

St. Gaspar's Letters

1051-1100

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1051

February 2, 1825
Fr. Giacomo Cocumelli
Ferentino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹

Venerable Father

I already have in my possession the necessary papers granting the faculty of blessing the habit of the Immaculate. The expense involved with the Theatine Fathers is three *paoli* for which you will please offer one Mass according to my intention. Within a few days, I hope to send you everything. Let us now take up another matter. After I wrote my previous letter to set a time for the Mission there, I received an urgent invitation from the bishop of Sora to conduct the clergy retreat there in April, and then leaving immediately after that. To be completely truthful, I felt that this could not be ignored; so, in that case, the Mission there could indeed be begun on the 3rd of April, and it seems to me that everything would work out equally well. I shall not give my answer to the bishop of Sora until I get your reply, which I beg you to send me quickly. If you can go along with this good work to be done in Sora, it seems to me that that would be to the greater glory of God, and the delay in Ferentino perhaps would allow for better weather conditions. I shall adhere to your advice. In Jesus Crucified, dear Father, and with esteem, respect and affection, I am

Your humble and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, February 2, 1825

P. S. I have just received another letter from you. I have, according to my previous letter, deferred the date by a few days, since I thought that Lent for us is heavily laden with work and thus I have judged it necessary to set aside a few days for restoring our forces. I hope that you will be agreeable to the days selected. The bishop also suggested another time in May. I accepted the first. So, keep in mind what I have already written, and let us give contentment to Sora.

1052

February 2, 1825
Msgr. Giuseppe Lais
Bishop of Ferentino
Ferentino

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

Most venerable Monsignor

With this letter, I am asking you to please set the Mission in Ferentino for May 3rd, because of an urgent request from the bishop of Sora who urges me to conduct the clergy retreat in that city in April. He informs me that after April he is constrained to leave and so he petitions me in the warmest way since he would like to be there personally. I have written, concerning this very situation, to Father Cocumelli. But, I would like to know from you, by special postal delivery and as

¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

² Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

a favor, whether you can go along with this change, as I pray that you will, since it does not in any way substantially change the good work that will be done in Ferentino. and, for the greater glory of God, it also allows for what the bishop of Sora is requesting for April. Pray for me who, with esteem and respect, remains

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, February 2, 1825

1053

February 9, 1825

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

(Rome)

Hail the the Precious Blood of J.C.

Dearest Tomasso

If you would like to have my advice, here it is briefly. After you have read this letter, get into a carriage for Albano and come to see me immediately in the Pious House, where I have appointed you the sacristan. You will be happy with this, and your mother will not be lacking the two *scudi*. More about this when we see each other in person. Leave your things to be sent with Severini, for I shall give him instructions with regard to the delivery by coach. In the meantime, I tell you: come immediately, otherwise you may not find me here. Consider me as

V. A.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House at Albano, February 9³

1054

February 11, 1825

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

With the greatest consolation did I receive your very dear letter. In reply, I say that with regard to the printing, for the present time, I would like, along with other priests, to have an ascetical work printed, which I shall send along to you within a short while, or even with this very same ordinary mail delivery. However, I would like to have it done as carefully as possible and you should mention this expressly in word to the printer. You take care to see that the printing is exact and correct. But before the actual printing of this material, that I am referring to, begins, let me know what the price for one hundred copies will be so that I can regulate things along with the other

³ In all probability this letter dates from 1825. It happened, as a matter of fact, that during the first half of February of that year, the Saint was staying in Albano, leaving there later on, around the 13th or 14th, in order to begin the Retreat for the people of Traetto (diocese of Gaeta). Furthermore, the letters written by him at this time are very similar in handwriting and style to this present one. Even the paper is of the same quality and format. On the other hand, we know that Meloni entered the Institute during 1825, as he himself wrote to Merlini.

contributors.

With regard to Ledi, tell him that I am aware of the time since he has expressed his desire to join the Society. So, when he has made that decision, he should clearly make his renunciation of his parish etc. to the bishop. If he prefers to do that from Rome, that can be arranged also. After all, no one can oppose God's calling, and furthermore, he is not even diocesan. If it were a question of moving from one parish to another, perhaps other considerations would be involved, but here it is a matter of an Institute. To do this, especially since it deals with a vocation, courage is needed.

I was delighted to hear good news concerning your health, and I am hopeful that it will continue to improve. Do not cease cultivating your studies. More and more will God manifest to you his own divine will. With the help of that young priest, why do you not try for a foundation there? I hear that he is close to His Holiness. Tell Canon Tarulli that I wrote to Monsignor Piatti with respect to the Conservatory in Matelica. Up to now, I have not received a reply. In my name, give him my best regards. Pray a lot for me, and in Jesus Christ, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, February 11, 1825

1055

February 11, 1825

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor and loving brother

I am awaiting an answer to my other letters; send it to Frosinone. Herein I am enclosing a memorandum concerning Gaeta, where we do not want to erect a Pious Union because of the formalities required by the Kingdom. But, we would like to have authorized the establishment of a Records-center without actually aggregating the center. *In circumstantiis*,⁴ this demands greater responsibility in recording, and so, I am asking you to put in a good word for it with the Holy Father.

Before you answer, please re-read my other letters so as not to omit anything.

With regard to the particular places that will soon be vacant, I repeat my concern that you keep your eyes open so that you can inform me quickly about it. In that way I will be able to handle it intelligently with the Most Reverend Treasurer. By then we will be freed of the burden of *Buon Consiglio*. The Hospice will be organized as it should and there will be one person specifically assigned by the Society who will have the direction of it, keeping in mind that we need a person who will act, so to speak, as Procurator General of the Institute.

I remind you of the materials on the Life of Msgr. Albertini.

Jesus be with us. I am, in his Divine Heart, with esteem and special affection, asking again your prayers,

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

⁴ In circumstances.

