in doing good work, with order, peace and tranquility in common. I am referring to those things which can relieve you of every small annoyance and give you the pleasure of seeing accomplished those things that are in keeping with the greater glory of God. Even St. Philip Neri was occasionally beset by something or other that was irritating, and through that he was able more powerfully to create and direct a greater decisive and masterful blow to bring about the desired result. From what I have said, therefore, you are not to conclude that you are to resign from your office. Be obedient, and obedience will assist you in getting to Paradise with the swiftness of a carriage.

With regard to our foundations in the Kingdom, with good intentions, you went a bit far in writing to the bishops. All you should have done was to get in touch with me. As a matter of fact, are you speaking to me about the issuance of some kind of Canonical Bull? Well, all of the canons of the Church speak of ecclesiastical training centers. This is not a question of vows etc. but of leading a holy life and of receiving a holy and ecclesiastical training. I myself will undertake correspondence with the two bishops and while you are in Naples, you can give this reply to anyone who needs to know. Furthermore, urge them to correspond with me, and, with the help of divine grace, they will be satisfied.

Above all, let us mutually help each other through prayer; let us firmly establish ourselves in virtue which we must inevitably foster in every place and in every assemblage of people.

With respect to the wishes of the two priests, I shall satisfy them by writing to them myself. May Jesus be with us, and in his open heart, I am, with respect and very special affection,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, December 16, 1824

1013

December 18, 1824

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

I am enclosing two *scudi* which, I believe, may be a *bajocco* or so more, but I willingly give them to you for the holy oratory.

With regard to the young cleric who has gone to Albano for retreat. I would never advise you to place him as the cleric in charge of the sacristies. Perhaps God might be calling him to be a Jesuit or a member of some other institute. There, without much expense, he could go to begin a beautiful career. I would not offer him our training center in Giano, which is accomplishing very good work, since the family will not be able to afford it. So, in order that he does not lose out in his studies during the time of the retreat, you try to find a way of settling things. I, too, am of the opinion that he

²⁴ As to the mode of execution.

should not be made to return to Alatri.

With respect to the soul that you mentioned to me, if you agree with this for the moment, I would not urge that person to make a decision yet as to her status. I would only place in her hands, Rodriguez's work on the exercises of perfection, as well as the practice of the love of Jesus Christ by the B. Liguori. Let us allow the plant to set its own roots and then we shall reap the fruits; with interest, I shall be hopeful, You should keep on questioning her with regard to her impression of grace, *quasi aliud agens*,²⁵ and I hope that she will be a plant for the cloister. It seems to me that this is what you should say to her.

Do not fail to encourage the priests to the apostolate, oratories, the organization of S. Luigi, study conferences, the oratories, the hospital etc. *Unusquisque secundum mensuram*,²⁶ also, monthly conferences on whatever is most useful for them. In particular, encourage the younger clergy. I heard recently that the Holy Father is insisting in Rome on the use of the cassock. We hope so.

With respect to your uncle (let this be between us) and always with a prayer beforehand, I would say that he might be able to withdraw to the house in Albano. I can see his spirit growing richer in merits, even though at present he is ceaseless in his working for the glory of God. I am referring to what would facilitate priestly perfection.

Finally, let us be totally united with Jesus during the upcoming solemnity. May copious blessings descend upon us and our pious institutions. In particular, pray for me and have other do so, too, for I am most needful of spiritual help.

You, who are acquainted with the vicar of Forentino, to whom I sent my regards, should urge him to promote the work of the oratory there which I recently tried to stimulate. So, in this matter, too, *quasi aliud agens*, try to be influential in this good work, bringing out the examples of good that have resulted everywhere. May Jesus be with us. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, December 18, 1824

1014

December 20, 1824

Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi

Lenola

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I have learned that you are now in charge of that town. The Lord will assist you in doing great work. Insist on the pious organizations and devotion to the Divine Blood. With esteem and respect, and asking you to pray for me etc. I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, December 20, 1824

²⁵ As if doing something else.

²⁶ Each one according to measure.

1015

December 20, 1824
Msgr. Francesco Bonomo
Bishop of Gaeta
Gaeta

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I have not failed to reply constantly to the letters you have sent to me. Were it not for the exercise of patience, they might have gone astray. Now I am sending this one in order to give you a response to what you have communicated to me. As long as you are content with allowing 20 days for the exercises to be given, the people will have a double encouragement, namely, one Missionary conducting early morning services, and the other at a convenient hour after the noon meal. So, I definitely accept the four locations that you have indicated and the days in Lent will be divided as follows: one worker will be able to complete one shift of retreats and then start a second one; the other two places, having a larger number of souls, will be assigned to two others of our workers, one for each place. In this way, it seems to me, the arrangement for the four locations can be balanced out. Now, it will be necessary for you to inform me of the names of the priests in these places so that I can contact them by letter and work out with them the lodging for the Missionary and the brother-in-service whom I will personally appoint, since we are not permitted to go or to remain without a companion. I hope that a great deal of good work will be accomplished. I have already written to our priests who will be coming there so that they can prepare themselves. Nothing more than what you have stipulated in your most appreciated letter needs to be decided with regard to temporalities, which temporalities are, according to our rule, to be used for the welfare of our Institute and its foundations. In particular, the welfare of the House in Vallecorsa is remembered, cutting down on their expenses.

With these points in mind, you can be perfectly at ease. Three shifts of retreats will begin on Ash Wednesday; then, as soon as one of them is completed, the fourth will be undertaken. Anything more that might be needed in the diocese could be arranged for at a time between Easter and Pentecost. The retreats cannot last less than 20 days; in fact, one day more rather than one day less. God knows how, with the help of his grace, I am interested in the salvation of the people. I would like to know which of the four places within your diocese is nearest to Capua, that is to say, in the direction of Benevento. Vallecorsa is doing fine under the direction of our Merlini to whom I have sent an additional worker who had finished a Mission in Itri. This I did so that in case it would be necessary for one of the workers to leave Vallecorsa for work elsewhere, the other would always remain on duty there; sometimes, during the year, both of them. This is how I have sought to improve things, so that one day we will be able to see the completion of the construction there where, in February, further efforts will be made to urge the continuation of the work. Continue to support all of this with your prayers. Wherever there are nuns, it seems to me, that I could be approached for retreats, and the same is true for their school. Please, I would like to have your reply. As for the foundation in Gaeta, I have learned nothing more. Oh what a great thing that would be, especially to have it in the Convent al Borgo. Prayers, for I have heard that the proprietor would have granted it. Do not fail to propagate devotion to the Divine Blood. Give my regards to Primicerio, your most worthy nephew and new rector of the seminary; also, regards to the Canon Chancellor of your curia and to anyone else who remembers me. Pray and have others pray for the

one who has the honor again of declaring that he is
 Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare Can. del Bufalo
 Missionary Apostolic
 House in Frosinone for forwarding letters, December 20, 1824²⁷

1016

December 21, 1824
 Fr. Pietro Butti
 Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Be courageous in requesting soon the offerings for the oratory, and, I hope that the Divine Blood will strengthen your work.