M. Ap.
February 11, 1825
House at Albano

P. S. I hope the list of contributors for the Hospice keeps growing.

1056

February 12, 1825
Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My Monsignor and beloved brother

I urge you to use your zeal efficaciously so that S. Maria in Vincis will not be demolished. Let us see whether we can give the installation to the Brothers of St. Francis Xavier. Cencio will be better able to inform you. I beg you to concern yourself with this very matter that is so very very close to my heart.

In a hurry, but with the usual esteem, I am
of you my Venerable Msgr.
Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, February 12, 1825

1057

February 12, 1825
Msgr. Giuseppe Lais
Bishop of Ferentino
Ferentino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵

Venerable Monsignor

The request from Sora came after yours. I wrote to you only for my peace of mind. Now that I see that you wish to have the Mission at the time established, you can be certain that you will have it so, and I shall resume my correspondence within a short time with Father Cocumelli. With the usual esteem, most venerable Monsignor, and asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, February 12, 1825

P. S. If necessary, send your letters for forwarding to: Frosinone.

1058

February 13, 1825

⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

Fr. Francesco Quattrociochi
Veroli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Father

I ask you to contact the mother of cleric Meloni, whom you remember well, and to ask you what is left over of the two monthly *scudi*, checking the accounts well in order to avoid any mistake. Whatever is left over, you are please to disburse to her, sending me a receipt which indicates the balance as of now, and I shall see to your immediate reimbursement. I trust in your well-known charity. A thousand heavenly greetings to the brethren of the oratory, to Father Bucciarelli, to Angelo Luzi. With esteem and respect, most venerable Canon, while asking you for your prayers, I remain in Jesus Christ Crucified

Your humble, devoted, obliged

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 13, 1825

1059

February 13, 1825

Card. Giovan Battista Bussi

Archbishop of Benevento

Benevento

Your Eminence

With this letter, I am introducing to your most reverend Eminence Father Pietro de Victoriis, Missionary, so that he can be of assistance in the good work that is being promoted in your archbishopric. I can assure you that he is endowed with those qualities necessary for the ministry, in addition to the probity and wisdom that he is fortified with for the welfare of souls. Most reverend Eminence, while kissing the sacred purple, I seize this new encounter to renew my feelings of full esteem and respect.

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mola di Gaeta, while traveling, February 13, 1825

1060

February 15, 1825

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri

Sora

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Canon

The bishop of Ferentino has requested that I do not defer the time set in April for the holy Mission to be given there. With regret I am sending you this information. You must realize, for the sake of exactness, that his earlier request for this date merits first consideration. However, I do have a couple of ideas in mind. First, I could begin the retreats there on holy Wednesday after the morning *Tenebrae* Matins and Lauds, joining with those days of services a milder schedule, which

we can arrange when we get together, and which would become a bit stricter as the days go on. The retreats would be concluded on the Saturday before the Sunday *in Albis*, or even on the Sunday *in Albis* itself. With this arrangement of things, if no other members are available, I would also be able to include the devotion of the Three Hours of Agony. The second plan would be for me to begin the retreats after the noon meal, *post Vesperos*,⁶ on Easter Sunday and conclude them on the Tuesday after the Sunday *in Albis*.⁷ In that way, on the following Wednesday or Thursday I would be able to begin the Mission in Ferentino and then return for the 3rd of May to initiate the other retreats in Arpino. The Mission in Ferentino would be conducted intermediately.

Now I can say *patet cor meum*.⁸ If the most reverend bishop does not approve of this, then we will have to adhere to our procedure of sending there another of our capable men for this appointment. So, consult with Canon Baldassari, and then come to a decision with the most reverend bishop as God directs you with his illuminations. If you send your reply immediately, send it, for forwarding purposes, in care of the most reverend bishop of Gaeta in whose diocese I shall be occupied in the ministry. If you delay your response, in that case send it to Frosinone where I shall be on the third Sunday in Lent. Otherwise, I shall be in the diocese of Gaeta until that Saturday. Although in a hurry, I ask you for your preceding prayers, and with esteem I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Traetto, February 15, 1825

1061

Middle of February, 1824

Fr. Luigi Moscatelli

Fratte

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon⁹

1. With regard to Canon Aloysi, I repeat what I said in another letter of mine: very early on Saturday morning, or as soon as possible, he should be in Traetto. I am speaking of next Saturday. *De hoc satis*.¹⁰

2. With regard to the ministry there, be convinced that since you are expected to take care of the actual good work to be done, in place of a Lenten preaching, it was necessary to preach not only for the eight days, but it was useful also to keep the ministry open both for the nuns and for the people.

You can be tranquil in the Lord about that. I am happy that you will be concluding the ministry there next Sunday, and make it quite clear that, for our justification in the eyes of the Curia, the clergy and the people of Fratte, your work there along with two other helpers for 12 days was

⁶ After Vespers.

⁷ In white, i.e. Sunday after Easter.

⁸ My heart lies open.

⁹ This letter does not have a date. From the content, it seems that it should be assigned to the middle of February, 1825 and written from Traetto, where St. Gaspar was preaching a retreat for the people. Cfr. also the letter to Msgr. Francesco Bonomo dated March 26, 1825.

¹⁰ Enough about this.

equivalent to 24 days. Add to this that the other days that you spend in Selvacava, where you will send notice, are to the benefit of this same Commune. See to it, however, that the people of Fratte remain tranquil, that they get there in time for confessions, urging anyone who may get there late to go to Selvacava where that person will find a pious secular priest to be of assistance. After Selvacava, you will take up work in Coreno, to which you will also send a notice in due time. I will send Canon Aloysi there to join you and together you will be able to visit in S. Germano the Shrine of S. Benedetto in Monte Casino. I try to satisfy your feelings of devotion, but I am unable to arrange things otherwise. From S. Germano, the two of you will come to Frosinone, where together we will move on to Albano. In this way; I shall excuse you from the Mission in Giuliano, otherwise a lot of things cannot be worked out. The variety of work in Fratte, Selvacava and Coreno will make the ministry much more pleasing and you will be enriched with merits for heaven. I simply cannot bring about another arrangement of things that will better coordinate your desires with the purposes of the Institute, including the question of expenses as well as that visit to the Shrine. Pray and have others pray a lot for me who remains

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

A Mission of eight days is not feasible since there is a lack of furnishings, and nothing would be accomplished; scarcely underway, the Missionaries would be departing. Please, let us not change the plan, for distant though we may be from each other, we would do nothing more than multiply expenses for shipments. So, ultimately, we should not depart from what has been set up to now. Still, one must distinguish the condescension that circumstances call for you to make and the needs of those souls. Your lodgings are terrible, but I hope that they will be better in the other places. You are out in the open air; I am deprived of that. Be courageous. Greetings to Canon Aloysi.