With regard to your question, *in insipientia*²⁸ I would suggest the following. Sometimes the inclination will be in harmony with the vocation, and other times the vocation does not agree with the inclination. For example, Baronio would have liked to become a Capuchin, but St. Philip dissuaded him from that. So, it is prayer that makes the divine call recognizable through withdrawal, silence and recollection. It makes little difference, outside of prayer, if one hears other voices that would seek to weaken the spirit. That means that blind obedience in such a case will decide what the penitent is to do, and it is in the words of the director that one finds the basis on which one is to act. So, taking into consideration everything as a whole, it will be necessary to discover where God is calling her and whether she should rather prefer to seek perfection in an institute of common life. Once she has selected an institute, she will be able to begin devoting herself to its minimum observance and thus await the movement of God. For the time being, this is all that seems to be necessary to do. By means of your letters, encourage also the young man in Albano; otherwise, correspond with the superiors of the institute to which God is calling him.

With regard to your uncle, prayers, *ut Domini voluntas adimpleatur*.²⁹ I realize that he is indeed getting older. But, he will do whatever he is capable of in the apostolate. Asking you to have many prayers offered for the success of the upcoming Mission in Pofi, and in Jesus Crucified, I am and will constantly be

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

House in Frosinone, December 24, 1824

P.S. Regards to Canon Domeniconi, the most reverend bishop, etc. etc. Have meetings with the brethren etc., preceded by a spiritual reflection.

The enclosed is for a religious sister who wrote to me. But since I cannot make out her family name, you read the enclosed with her signature, and then please give her my response.

²⁷ The copy of this letter bears the date, 1827, but it certainly belongs to 1824. Cfr. the letter to the same person dated November 28, 1824.

²⁸ In foolishness.

²⁹ As the will of God, let it be fulfilled.

Otherwise, burn it, etc.

1017

December 22, 1824
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
 Bishop of Agatopoli
 S. Nicola in Carcere
 Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Monsignor and loving brother

I have received a letter from a certain Mr. Costantini who wrote to me in the name of Msgr. Foscolo. Tell him, however, that I have not received the letter in the Monsignor's handwriting that he refers to. At any rate, *aequivalenter*,³⁰ he has supplied for the loss of the first letter. Everything is in order. Shortly, I shall be writing to Sabina in order to get the necessary instructions, since I am now provided with the faculties and proper authorizations. Collect the 100 *scudi* and send them on to Severini. Around Epiphany, or thereabouts, the Missionaries will be there to promote the glory of God.

Let us be strongly united in spirit for the recurring solemnity. I am and will constantly be with all affection and esteem your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant and brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House at Frosinone
 December 22, 1824

My very best wishes to his Eminence Falzacappa.

I shall not write again to Msgr. Foscolo. Contact him for me, etc., and also Mr. Costantini, who wrote to me in the name of the aforementioned.

1018

December 22, 1824
 Canon Giannoni
 Ferentino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I am writing this letter to recommend even more strongly the holy oratory. Courage, my dearest in the Lord. Have the Crucifix carried in procession as often as you can. Then, the pep talk on Sunday. Let us be united in the Heart of Jesus, and let us become saints. The sacrifices that we present to the almighty from here below will spare us from Purgatory and we will be showered with blessings. Do not fail to gather in assembly at least once a month. Urge the men in the organization to have the uniforms of St. Xavier made. Write to me whenever there is need and let us keep in mind that *ubi sunt duo vel tres congregati in nomine meo ibi sum ego in medio eorum*.³¹ May Jesus be

³⁰ Equivalently powerfull.

³¹ Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst.

with us. With esteem, I am and will constantly be
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, December 22, 1824³²

P. S. Inform Father Ambrogio Lucioli that he should send someone to get the Crucifix which I have just received for him and one for the Father Rector, and tell those three young men who made the retreat in the seminary that Liguori's *Selva predicabile* has likewise arrived from Rome.

1019

December 25, 1824
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
 Bishop of Agatopoli
 S. Nicola in Carcere
 Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor and loving brother

On the 2nd, Fr. Gio. Merlini with his Companions will set out for Sabina. Collect the money and consign it to Cencio, who has already been instructed by me to pass that sum of money on to the aforementioned Fr. Giovanni. I have already written to the respective archpriests. Give my regards to Msgr. Foscolo. I am awaiting an answer to my last letter.

I remind you of the data on Msgr. Albertini.

In a hurry. Consider me wholeheartedly in esteem and affection, while begging you for incessant prayer, as

your most Illustrious and Reverend Sir's
 Humble, devoted, obliged servant and brother
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.

House of Frosinone (for the address)
 December 25, 1824

1020

December 25, 1824
 A Priest in Sora

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine suo*³³

Most illustrious and reverend Father³⁴

³² The copy of this letter has the year "1827", but in St. Gaspar's handwriting, the number four is frequently confused with a seven. That the letter should be assigned to 1824 and not to 1827 is evident both from the fact that in December of 1827 St. Gaspar was not in Frosinone, but he was there in 1824; and, also, from the fact that a few days before December 22, St. Gaspar had been in Ferentino to conduct the retreat for the clergy, as is referred to in this letter.