Dispatch the messenger soon.

If you think it is a good idea to return from Selvacava back to Fratte for a short jaunt during the eight days, feel free to do so. But then on to Coreno.

Have no doubt that I, within a short time thereafter, will see that Aloysi hurries to get to Coreno.¹¹

1062

February 22, 1825

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Grutti

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Luigi

A couple of lines in a hurry. The bishop of Atri and Penne invites you also to continue your work in his diocese after Easter. I know that you will not be able to do so unless you make your renunciation, as I hope you will. I could not overlook this invitation. Asking you for your prayers, and with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

¹¹ These final paragraphs were written on the outer covering.

M. Ap.
While giving a Mission, February 22, 1825

1063

February 24, 1825
Fr. Domenico Silvestri
Piperno per Sonnino

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Fr. Domenico

Here I am sending you a reply to your very dear letter in which you included the document for the 12 Sc. Later, for whatever need you may have, write to me in Frosinone, where I shall be on Monday after the third Sunday in Lent.

You speak to me about changes! But that is not true. Your House has already been set as that of Sermoneta. Do you not recall that in Frosinone I told you that during Lent you should be available for urgent matters in the work of the Society? If the people of Sonnino are grumbling about me, we can laugh at that together. During Lent in each of our Houses there is a change of preachers, etc. This does not imply the transferral of Aloysi.

Unlike statues, Missionaries are not motionless. They serve wherever God wills to call them. St. Francis Xavier, in obedience, would have left a Mission even though only half-finished. You will never have to render an account for having obeyed. There is no doubt about that. It will be necessary that the people of Sonnino be made to see the needs of these other people, and that it is only proper that during Lent they be given encouragement to be re-united with God.

When you encounter divine blessings in Sermoneta, it shows that the matter is being handled well. You went there after all in obedience. Even though I am still the miserable thing that I am, it is nevertheless a point of faith that, since God has called me to this Society, he must provide me with the inspirations pertinent to my office. You are in Sonnino by your own choice. I wanted you in the Diocese of Gaeta where, trusting in your obedience to these desires viewed as commands, you would have seen prodigious things happen. I recall very well the advice that I received from Msgr. Albertini on such matters; I do not cease to communicate this to the other members for the glory of God.

I hope that you accept in good spirit these items of counsel because of the love that I have for you in J.C. To set things right, at present, place your trust in God and once again be courageous.¹²

As soon as Aloysi returns, you will go back to Sermoneta. A bit sooner or a bit later makes no difference. Write to me and let me know whether you have Masses and whether you are praying for me; also, how the Lenten series is going along there.

You did very well in refusing both of the invitations given to you by the deputy agent, and I shall inform Aloysi of this. Stand firmly behind our rules: whether he is upset or not is not the point of concern.¹³ Be like a German in adhering steadily to the established policies.

Keep in mind the Month of the Divine Blood in Sermoneta. Would you take care of the Tre Ore there? Write to me in Frosinone concerning this. I would say: Yes. ... I shall obey.

With regard to hearing children's confessions, I shall speak to Manassi,¹⁴ In Frosinone I shall

¹² Cr. Gasparian History and Trivia: Obedience, the virtue of.

¹³ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Silvestri.

¹⁴ Msgr. Carlo Manasse. Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Manasse.

check again to see what faculties I can give to you. I shall urge Aloysi to hurry, the best I can.

*Ora pro me, my dearest one, in Domino. Gratia Dei nobiscum. Sum tuus ex corde*¹⁵

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M.Ap.

(Castelforte) February 24, 1825¹⁶

I urge you to look after the Brother there so that he will be trained by you in spiritual matters, etc.

(on the outer page, near the address, we read:)

Let me know whether you have Masses.

1064

March 2, 1825

Fr. Filippo Carusi

Traetto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon *in Domino*¹⁷

With pleasure did I see your handwriting and I wholeheartedly wish that the most merciful God will shed copious heavenly blessings upon you so that you may become another St. Philip. In my wretchedness, I shall pray incessantly to the Almighty, certain of your reciprocation. Primicerio Faraone asked me not to deprive him of your assistance and I, too, recommend to you the souls there. Promote the good work of the oratory for men, about which I also spoke to Primicerio Faraone, and he showed his approval. This is a work for young priests, in keeping with the spirit of St. Philip. Primicerio Faraone also showed delight in the faculty of enrolling people in the devotion to the Divine Blood. You, too, should not fail to encourage this devotion by the recitation of the Chaplet, recommended so warmly by me to the aforementioned Primicerio. On Saturday morning, I shall be awaiting Primicerio Pierelli along with one of my companions. In another of your letters, you could indicate to me the number of Masses that you would like to take care of for our Houses, and then, afterwards, by way of letters we will take care of whatever else needs to be done. Always pray to God for me and my salvation: *hoc est enim omnis homo*.¹⁸ May Jesus be the source of our delight; and, in his Divine Heart, dear Canon, with sentiments of profound respect and esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Castelforte, March 2, 1825

Teach the praises of the Divine Blood, etc. to the people there. I shall be sending you some booklets.

1065

¹⁵ Pray for me in the Lord. The grace of God be with us. I am yours from the heart.

¹⁶ Fr. Giovanni Merlini informs us that on this date St. Gaspar was located in Castelforte (Latina), diocese of Gaeta, where he was preaching a Retreat in the form of a Mission. It lasted from February 22 to March 6, the third Sunday in Lent

¹⁷ In the Lord.

¹⁸ For this is every man.

March 3, 1825
Fr. Francesco Saverio Lanna
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Francesco Saverio

Thank you for your letter. In reply, I tell you that on Holy Saturday, after the noon meal, I shall be arriving in Sora for the clergy retreat. After this retreat, I shall move on for the Mission in Ferentino. Then, I shall return to Arpino as Monsignor Lucibello has had me arrange. During the time that I shall be there for the clergy, I shall voluntarily and wholeheartedly do whatever the most reverend bishop directs. I am not worthy to offer myself for the welfare of souls that I love in Jesus Christ Crucified. You, however, starting from this moment, should pray and have others pray for this wretched person so that the Lord *det voci meae, vocem virtutis*.¹⁹ Return my most cordial greetings to all those you named in your very kind letter. If I do not come first to Sora, it is because the concern for the greater glory of God demands it so. Give my best regards to Canon Galanti, and inform him that I have not forgotten what he asked me to do. Particular best wishes to the most reverend bishop, whose hand you will kiss for me. I repeat my request for your prayers, and in the meantime, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

While giving a Mission, March 3, 1825

P. S. If necessary, always send your letters addressed to Frosinone.

1066

March 3, 1825
Giovanni Calvi
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Giovanni

In reply to your letters, I say that if the retreat for the Sacconi was not scheduled for this year with the extension that was desired, it was because this is the Holy Year and also because of the many requests for the ministry. My heart, shall we say, is like a ship. I am not worthy to offer myself for the welfare of souls. But, God, who is the author of every good work, supplies for my miserable person. Whenever it is necessary to write, send your letters to Frosinone. Within a short time, I am going to be returning there. I would like you to give special greetings to Mrs. Carrara. With esteem and respect, and asking you and the brethren to offer prayers for me, I am and will constantly be

Your most humble and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

While giving a Mission, March 3, 1824

1067

¹⁹ May he give me my voice, a voice of prayer.

March 6, 1825
Fr. Filippo Carusi
Traetto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

You will be promptly and completely obeyed with respect to the Masses in accordance with the memorandum that you sent to me. If we were unable to see each other in person, we do see each other often in spirit, *et in vulneribus Jesu Christi*.²⁰

When the Masses have been taken care of, I shall write to you again. Dear Canon, pray and have others pray likewise for me. Though in a hurry, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

March 6, 1825

1068

March 9, 1825
Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Here I am in Frosinone, and, after meeting with Canon Betti, I advise you of the following:

1. The arrangement for the clergy retreat remains set, and even though in one of my letters addressed to you through the Kingdom's postal service I said that I would be in Sora by Holy Saturday evening, nevertheless, because of some difficulties with traveling or because of appointments, if I should, *propter necessitatem*,²¹ arrive on Easter morning *circa meridiem*,²² do not worry. I shall be on time for the introduction after the noon meal of that same Easter Sunday at the hour that the most reverend bishop will designate. The rest of the schedule can be set up when we meet in person.

2. My lodging will be in the Carrara home, since I have already contacted them, and please give to Francesca the enclosed, with my best wishes. This, too, is settled, giving my thanks to the most reverend bishop for any other plan that he may have had in mind.

3. Please inform the Vice Superintendent of the Kingdom's custom office that I should not be delayed there in passing through, assuring him that I am not transporting any contraband; give him my particular good wishes.

4. Alvito cannot be taken care of except in May, and the Mission there could be started at the end of April. In general, by the beginning of May. You make arrangements in accordance with this. You know quite well that the Holy Year calls for a thousand different requests, but as long as God's work is fulfilled, any accidental variation will not alter substantially our main work. You try to convince them of this etc. so that this opportunity is not lost.

5. Promptly and in a safe manner, forward the enclosed to the Archpriest of Isola.

²⁰ And in the wounds of Jesus Christ.

²¹ For a necessity.

²² Around noon.

6. Tell the Archpriest of S. Bartolomeo that he should be kind enough to inform the brethren of his congregation that it is impossible for us to schedule the retreat on Passion Sunday because of the restriction of time. I would have been able to regulate things otherwise if I had received word in sufficient time. If they are unable to find anyone to handle this good work, in that case, if they are satisfied to welcome us in the early morning while I am in Sora, I will be available, but I repeat, *only* early in the morning, so as not to interfere with the more important work of giving the clergy retreat. I think that I have covered everything. Pray and have others pray for me. Give my best regards to the most reverend bishop, to the Vicar General, to Canon Baldassari and to anyone else who remembers me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, March 9, 1825

1069

March 9, 1825

Mrs. Francesca Carrara

Sora

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious lady

A couple of lines in a hurry in order to thank you for the kind attention given to our excellent Canon Betti. And, as I fulfill this duty of gratitude, I am about to contract new obligations to you as I am required to be in Sora within a short time. In the meantime, with esteem and respect, consider me to be

Your most humble and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, March 9, feastday of S. Francesca, with many more years.²³

1070

March 12, 1825

Fr. Giuseppe Stani

Penne

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Father Giuseppe Maria

With pleasure did I see your handwriting again, and I notice in your letter the great work that you are going to promote through the devotion to Xavier. I have already submitted the petition to the Holy Father, and I hope to get a favorable reply.

With regard to the bills of exchange, have the penitent's confessor write. We try to do all the good possible for the glory of God; and let us become saints.