³³ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding and not be remiss in fulfilling my duties with respect to your most worthy person, I write this letter in order to find out more clearly what your wishes are with respect to the retreat requested this year by the members of the Sacconi organization, and so that I may equip myself starting now for those things that will be necessary as well as to get the usual faculties. Since the request of those members wanted to have the date set for the third Sunday in Lent, a time which has already been taken up by other commitments by our Society, I ask you please to allow that retreat to begin on the second Sunday in Lent, which would be a slight change, as you well recognize, and would not change anything substantially. I seize this opportunity likewise to recommend myself warmly to your prayers, and, most illustrious and reverend lordship, I repeat that with esteem, respect and particular affection, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House Frosinone, December 25, 1824

1021

December 26, 1824

Fr. Pietrantonio Varardi

Lenola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious and revered Father

In a hurry, I can assure you that no book, up to now, has come to me for you, and I have also contacted Fr. Giovanni Merlini about it. A thousand heavenly greetings to anyone who remembers me, and to you, in a special way, thousands and thousands of blessings during these recurring mysteries. May Jesus be with us. I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone. December 26, 1824

P. S. Courage in the apostolate.

1022

December 29, 1824

Fr. Giovannelli (Vincenzo) dell'Oratorio

Roma per Ascoli

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My very dear Father Giovannelli

I am writing this letter to ask you to send me the petition that is required by the Treasurer, and I will take care of it wholeheartedly. You will receive 1.54 Sc., the remainder of what I owe, always burdened with obligations. I am writing while on the Missions.

³⁴ It is not known precisely who this addressee might be. An annotation in a different handwriting, on the fourth side, says: "The apostolic Missionary Canon del Bufalo for the retreat to be given to the Congregation of the Sacconi in Sora".

Pray a lot to Jesus for me. Now is the time when I should unite myself completely to Jesus, the only delight of my heart.

Let us write to each other, let us love each other. May God unite us in his most blessed Kingdom. I am and will constantly be, kissing your hand,

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

At your earliest convenience, send the books to Severini. *Ora, iube, vale.*³⁵
Pofi,³⁶ while on the Missions, December 29, 1824

1023

December 29, 1824

Mother Maria Saveria of S. Agostino

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

While on the Missions, I received your letter and I thank you for not forgetting to keep me in your prayers. The ministry that I exercise untiringly has deprived me of being of assistance to you. However, God has no need of men and you should have no doubt at all that the most merciful God will not fail to supply you with the illumination that is necessary for your salvation. Are you fearful about your salvation? But why? God wants you to be saved, and the fear that you have within yourself arises from the desire you have for being saved. So, be courageous and never cease trusting in God. When the occasion presents itself, give my greetings to the most reverend bishop of Sanseverino. With esteem and respect, wishing you every blessing, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Pofi, December 29, 1824

1024

December 30, 1824

Fr. Francesco De Luca

S. Lorenzo

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Francesco

You did me the favor of helping out with confessions in Piperno. Now, I am asking you to come to Pofi tomorrow to help out with confessions. Do all you can to come. In a hurry, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Pofi, December 30³⁷

³⁵ Pray, entreat, be steadfast.

³⁶ *Pofi*: Cf. Geographical Data.

³⁷ The year is 1824, because of the Mission in Pofi.

I will contact Monsignor Lais. If you do not have a mount, it will be taken care of from this side.

1025

December, 1824
 Msgr. Ballisario Cristaldi
 Rome

[Memoranda]³⁸

House in Giano

Keep insisting that the schools in Spoleto pay what is due in justice and not only as a favor to the Institute. Here, in this foundation, we have a sizable debt due to the restoration of the place, providing beds etc., always with the hope that the schools would make the payments. But alas!

House in Pievetorina

This house has a bit of income from a couple of small pieces of land and from collections, but these are very moderate, and there are days when there are not sufficient funds for a livelihood, were is not for a bit of planning for the money. This is something that happens often, in addition to the worries about Giano.

House in Rimini

I find that I have embarked on this foundation, so to speak, without really wanting to. Here, too, the anguish about temporalities is not small. I can tell you that, up to now, I have spent 60 *scudi* and more.

House in Benevento

I have written to the archbishop and the most reverend Delegate, and there is a devout person who has stated that the dowry for the House will be increased, as soon as (the place being freed) they will be able to see the Retreat House put into operation. You know the story.

1026

January 9, 1825
 Fr. Fietro Butti
 Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Although I have said nothing to our companions in Albano concerning the retreatant from Alatri, here is a paragraph from a letter sent to me from there, reservedly, and to be used by you with good judgment.

"In confidence, I say to you (writes Fr. Gregorio Giobbi, the director of that House for retreatants, formerly also the rector of the seminary in Ascoli), I do not like N.N. Besides the fact that he has taken the liberty to go out three or four times on his own and has had his hair barbered from the back like the present fashion (perhaps that was done inadvertently), he shows no sign of subordination and a certain girl from Albano asserts that he is her lover, and, furthermore, I have heard on the side the reason why he came here etc."

³⁸ It is not known for sure to which letter this half-sheet of memoranda, found among the Cristaldi collection of letters for 1824, is to be collated. In all probability, it should be assigned to the latter part of 1824.

Most venerable Canon, now you decide *quid agendum*.³⁹ Let us not be discouraged, for medicine is meant to be applied to the sick, and the worse the affliction gets, so much more is our charity necessary in applying the remedy. I shall be ready to assist you as you request, since this is a question of the salvation of a soul. Hence, I believe that it would be prudent to remove him from Albano where someone from the outside might be spreading this information abroad. I am writing from Roccagorga where I am conducting a Mission. Later, I shall return to Frosinone. However, send your letters to me through Canon Betti who has the opportunity to forward them to me. Give my best regards to the most reverend bishop, to your nephew, Canon Trulli etc. etc. Pray to Jesus for me, a most wretched creature, and in Jesus Crucified, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Roccagorga, 9th of 1825

P. S. To have the young man return, send for someone to get him.

1027

January 8, 1825

Fr. Vincenzo Martinez

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Vincenzo

Here I am with a reply to your letter. You should indeed write up a memorandum for the Holy Father in which you tell him that the aggregation to the devotion of the Divine Blood has been promoted in Gaeta with great fruitfulness for the faithful, and that he should deign to exempt you from the burden incumbent upon you of sending notification of the enrollees to the Archconfraternity in Rome, thus enabling the members there to maintain their own Archives. When the opportunity arises, please forward that memorandum to me in Frosinone and you can be sure that I will take care of it. With that in mind, you will not have to send me the notification of the enrollees and thus everything will be in good order. I am consoled to learn of your restoration to health. Pray a lot for me. With esteem and respect, Father Vincenzo, I am and will constantly be

Your humble and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Roccagorga, 9th of 1825

1028

January 10, 1825

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

S. Nicola in Carcere

Roma

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

³⁹ What is to be done.

My venerable Monsignor and loving brother

I am waiting for an answer to my last letter. I heard about what the Holy Father prescribes with regard to the cassock, and I am happy about it. He mentions in particular Missionaries, according to what was told me. Meanwhile at the Hospice, so as to prevent the rise of gossip, let no one be admitted who does not approach in the cassock, and Butirroni⁴⁰ should properly give the example. You understand the reasons.

Do not forget to conclude the matter dealing with the Hospital and the Bedoni Legacy. The data on Albertini, etc. On all these matters, I recommend to you the greatest possible energy. As for the other matters, adhere to what we have agreed upon in previous letters.

In a hurry. I am with all affection and esteem, and with greetings to his Eminence Falzacappa,

of you, my most beloved Monsignor,
Humble, devoted, obliged servant and brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Roccagorga⁴¹

10 of 1825

Your letter to: =Frosinone=

1029

January 11 , 1825

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most beloved Canon

I thank you wholeheartedly for your observations relative to the House in Albano. In all sincerity, I can tell you that this is the first time that this kind of thing has occurred for me. Fr. Gregorio wrote me the enclosed letter which I, in confidence and secretly, send on to you. Please return it, sealed, to Frosinone for when I return there.

Miserable thing that I am, I will not fail to pray for the soul that you mentioned to me. May you be strengthened "*in Sanguine Agni*".⁴²

The information concerning the oratory brought me consolation. I am very pleased with this Mission here. *Laus Deo*.⁴³ Do not mention my name in the document; I am referring to the oratory. At most, just say a Missionary of the Divine Blood, and that will be sufficient. Anything else, you can read in the depths of my heart. My beloved, in Jesus Christ let us continue to love each other. May he reunite us one day in his blessed kingdom. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Roccagorga, 11th of 1825

⁴⁰ Cf. biographical section.

⁴¹ *Roccagorga*: Cf. Geographical Data

⁴² In the blood of the Lamb.

⁴³ Praise to God.

1030

January 11, 1825
Fr. Antonio Antico
Penne

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Antonio

Here is the rescript which needs the approval of the Ordinary. The issuance of the brief will cost around 50 *scudi*, as I have been informed by a capable person. We shall try to get a discount as a favor; but a certain expense is inevitable.

I take this opportunity to assure you again that I am at your service, and, asking you for prayers, I declare once again that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Roccagorga, 11th of 1825

Address your letters to: Rome

1031

13 of 1825
Msgr. Giuseppe Lais
Bishop of Ferentino
Ferentino

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sangune Suo*⁴⁴

Venerable Monsignor

How greatly I regret that you are, at present, indisposed. May God increase your merits for heaven, thanks to the exercise of patience.

We will be able to begin the Mission on the Sunday *in Albis*⁴⁵, right after the noon meal. Please inform me of the one you have selected to correspond with me as this date draws near. Have no doubt about the subjects who will be coming there; and the rumors that you referred to being spread about, I consider as being produced by the enemy of all good work. I do not deny that, once in a while, a beginner has gone out on the Missions, but for what purpose? A pep talk ... catechism instruction ... etc. in addition to hearing confessions for which they were considered safely experienced. In every ministry, as you could teach me yourself, there is a certain gradation. But as for the catechists, the preachers of the principle sermon, only capable men have always been selected. It seems to me that the Mission in Morollo, in fact, did not turn out so badly. The other bishops in the province demonstrate their satisfaction with our ministry. This is why I am fearful of ungrounded rumors, yet certain and secure of your affection for our Society, which is God's work, and for your wisdom in coming to its defense against the diabolical assaults, to the glory of God. Thus, evermore firmly will this tender, mystical plant continue to set its roots deeper and deeper. Do not cease praying for this important objective which is concerned with the activation of an apostolic

⁴⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁴⁵ Sunday "in white", i.e., Sunday after Easter.

spirit among the secular clergy. I assure you that your advice and your admonitions will always be most gratefully accepted and will serve to keep me evermore vigilant and circumspect.

With regard to the other Missions, I can arrange for a second company of workers, in addition to the Missionaries, who will promote good work in Ferentino. Through prayer, make your decision and instruct me in due time so that I can regulate my work. I confirm the appointment for the eight days preceding sacred ordination in Anagni. Recommend me often to God and the most holy Mary. With esteem, respect and particular affection, while kissing your hands, I repeat the I am

Your most humble and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Roccagorga, 13th of 1825

P. S. Your letters to: Frosinone

1032

January 15, 1825

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 am most pleased that Mons. Marchetti is conducting the *Tre Ore di Agonia*,⁴⁶ and on that occasion give him my warmest regards.

I understood your observations on the project that is under consideration, and your reflections, similar to those of his Eminence Zurla, render my silence plausible on this point. The year 1826, if God will preserve us, will afford the opportunity of bringing this hoped-for good to realization. Next, let me know if you have taken care of the Seven Days devotion; otherwise, I will write quickly to Msgr. Bonanni who will be in Rome at that time. In case he cannot oblige, it will have to be handled by another of our own men.

With great joy I shall receive the data on Msgr. Albertini. Once again I recommend to you the greatest possible promptness for the papers which you personally put together for this project.

Send your letters addressed to Frosinone.

I will ask Canon Carboneri once again to hurry. I assure you that because of various ups and downs due to his deportation, he has had quite a bit of difficulty, and is making every effort to cope with it. He is in the Society without patrimony. He is permitted *ad tempus*⁴⁷ by a Rescript. I can complain of nothing; and if Masses could be found, I would look for a way of taking care of this problem, at least in part. But, I am not aware of what it would take.

Have you been at all successful in getting a painting made of Msgr. Albertini? Regards to his Eminence Falzacappa. There is a rumor that Msgr. Manassi will have a change of Bishopric. That would be a big mistake. Consider me in Jesus Christ *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,⁴⁸ as

⁴⁶ Three Hours of Agony, i.e., the Good Friday services.

⁴⁷ At the time.

⁴⁸ Who redeemed us by his blood.