Whenever you can, look after the poor prisoners, the sick in the hospital; great blessings will be showered upon you. Give my greetings to anyone who remembers me, and, with esteem and

²³ The year is certainly 1825 as is evident from the preceding letter to Fr. Giuseppe M. Silvestri.

respect, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Anagni, March 12, 1825

Whenever the need arises, send your letters to me, addressed to: Rome

1071

March 12, 1825

Fr. Ferdinando Angelici

Santanatolia

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Ferdinando

My wholehearted congratulation on being promoted to the priesthood. My most beloved, what a great dignity this is! And oh what humility it calls for to sustain it! Let us establish ourselves incessantly in that beautiful virtue, and may you not cease praying a great deal for me in the divine Sacrifice so that I can ready myself for eternity. I beg you fervently for this act of charity. I will not fail to pray that the Lord will bless the holy desires of the Alberici Adorers of the Divine Blood. May Jesus protect them in the grand work that they have planned.

Give my special greetings to Canon Tarulli and recommend me to his prayers. Do not fail to take good care of your vocation to the sacred ministry. Through this letter, I kiss your hands, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Anagni, March 12, 1825

P. S. When necessary, send your letters, addressed to: Rome.

1072

March 12, 1825

Fr. Giovanni Mimmi

Acctuasparta

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²⁴

Most venerable Prior

Oh how delighted I was to see your handwriting again! In reply I ask you to please designate in another letter one or the other period of time that you consider feasible for the fulfillment of the ministry, and you will be given the holy Mission immediately. Because of the responsibilities that I have in Rome, if some unforeseen impediment should arise for me, you will nevertheless have the Mission conducted by very capable workers. You can be sure that if our Society did not now have many members endowed with special gifts from God, I would not hazard saying this. You can be sure of that. However, I hope to be able to come myself, especially because you know very well how long-lived our relationship has been in Jesus Christ. Furthermore, this relationship, rather than

²⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

weakening, has increased evermore in my heart. I would estimate that three Missionaries will be sufficient. One of them would take care of the clergy in the event that I should not come myself. Thus, everything has been arranged without danger of any contingency. May Jesus be with us. Most venerable Prior, with total affection and esteem, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Anagni, March 12, 1825

Send your reply to Rome.

1073

March 13, 1825

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

For the time being, I am not sending you the little booklet because of economic reasons. Miserable thing that I am, I do not fail to pray for you and God knows the continuous remembrance that I have of you and whatever your needs may be. Through our Severini, you will be receiving ten *scudi*, as we had agreed upon. Pray and have others pray that the longed-for reform among the people will be achieved. With regard to Ledi, I have understood ... *utinam*.²⁵ You probably know already that, by divine mercy, our Society is making great progress. Praise be to the Lord *a quo omne bonum*.²⁶

With respect to your activity, if God wishes you, at least for a bit longer, as a weapon of the seculars as well as of the fathers of families, do not be frightened. Cereto will soon be asking for a new Mission, according to the legacy. You promote it. May Jesus be with us. When the Chaplets have been printed, please send them on to Severini. Dear Camillo, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Anagni, in the act of the ministry, March 13, 1825

1074

March 13, 1825

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giacomo

Father Giovanni has communicated to me the desires of the excellent people of Norma. In reply, I say, because of the shortage of time, that the hospice for Sermoneta is no longer underway since I noticed that in S. Francesco it is a question of health during the hot season. So, it is a good

²⁵ Would that ...

²⁶ From whom [comes] every good thing.

thing to make the establishment as the rule calls for. I shall write about it to Fuschi who has sent me a very fervent letter. I give thanks to God for the good work that you are doing there. *Laus Deo.*²⁷ Let me know if you are going to resume the Missions later. I can offer you as many as you want. However, the time would probably be for the Monday *in Albis*. Try to do me this favor, and send me your reply so I can arrange appointments. With esteem, consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Anagni, March 13²⁸

Send your reply to Frosinone.

1075

March 13, 1825

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri

Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

With regard to the lodging, I do not wish to give any disturbance to the most reverend bishop whose directions I intend to follow; but to upset Mrs. Carrara, to whom I owe so very much, is also not called for. So, you try to settle matters with the appropriate courtesies. I have mentioned that I love to have my own liberty, as in the Carrara house; this, too, is in conformity with the rules of the Institute as well as for other particular reasons of my own, which are indeed just and plausible. Do not send the coaches. So, we are agreed on all things. Of Alvito, I have understood. Of Arpino, more when we see each other in person. Pray and have others pray, dear Canon, for one who, with complete homage, has the honor of declaring again that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

March 13, 1825

1076

March 14, 1825

Archpriest of Roccasecca

Roccasecca

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Archpriest

The most reverend bishop asks me to send one of our workers to Roccasecca for the holy Retreat. I am sending word to you so that you will be informed of this. But, since I received this information late, as soon as a few Missionaries return from the diocese of Gaeta, I will send one of them there, along with a Brother. Thus, the Retreat will be held after Easter. The good work will be done. With esteem, I remain

²⁷ Praise to God.

²⁸ The year is 1825.

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Anagni, March 14, 1825
 Send your reply to: Frosinone

1077

March 16, 1825
 Fr. Giacomo Cocumelli
 Ferentino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father

On the morning of the feast of St. Joseph, God-willing, I shall be passing through Ferentino and I hope to be there around the 14th hour. Since I shall not be able to stay over, I will look you up in S. Agata and in person we can arrange everything for the Mission. If you are unable to be there in person for that appointment, you can depute anyone else that you wish. It would be better for the one whom you select to be there ahead of me at that time which I have mentioned before as an approximate hour. This inconvenience that I am causing you arises from the fact that I will be able to make only a very brief stay there. If no one at all shows up, we can take care of this through our correspondence. With particular esteem and respect, I remain

Your obedient servant
Gaspare Can. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.

Anagni, March 16, 1825

1078

March 17, 1825
 Fr. Filippo Bonderl
 Supino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

I read your letter with pleasure and I wholeheartedly thank you for the kindness you show to me. I am very pleased with this seminary and the edification of the young man is quite distinct. For everything, may praise be given to God, who, in his most bountiful mercy supplies for my insufficiencies.