Your devoted servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Roccagorga, 15 of 1825

P. S. As to the places that are going to be vacant soon, keep an eye open for one that we could ask for, and let us work together harmoniously, etc.

1033

January 22, 1825

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I need three *canne* of black material which, since it is not for my own use, should be sent by coachman to my house in the Palazzo Savelli in Rome, leaving it there with a note to Vincenzo Severini. Please be kind enough to do me this favor; it is to be used to make a cloak. Later, we will settle Tagliaferri's accounts which you should check to see what has been paid up to now. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, 22nd of 1825

1034

January 22, 1825

Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci

Guarcino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

The painting of St. Xavier is being worked on. However, a bit of time is still required. More and more do I give thanks to God for the oratory there, and I present it as an example wherever I can. I have heard that Canon Culla is presently in Alatri; however, it will be necessary to appoint someone else to supply for him, as probably has been done already. Pray a lot for me. With my warmest regards to the wonderful clergy there etc., I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, 22nd of 1825

1035

January 22, 1825

Msg. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I must, in the first place, beg you, in your negotiations, to see that my name is never mentioned, and, even though I have no doubt at all about your good judgment, for the sake of the record, I thought I might remind you of this.

Now, in regard to my companions not preaching against brigandry and in regard to accusing them of timidity as well as of having little regard for the government, I reply (not indeed that someone might think that I or my companions are incapable of error), but for the sake of truth, they do speak about it in keeping with the arrangement of instructive matters found in the Catechisms. Indeed, in our churches there are instructions given that, as far as I know, are not given elsewhere, namely, asking the people, openly, to pray for the cessation of the scourge of brigandry; and, that the Church, the beloved spouse of Jesus Christ, amid tribulations and pains, has always demonstrated with ever pressing effectiveness the promise of divine assistance.

So, everything that is being hurled at us by the powers of hell only helps to confirm that the Society is God's work and that it cannot be solidly founded except through opposition and suffering. Thus, for example, the Archbishop of Spoleto, who, though perhaps unwillingly, carries on with me a type of correspondence in which he says very little indirectly, and that we might do well to get out of S. Felice. Maybe this bad impression is the result of his closing off his mind with respect to those back-payments. Still, I have the responsibility of facing the debts that have been contracted in the restoration of the buildings; it is my duty and not the archbishop's, who is not interested and does not even speak of it. However, with the grace of God, I hope to look upon this as a reason for giving thanks to the Lord who *mortificat et vivificat*.⁴⁹

But let us get back to the original question. Whoever has the gall to write in such a way to Rome, has he ever had catechism lessons? As Monsignor Strambi would say: we laugh to the glory of God. Sending out anonymous memoranda is a vice here in the Province, and are never, as a matter of principle, to be taken at face-value, as you yourself would teach me, and are almost always to be handled by the dioceses.

Now let us take up, in a critical way, this question of timidity or this little regard for the government. With respect to timidity, I would say that I have found them rather to be most courageous, traveling about everywhere in this Province, armed only with the Crucifix, untiringly going now to monasteries, now to seminaries, now giving Missions, etc. etc. As for their little regard for the government, in addition to their renunciation of those things that might hold them bound and with no idea of amassing temporalities, and even leaving their own families, they are here to catechize, to instruct etc. For good measure, what reforms are evident in Sonnino, in Vallecorsa etc.? I realize that not everything has been accomplished as yet, but little by little. If this Province demands a special vocation to live in it, it will eventually become a garden in the Lord's church. Monsignor Albertini (and I am a witness of this) used to say, even before we had any idea of the foundations that eventually followed: "God wants it to be sown (that is the exact word) with Mission Houses". I know that a few bishops would like to have an encyclical dealing with certain points of the reform. They do not have⁵⁰ sufficient courage etc. etc. May Jesus be with us, and I am etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

⁴⁹ He puts to death and he brings to life.

⁵⁰ He had added here "I am given to understand", then crossed it out.

M. Ap.
22nd of 1825

P.S. *Ad melius esse*⁵¹ tell His Holiness that I have written a circular letter to my companions in order to encourage them even more etc. Allow me to add one more item. In practice, things look quite different when they are viewed from a distance!

I was delighted with Gulielmi's letter. I received the information from a devout person while traveling through Roccagorga. *Laus Deo et Mariae*.⁵²

I would deem it expedient to give His Holiness a report on the boarding school in Giano for young men. Once they have completed their seminary courses etc., they will be further matured here to fulfill the expectations of the Church. *Capta opportunitate*,⁵³ he should try to straighten out the relationship between us and the Schools. Likewise, to find out whether it is the will of God that I should withdraw to that place, but not from the ministry. If you are able to be of help to me, this would be the greatest proof of your loving kindness. You can be assured, nothing would be lacking in this Province. I shall continue praying to the Lord *ut ejus suavissima voluntas semper in me, et circa me adimeleatur, ad vitam aeternam adipiscendam*.⁵⁴

P. S. Have His Holiness keep in mind how God blessed the Society as it maintained peace and quiet in Frosinone with the changes made in the Delegation. Monsignor [...]⁵⁵ is our protector!

1036

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli
Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Father Giovannelli

What's new with my very dear Father Giovannelli? I asked you for the memorandum in behalf of the Filippini Fathers. I do not know what you have done about that. I would like to know what I owe you as a reimbursement, for the time that I was in Atri. When the occasion arises, give my greetings to our Palmucci. Encourage Father Emidio to come to a decision. Pray a lot, a lot, a lot for me. You probably have sent back to me the books of St. Xavier. And, how are matters going in Teramo? Do you suppose that it is the will of God that His Holiness be informed? I would like your advice. I kiss your hands, and with esteem and affection, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, 24th of 1825

P. S. Many greetings to Father Vincenzo etc. I would be able to say as many Masses as he wishes for his sacristy. Try to visit him and I will be at his service. But, a certain lengthy amount of time will be needed.

⁵¹ The better to be.

⁵² Praise to God and Mary.

⁵³ Seizing the opportunity.

⁵⁴ In order that his will be always most sweetly fulfilled in me and about me, towards life eternal.

⁵⁵ The manuscript is defective here.