The paintings for Morollo, which I accidentally saw at the most reverend bishop's place, in truth I did not like; and, when you see them, you will be able to judge whether I am telling the truth. There may be reasons that I do not recognize for excusing the painter, and I do not wish to belittle his abilities. But, as a principle, I believe that it would be better to patiently seek the necessary solution rather than to rush the execution of these matters. God, indeed, blesses the holy intent that was shown in this effort, and we do see outstanding images, even though produced by a coarse brush; and this is what consoles me. In particular, St. Francis Xavier has been represented and adapted in an inopportune fashion.

I praise you exceedingly for the zeal you show in the planning of your procession. I hope that the most reverend bishop will not oppose its execution. I was delighted to receive the good news of

your health and I am hopeful that it will continue to be prosperous for many, many years to the glory of the Lord. Do not forget me in your prayers, and, with esteem, respect and particular affection, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Anagni, March 17²⁹

1079

March 22, 1825

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

With this letter I ask you to send me, promptly and safely, 14 handspans of good material in 40 black. Figure out the expenses that we have and let us work out the payments etc. Pray for me who is

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, March 22

A thousand greetings to rather Serafino, and ask him to write to me etc. Dell'Uomo has written nothing more to me. Molella's design is *in spe*.³⁰ This is how things have been going. Let us laugh.

1080

March 24, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Pacificans per Sanguinem Crucis eius sive quae in Caelis sive quae in terris sunt*³¹

Most venerable Monsignor

I am writing this letter during the most tender memorial time of our holy religion, that is, those days during which our holy mother the Church directs us to turn our glance, in a special way, to the Crucified Lord, the only delight of our souls.

However, the purpose for my writing this letter is to inform you, just for the sake of the record, of what happened to me yesterday, the 23rd of March. With great external pomp, I was summoned by the most reverend Delegate. After I entered his chambers, he, with the fullness of his authority, lashed out with a bitter reproof, telling me that we have not been preaching against brigandry; and that a Missionary with whom he had spoken, referred to it coldly, having been upset also by a letter from the Gonfalonier. Then, at this point, he observed that there was cause to point out a few basic things upon which they came to the judgment that the objections of a number of

²⁹ The year is 1825. Cfr. the letter to the same person on March 26, 1825.

³⁰ In hope.

³¹ Making peace through the blood of his cross whether for what is in heaven or on earth.

involved people, in general, should be made known to the Holy Father.

I replied simply by telling him that I had no doubt at all that my companions were fulfilling their duties, for I myself personally went to the various places where I investigated and was informed, and that God knows how we speak and pray fervently from the public platforms asking God to free us from brigandry etc. etc. I shall not go into further minute details. He added that with regard to persons and conduct, there was nothing more to be said. I kept saying within my heart: "Lord, strengthen the resolve of my companions to remain in this Province for your own pure glory etc. etc. etc."

In a certain way, he seemed to be persuaded, to be calmed down, and that I should forgive him if he became a bit too zealous in his remarks. This whole experience did not keep me from reacting in a human fashion, feeling deep within myself the vicissitudes of this miserable life, to such an extent that I would consider it miraculous if, in all of this complexity, I would be able to stand up. But these are the trials by which the Lord refines us in the crucible of tribulation, so that we learn to take the bitter things as sweet and the sweet as bitter, just as the Venerable da Ponte used to remark.

So, my Monsignor, *occasionaliter*³² I say that many times I say nothing because all I want to do is to be concerned about the matters of the ministry. But, sometimes, it seems to me that it is the will of God that I should speak out, not as a satisfaction to my human feelings, but for the sake of the truth. Thus, it has been quite some time that I have been able to note that certain people are not fit to rule the Province, and yet things go on in a certain fashion. God does not endow everyone with levelness of mind, with logical reasoning, with orderliness, or with a certain pleasant, external mode of governing things. This also helps us in our pursuit of humility. So, let us pray a great deal that God will give such members to his Church who are dedicated to the urgent needs of our times, for this is truly a gift of the Lord, *a quo omne bonum*.³³

I shall add nothing further with regard to the matter of brigandry. What I have already said is sufficient. I speak rather *in vulneribus Christi*.³⁴ In general, I say that here we are moving along according to plans and projects, and yet the true plan has not been fully executed. The expenses will multiply as the means available are adjusted; or, by way of a discreet appendix, shall we say, everything will be brought to a conclusion, namely, a civilized morality.

I add that it would be quite a good thing to have His Holiness realize that he should drop any idea of appointing a special Commission. Have him deal with this Province according to the rules in general which he feels he should apply to the entire State. This does not prevent him from maintaining those practices which he judges to be suitable. But, I repeat, the entire procedure should be regulated *juris ordine servato*.³⁵ This, in no way, will injure the esteem of any person for him, but rather will lead to a deeper affection of the subjects toward their Sovereign. Also, try to have him realize that it is not proper for the priests to be controlled by the police ministry in Frosinone; nor that lay authorities should be writing notes to the preachers, telling them to preach against brigandry. Such matters pertain to the bishops. This situation is a residue from the French invasion who gave orders to have preachers investigated. This is something that leads to confusion in the minds of good people, causing them to be doubtful of the loyalty of our workers, and, speaking in a human fashion,

³² Occasionally.

³³ From whom [comes] every good.

³⁴ In the wounds of Christ.

³⁵ Preserving the order of law.

each one ends up humiliated. So, will seculars be the judge of sermons? And, will we want to reduce the holy word of God to become enslaved by the vilest pedantries that cause the lowest impression on the audience, all the more when one notes and promotes a departure from extrinsic order, whereas, when things are governed in a canonical way and by the Church, would not the voice of the preacher be able to have a more uplifting effect on souls? This is what getting together in the Delegation means, *sacro et temporale sub omni respectu, et cum plenitudine auctoritatis*.³⁶ Speaking in general, may God deliver us from false counselors, as we recall the observation of the Holy Spirit that finding a true friend is to find a treasure. I conclude that not without reason did St. Paul say: *omnia honeste et secundum ordinem fiant*.³⁷ May Jesus be with us. Most reverend excellency, with profound esteem, homage, and very special, intimate, true affection, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, March 24, 1825

P.S. Not knowing anything that might have been decided concerning the soldiers, I have tried to stimulate etc. etc. and then I learned that they are all going to make the retreat conducted by the Liguori Fathers, whereas we always have them before. Nevertheless, I am content with this too, as long as God is glorified. We are exuberantly weighed down with jobs. Presently, I am conducting a retreat for the leaders, as usual. Pray for its successful outcome.