1037

January 24, 1825
A Canon of Ferentino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵⁶

Dear Canon⁵⁷

A couple of lines in a hurry to inform Canon [...], through your kind help, that I already have in my possession a gilded crucifix; the cost is [...] *paoli*; I have sent the assigned matter to be preached. Insist on the holy oratory. The most reverend bishop has written to me, in general, concerning the Mission to be given after Easter. Give my best regards to the most reverend Vicar General, to Father Rector of the Jesuits and to all others, including Canon Magni (?), to whom you should say that he is to go frequently to the oratory, and that we shall see each other again on the occasion of the Mission. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, 24th of 1825

1038

January 24, 1825
Msgr Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
S. Nicola in Carcere
Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor and loving brother

For several reasons I am writing this letter. The first is to urge you to get together those printed materials that you believe useful for the Missions, and pass them on to Cencio, who I hope is now improved in his health. The second, to remind you about the materials on the life of our saintly Albertini. The persons to be interrogated by you are: Curate Cocchi of S. Giovanni, Vicar Annovazzi in Civitavecchia, Visconti, Locatelli, the Superioress of the Paolotte, the Countess who is at Divin Amore, Curate Gasparri, Msgr. Basilici, Bishop of Sutri, etc.,⁵⁸ and your own knowledge. I beg you to speed it up.

As for the remainder of things, I refer you to my other letters, as well as to what was said aloud several times on the good progress of things. When Masses come in that are to be said *ubique*,⁵⁹ send them to me, since they are needed for our Houses.

Next, it will be necessary to find a place to provide hospitality for the Brothers who have erected so many Oratories in various places with the Habits of St. Francis Xavier. They have sent me

⁵⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁵⁷ This letter came from the episcopal curia of Ferentino. It is not known with precision just who the addressee was. The original is in very bad condition and in certain spots is difficult or impossible to read [...].

⁵⁸ The two preceding names (Gasparri and Basilici) with their titles, are found in the margin without the usual sign of reference. This seemed to be the best place to insert them. La Contessa referred to here is Caterina Bentivoglio, widow of Orsi. Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Bentevoglio, Countess Caterina.

⁵⁹ Wherever.

petitions. They themselves would take care of the living expenses. All that is needed is a locale. Eventually one could arrange the various times, and stipulate exactly the number of people that could come at those times. I do not know whether S. Maria Egiziaca would be available. One could get some furniture on loan from different people. I see that the whole situation is somewhat puzzling. But the glory of God will be great. At *Buon Consiglio* it would not be a good thing to associate one with the other. Notice that the Brothers of St. Xavier all have red sashes, and their mozzetta is of red scalloped material. Let us see whether we can work things out, at least to some small extent, *et meliori modo, etc.*⁶⁰ In that regard, also remind his Eminence Cardinal Zurla about a church from among those that will be vacated, where we can set up a Confraternity of St. Xavier, since Rome merits such an institution, as a center of Christianity, as well as of the Missions of the Propaganda. I myself then will set about putting everything in order. Canon Argenti, in a letter written to me, is in agreement. So, also, is the aforementioned Cardinal. One thing calls for the other.

Msgr. Santelli has promised again to make an outline of the life of Msgr. Albertini. Remind him of it. Greetings to his Eminence Falzacappa. With esteem and attachment *in Xti Sanguine*,⁶¹ consider me as

Your
Humble, devoted, obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
M. Ap.

House at Frosinone, 25 of 1825

1039

January 24, 1825
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

I need to have news from you and also because we must arrange for some printing. Remind me of how much the chaplets cost per hundred; also, whether they can be printed whenever I send word; then, too, whether a small work, quite useable, composed by a pious person could be printed. Recommend me often to God, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare Can. del Bufalo
M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, 24th of 1825

P. S. I would also like to have a novena printed, but it should be arranged in such a way that it will not take a lengthy period of time.

1040

January 24, 1825
Fr. Luigi Locatelli

⁶⁰ And in a better way, etc.

⁶¹ In the blood of Christ.

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Thank you for your recent letter, and also for having loaned us your painting. I do not cease praying for your work. I am convinced that the most reverend bishop will continue more and more to put things in order, and it will be up to him to get in contact with his Eminence Falzacappa. I have the complete correspondence with the most reverend Delegate whom I never see, since our principle is that of St. Vincent de Paul: Apostles out in the field, Carthusians at home. I urge you to look after the gifts offered to the Madonna of the Missions which we are to keep on deposit for the time being, until brigandry is quieted down and we will be able to move back into our place of retreat. Then the bishop deems it expedient, he himself will contact Cardinal Falzacappa and ask for the Countess to come to Terracina so that she, not others, will explain the regulations and the practice of their Institute. You know that I speak in all sincerity, having nothing else in mind than the fundamental principles laid down by Monsignor Albertini. With those things as a guide, you keep on working, and do not fail to pray for me. With wholehearted esteem and affection, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

House in Frosinone, 24th of 1825

P. S. Tell the most reverend bishop that one of our Missionaries will be giving the Lenten series in Sermoneta in accordance with the invitation sent to me by the Vicar General of Sezze. Give my greetings to Monsignor and pray for me etc. Best regards to my companions etc.

1041

January 24, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶²

Most venerable Monsignor

At this point, after I had mailed another letter to you, I received your most appreciated letter with the enclosed letter from his Eminence Bussi. *Laus Deo in omnibus*.⁶³ And, what am I to say to you? I shall say that tomorrow I shall offer a Mass for you. I hope that you refrained from mentioning my name to His Holiness, since I have always understood that ours is a *cor ad cor*⁶⁴ relationship and I owe so very, very much to you. I would not want His Holiness to be irritated if he were to know my name, and for quite some time I have wanted to give him some sort of report, but I always was overtaken with fear etc. Ultimately, it seemed to me that the will of God was that I should first have recourse to prayer and advice; and, that is what I have done. May Jesus be with us.

Most reverend

excellency, with esteem, respect and very special affection, I, am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

⁶² Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

⁶³ Praise to God in all things.

⁶⁴ Heart to heart.

G. C. del Bufalo
M. Ap.
Frosinone, 24th of 1825

1042

January 25, 1825
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon beloved *in Domino*⁶⁵

If you need more booklets, feel free to write to me for them. The cloth is to be used for one of our Missionaries who is eager to provide for an urgent situation, having lost his cloak (while traveling). So, one cannot wait not even another minute longer. Send it quickly by way of a trusted coachman to Rome, addressing it to my house in the Palazzo Savelli in care of Vincenzo Severini who is the young man who looks after my things. I am trusting in your kindness to do this since that member who is in need of it is shivering from the cold. Let me know the price for the cloth and also up to what time Tagliaferri has paid up his boarding fee. Canon Betti forgot to write the date on which he was supposed to begin the payments etc. I shall inform Father Biagio of the things that you mention to me.

Wretched thing that I am, I shall pray for the person well-known. I am awaiting a response to my letter to Canon dell'Uomo, and I ask you to recommend me to his prayers. Do not cease encouraging Father Serafino etc.

Now we come to another matter. A person with some authority and very affectionate toward you, but whose name I am forbidden to mention, would like you to approach the theological faculty in Frosinone, having them realize that here you have your house, that the locale deserves first-hand regard, that your uncle also requests this act of affection, and ardently desires this very same thing. So, in prayer, make your decision. I know what your feelings are. At any rate, I simply was not able to exempt myself from mentioning all of this to you. Consult Father Serafino, and anyone else that you feel can be of help. I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, 25th of 1825

1043

January 26 , 1825
Fr. Giovanni Mimmi
Aquasparta

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶⁶

Venerable Prior

I never imagined that the Mission could be held in Lent, but in your recent letter you told

⁶⁵ In the Lord.

⁶⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

me, in general, that the Lenten preacher had already been selected, but excluding that time for me. So, tell me how you, in your wise and praiseworthy plan, expect to work in a Mission along with the Lenten preaching. With the most reverend bishop of Narni helping out, I imagine that you will be able to accomplish great work there. I myself and my companions are all indeed completely booked up for Lent. If it should happen that you are unable to handle the Mission in Lent, I could try to set aside another time that would be open for me, when I could renew with you our spiritual pacts *et os ad os loquemur*.⁶⁷ In that event, I would bring along with me my usual companions in the ministry and it would be my greatest consolation to be able to see you again. However, since things are already underway for Lent, I suggest that the Lenten preacher and Monsignor Borghi can carry out everything quite well. We, if God preserves us, will do this *ad alias*.⁶⁸ In all of the Missions that we conduct, we never fail to tiave a retreat for the clergy. In this case, perhaps Monsignor Borghi can handle that. With esteem, consider me to be in Jesus Crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, 26th of 1825

P. S. Give my best regards to the most reverend bishop and renew my feelings of esteem and respect for him.

1044

January 28, 1825

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

in S. Nicola in Carcere

Roma

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

You will receive some money, three *Sc.* from Cencio, that you will give on account to Mr. Piervincenti on behalf of Canon Carboneri. He will give you a receipt for it which you will then send on to me. He cannot give him more than 1.50 *Sc.* a month until settlement. He did not know the address of the former, and that explains the reason for the delay. You can also set up a correspondence for him with the aforementioned Canon Carboneri, who is in Vallecorsa. In Lent, however, he will be on the move because of the ministry. So, if you are unable to do so, I will seek the means of bringing this matter to a close. Try to make him understand that his inability, as of now, does not make him a man deserving of reprimand. As soon as possible ask him to realize that in this world we are all for one and one for all. This letter of mine has no other purpose.

Let us renew our spiritual pacts. I refer you to my preceding letters. Jesus be with us. I am and will constantly be with all affection and esteem, begging for prayers,

your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

⁶⁷ And we will speak face to face.

⁶⁸ For another time.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, 28 of 1825

P. S. Is Cardinal Odescalchi going away or is he staying in Rome? You will receive, addressed to you from Foligno, a little booklet useful to the previously mentioned Canon Carboneri. Once you have gotten it, inform Cencio.

1045

January 28, 1825

Msgr. Francesco Maria Cipriani

Bishop of Veroli

Veroli

Most illustrious and reverend lordship⁶⁹

As a fruit of the holy Mission in Pofi, and the propagation of the devotion to the Divine Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the inestimable price of our salvation, the clergy and the people of this area now have suppliant recourse to your most illustrious and reverend lordship to deign to erect, at the altar of the most blessed Sacrament in the church of Maria SS. Assunta in Cielo, the pious Union under the aforementioned title, so as thus to stimulate the faithful to incessantly adore the most Precious Blood and also offer it in reparation for the abuses perpetrated by sinners; that etc.

In behalf of the clergy and people of Pofi

1046

January 1825

Fr. Gaspare Can. Carboneri

Missionary in the Mission House of

Vallecorsa⁷⁰

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Dear Canon

Here I am ready to send a reply to your most appreciated letter.

I am sending you a report, in keeping with your request. Because of the multiplicity of things that God entrusts to my miserable self, I have not been able to read it over.

You shall receive the shoes which cost 12½ paoli. When Betti gets the money from Sonnino, he will subtract that amount from it. However, up to now, nothing has been forthcoming. at any rate, continue to ask for it.⁷¹

I am sending the candles; we could not find the smaller ones.

You shall begin the Catechetical instructions in Lent on Saturday, or even on Friday (since Saturday is a day of vacation) before Passion Sunday. You shall complete them on Friday, eight days later, preceding Palm Sunday, included. For Sunday, try to save the topic of blasphemy.

You will note, furthermore, that from March 4 to the 12th, before beginning your sermon -

⁶⁹ The bishop's rescript bears the date "January 28, 1825".

⁷⁰ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Carboneri, No. 1.

⁷¹ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Carboneri, No. 2.

hence, the schedule would be anticipated by a quarter of an hour - you will narrate an incident or an example from the life of St. Francis Xavier. The sermon will follow, with a topic of your own choice. In that way, the rule concerning the Retreat in honor of our Saint will be observed. Let the incident or example be brief.

For your Lenten preaching, do not feel that you are bound to preach on the day's Gospel. Treat those things that you find easier to handle.

I have written to Rome to have them send my Lenten preaching materials by Segneri. As soon as it arrives, you will get it, with the agreement that you send it back to me after Lent. I know your diligence very well.

With reference to the trip, I have already dealt with that in my last letter. Let us proceed to other things.

Since Canon Calamita cannot come to the Conferences, you will see to getting someone else, since the Clergy need training. I understand that from now on you will be preparing for the Lenten series, but this reflection will be useful for future occasions.