1081

March 26, 1825

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon *in Domino*³⁸

I received the cloth and I understand all that you tell me concerning the balance of accounts, etc. Everything is all right, *te duce* etc.³⁹

Give my particular regards to Father Serafino, and ask him to pray etc.

As soon as I have the opportunity, which will not be delayed, I shall speak to Canon Aloysi who is presently concluding a spiritual retreat in the diocese of Gaeta, and I assure you that I have heard the most favorable reports. Let us give praise to God, *a quo omne bonum*.⁴⁰

I give thanks to the Lord for what you told me about the known person and let us continue to pray.

Recommend me to God, and have other do so too; and dear Canon, consider me to be *in Jesus Christ qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*⁴¹

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

³⁶ I consecrate also the temporal, in every respect, and with full authority.

³⁷ Let everything be done honorably and in order.

³⁸ In the Lord.

³⁹ Under your leadership, etc.

⁴⁰ From whom [come] every good.

⁴¹ In Jesus Christ who redeemed us by his blood.

M. Ap.
House in Frosinone, March 26, 1825

1082

March 26, 1825
Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci
Guarcino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

The painting of St. Xavier has already arrived at this Mission House. The postman cannot deliver it; see that you send someone to get it on Monday. The cost comes to 10.13 *scudi*. You can forget the 13 *baiocchi*. Just say one Our Father and Hail Mary to the Saint for me. I hope that the painting, as well as the economical savings, will be in agreement with the desires of all in common. I hope, too, that the painting will soon be accompanied with many votive offerings etc.

Thank you for the exactness in sending me the notification of all the people enrolled. To relieve you of that burden, could you not try to arrange for a canonical erection which would cost you only six *scudi*? If so, I will send you the instructions for doing so as set up by the Archconfraternity in Rome for carrying out the aggregations. Try to use your influence for this good work so as to render more stable the devotion to the Divine Blood.

I do not know how to express my delight with regard to your oratory which I often refer to as exemplary when I give Missions. Yes, let us always be zealous for the glory of God, the generous bestower of his grace on whatever we accomplish! Most venerable Canon, asking you for your prayers and extending my best wishes to all etc., I am and will constantly be with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.
House in Frosinone, March 26, 1825

The book for the month of the Divine Blood, it seems to me, should already have arrived there.

1083

March 26, 1825
Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

In reply to your letter, I inform you that on Holy Saturday I expect to be in Sora for the noon meal. I understand everything you tell me concerning the lodging, and I wish only, through your kind assistance, to make known my acquiescence and respective gratitude.

Thousands and thousands of good wishes to the most worthy reverend bishop, to Mrs. Carrara, to Canon Baldassari, to the Vicar General etc. etc. etc. Also extend my greetings to those in Campoli.

I am sending a package containing 100 Chaplets of the Divine Blood for Father Francesco Saverio Lanna, to whom you will give my best regards.

With respect to S. Bartolomeo, no letters have come up to now. I need information from you. But, if they can find someone else to carry out this good work with better order, I shall be most content. I have tried to supply for the need.

Pray, and have others pray a lot, a lot, a lot for me, a wretched thing. I shall conduct the Three Hours of Agony in Veroli. I repeat, prayers from as many people as you can get. Give my regards to Canon Gallanti and tell him that, in person, we will discuss things further. Asking you to pass the word on to the Vice Superintendent of the customs for the Kingdom, that I shall not be bringing in etc., and also giving him my greetings; with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, March 26⁴²

P. S. With regard to your nephew, he is getting along very well. In Sonnino, he has become an oracle. As for the cleric, be tranquil. His relatives are quite content. He was supposed to come already etc. etc.

1084

March 26, 1825

Msgr. Francesco Bonomo

Bishop of Gaeta

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

My companion who was slated for Corena got so weakened in his strength that, after preaching the retreat for the Fratte, he was unable to take care of the people in Coreno. But in a letter from you, you assure that as soon as Easter is past, another worker will head in that direction. I hope that on Monday or Tuesday after the Sunday *in Albis*⁴³ this very good work will be initiated. This eventuality came about unforeseen by me. Also let me know on that occasion whether I should take on Spigno and Castellonorato, two more towns that have sent me requests. I shall immediately carry out your directions. I kiss your hands, and, while asking you for your prayers, I remain with esteem and respect

Your humble, obedient servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, March 26⁴⁴

1085

March 27, 1825

Fr. Pasquale De Nardis

Roccasecca

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

⁴² The year is 1825 as is evident from the other letters addressed to the same person.

⁴³ In white, i.e., the Sunday after Easter.

⁴⁴ The year is 1825. Cfr. the letter of April 21st which is relative to this one.

Venerable Father Pasquale

In reply to your letter I say that *in lumine tuo videbimus lumen*.⁴⁵ So, let us continue praying *ut Domini voluntas, adimpleatur*.⁴⁶ As for Atri and Penne, I think only of helping those people through prayers in the sight of God. God will accept my good intentions. I hope that you will gather there a great harvest of souls, *praetio Sanguinis redemptae*,⁴⁷ and I ask you not to forget to pray for me and have others do the same, as I myself will be praying for your intentions.

Also see that public prayers are offered so that God will free this Province from the scourge of brigandry, and arouse in the people a horror for such enormous misdeeds, bidding them to pray likewise that those misled wanderers will convert, as you are assured of paradise through docility, etc. Take good care of yourself. In Jesus Crucified, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, March 27, 1825

1086

March 28, 1825

Mr. Domenico Antonio Gagliardi

Castelforte

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Oh how many obligations I have toward you! I would that God would offer me the opportunity of demonstrating to you my most vivid gratitude. But, in the meanwhile, I shall not cease praying for whatever your needs may be.