At table, see that they have readings from Francis, according to the Rule, and be more united to God. The same for after the meal. It is not of great import if one skips a moment or so in order to get one's serving of food.

*Oremus ad invicem.*⁷² Do not forget me in your Holy Masses.

I have already sent, the four *Sc.* to Rome for Piervincenti, and I have seen that he is informed concerning the 1.50 *Sc.* per month, as a future payment. Masses are not lacking in Sermoneta; and so, too, have I been delighted with your selection. Keep the addresses in mind for your future letter, for the time when you will be out on the apostolate.

Wherever you may be, be of assistance, as you have been doing, both with your advice and with your work for the good of the Institute. Also, stress the observance of our rule.

If, some day, we would have to send one or the other of our men to the Propaganda to establish one of our Houses in Goa, would you feel inspired to go? Pray over it. This is not an urgent matter, now; but in time, I would be happy to know what you think⁷³, I am convinced that you should meditate on it with the Brother.

On free days during vacation time, see that you activate for the students the association of S. Luigi, asking the priests for their assistance.

Do not ever stop speaking to the members on ascetical topics, encouraging the use of the cassock, and getting them interested in the apostolic life.

D. Giovanni Merlini will take care of organizing the Sorelle della Carita so that upon your return you will find them actively working.⁷⁴ May Jesus be with us, etc.

Humble servant

G. C. d. B.

⁷² Let us pray for each other.

⁷³ *One of our Houses in Goa.* Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Houses in Goa.

⁷⁴ In February of 1825, taking Carboneri's place who was absent because of his preaching of the Lenten series, the Missionary D. Giovanni Merlini was sent to Vallecorsa by the Saint with the assignment to conduct the Lenten season there and to be actively engaged in the construction of the House. Merlini himself informs us of this in his "*Istoria della Casa di Missione... in Vallecorsa*", page 4. During that time, among other things, he was able to organize the *Sodality of the Sorelle della Carita* as the Saint mentions in this letter. Here is another confirmation of what was said previously concerning the addressee of this present letter.

M. Ap.
(Frosinone, end of January, 1825⁷⁵)

I do not have time to re-read this letter of mine
I recommend to you the enclosed⁷⁶ and the men's association, their feast, etc.
If I have forgotten anything, remind me.

1047

January 29, 1825

Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

A couple of lines in a hurry. I have understood everything that you tell me, and all is well.
Here are the other two little booklets of hymns.

Recommend me often to God, and, dear Canon, with esteem and respect, consider me as
Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C del Bufalo

M. Ap.
Frosinone, 29th of 1825

P. S. If you can, see whether your uncle can be brought back to be with you in Alatri.

1048

January 30, 1825

Fr. Giacomo Cocumelli
Ferentino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁷⁷

Most illustrious Father

Here I am once again opening up our correspondence with respect to the holy Mission. We shall begin by setting the date, and it seems to me that the beginning of the Mission can be set for April 14th and the conclusion for Thursday, the 28th. It matters not whether that is a weekday. For one day, the people will likewise be willing to come together. In that way, the solemnity of the patron saint will be left free and the Mission would serve as an excellent preparation to celebrating it religiously. After I receive your response, we shall continue to decide other things which we can

⁷⁵ The date is derived from the letter to Msgr. Muccioli, cited in the first footnote of this letter. That letter was written from Frosinone on January 28, 1825, and this one must have followed quite soon after, as is deduced from the context. At the end of January of that year, after the tiring Mission in Roccaforte (Latina), the Saint stayed over in Frosinone, and from there he sent this letter to Vallecorsa. As a matter of fact, he sent some shoes too, the cost of which was supposed to be taken care of by Betti in Frosinone. Also, the entire context reveals that when he was writing this letter, he was still distant from Rome and Albano, where he went soon after his stay in Frosinone.

⁷⁶ At this point, some words of the manuscript were crossed out. Still, underneath all of the scribbling, one can still make out this phrase: "*in specie per Andi (?), ecc.*" We cannot imagine who produced this cancellation, nor when it was done, nor for what reason.

⁷⁷ Christ loved us and washes us in his own blood.

easily do by corresponding throughout Lent, especially while I am in Anagni for the retreat given at the seminary for the ordinands for *Sitientes* Saturday.⁷⁸ Most venerable Father, with esteem and respect, consider me to be in Jesus Crucified, *qui suo nos redemit sanguine*,⁷⁹

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, 30th of 1825

1049

February 1, 1825

Fr. Giovanni Calvi

Sora

Most esteemed Giovanni

Send the two coaches for Friday evening before the second Sunday in Lent; in that way, on Saturday morning the two workers will be traveling for Sora. On Saturday evening, at the latest, as soon as they arrive, the introduction will be made. Be sure that the coaches are in good and safe condition and send them to Frosinone. But realize that we do not have the facilities to keep the coachmen over night. They will have to go to an inn. Be sure that the men have their traveling papers in order so as to get around securely. See that all is prepared in the usual way. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

[no signature]

Frosinone, February 1, 1825

1050

February 1, 1825

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri

Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Your most appreciated letter, to which I am sending an immediate response, fills me with consolation because of the interesting good work that you suggest to me. Immediately after Easter, I shall be conducting the Mission in Ferentino, and in that event, I shall be able to begin the retreat there at the end of April, and then proceed on to Arpino, in keeping entirely with what you made known to me. But, as an expression of my true affection for your city and diocese, tomorrow I shall write to Ferentino in order to defer the Mission there to April and during April to take care of the two shifts of retreats that you have requested. But, if I discover that the bishop of Ferentino is set in his decision, something that I believe will not happen, (and I shall write very convincingly to him), then I can offer you two alternatives. One, to begin, at the end of April, the good work planned there; and two, to send there, immediately after Easter, two capable men from our Society, experienced in that line of work, who can do it much better than I could ever do it. Meanwhile, I would like to have your reply so that while I am awaiting the answer from Ferentino, everything can be concluded and

⁷⁸ Saturday of the fourth week of Lent.

⁷⁹ Who redeemed us by his blood.

arranged. Asking you for your prayers and assuring you of the outstanding success of your fervent nephew, with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, February 1, 1825

P.S. Give my best regards to the most reverend bishop and Canon Baldassarri. If the bishop has other orders to give, write to me in sufficient time.