Bartolomeo sends you his particular regards. Both of us are in good health, thanks to the Lord. I hope that the same is true for you.

Canon Aloysi has been completely overwhelmed because of the many kind things he has received from you. God, who is the generous donor of all good things, will give you an ample reward. Do not forget to keep me in your prayers, and, with esteem and respect, consider me always as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, March 28, 1825

1087

March 28, 1825

Msgr. Ottavio Zolio

Bishop of Rimini

Rimini

⁴⁵ In your light we see light.

⁴⁶ As the will of God, let it be fulfilled.

⁴⁷ Redeemed at the price of blood.

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴⁸

Most venerable Monsignor

My very dear companions have asked me for the help of a third worker and I willingly shall send him there after some Missions in the dioceses of Penne and Atri during this present springtime. This fellow's name is Canon Gaspare Carboneri, by divine grace, a very mature individual in the ministry, so that I trust in God that he will do a great deal of good work there. As a consequence, I would like to ask you to please do everything possible to obtain a subsidy, in view of the good work that will be undertaken there. O how I pray that the Lord will bless our care of souls! With the passing of time, this holy Society will be able to offer help in the missions of the Propaganda, where the needs are so great, and in that way promote even more the glory of the Lord. If you should have a priest who could be trained for our ministry, do not fail to encourage him so that we can stir up even more the apostolic spirit among the clergy as well as fervent zeal for the salvation of souls.

In our house of study in Umbria, we have those young men who, having completed their seminary training, go there to prepare themselves for the various ministries, and then they either return to their own dioceses or they join our Institute. Who knows whether the Lord, later on, would not wish to have one also in Romagna, just as presently plans are underway for activating one, by this coming November, in Benevento, as a special help to that diocese in the Kingdom of Naples. Recommend me a lot, a whole lot to God so that I prepare myself well for the eternal years. If I have inconvenienced you in anyway with this most humble letter of mine, I had no other intention in mind than to suggest to you that the Holy Father would be greatly pleased to receive a memorandum from you, from which, I hope, a subsidy will be forthcoming. I kiss your hands, and with profound esteem and homage, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, March 28, 1825

1088

March 28, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Having just returned from giving the holy Retreat to the Sacconi group and others involved, with the most reverend Delegate encouraging them by his example, I now can read your most appreciated letter in which, among other things, you speak of a Mr. Rosina. In my poor heart, I feel the highest concern and a profound sadness. I am not acquainted with this person, not even by name, but that does not matter. Such is the experience of anyone who, out of God's pure mercy, exercises the ministry. By tomorrow, I prudently hope to find everything out and conclude it. I remain totally edified by the noble sentiments of virtue that adorn the soul of our Supreme Pontiff who emphasizes the footsteps of Jesus the Redeemer, whose Vicar he is, and especially as he does during these holy days. Later, I hope to be able to tell you the results. Let us give life to everything through prayer,

⁴⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

*fons omnium bonorum.*⁴⁹

I imagine that presently you are making your retreat, but I do not know whether it is at the very dear Cappelletto of S. Luigi, once the center of my delight *in actitudine ministerii, nunc autem in desiderio spiritus.*⁵⁰ Miserable thing that I am, I pray and have others pray for the matters that are pending. There was something else that I wanted to add here, but a crowd of poor men seeking to go to confession forces me to stop here. The affection that I have for you will never permit me to stop writing to you. Let us carefully read the wounds of Jesus Christ during these holy days, and let us discover in them the haven of safety, of peace and of victory. May Jesus be with us. In his divine Heart, while kissing your hands, I remain with profound esteem and very special affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, March 28⁵¹

1089

March 29, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

A couple of lines, in a hurry, in order to inform you that you should not be surprised that there may be a delay of a day or so with regard to the known affair. With esteem and respect, most reverend excellency, I am in Jesus Christ

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, March 29

1090

March-April, 1825

Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci

Guarcino

If you want to aggregate, you are to send a memorandum to the Ordinary so that he will assign the church and the altar. After that, the Curia will send a simple letter of request to Monsignor Muccioli so that he will designate a person in Rome to postulate the aggregation. Monsignor Muccioli is the president of the Archconfraternity and it is he who is in charge of aggregations. So, then, afterwards send everything to him along with six *scudi* to cover the expenses, or write to me and I will take care of it.⁵²

⁴⁹ The font of all good things.

⁵⁰ In the exercise of the ministry, but now in the desire of the spirit.

⁵¹ This letter does not have the year indicated, but it is certainly 1825. Cfr. also the letter to the same person dated April 23, 1825 in which he speaks again of Rosina or Rosini.

⁵² This letter does not have an addressee nor a date. However, it is found among the letters to Ceccacci. This letter, that describes the method by which one becomes an aggregator to the Archconfraternity of the most Precious

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

If the six *scudi* are to be awaited, I myself will await them.

1091

Mr. Luigi Baldi
Meldola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Luigi

I have already forwarded your petition to the most reverend Treasurer. It is also necessary that you write to him yourself and remind him of the documents that you have sent, as well as supplying others that may be necessary. On the outside, write "reserved". Tell him that you are the one who should have had the petition submitted by me during these days

But, prayers are the principle means to be used so that the Lord will bestow special blessings. With esteem and respect, in Jesus Christ consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

(while traveling) Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo in Albano, April 1.⁵³

1092

April 2, 1825
Fr. Giovanni Mimmi
Acquasparta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Prior

In general, the holy Mission there will be held in May. Around the end of April, I will be able to indicate the time for the beginning of this apostolic ministry which we shall recommend to God in the meantime. If you need to write to me, address your letters to Rome. You should take care of the usual proprieties with the most reverend bishop, seeing that, from this very moment, the Missionaries are furnished with all the faculties worthy of special mention. As for the travel arrangements, you will have only to take care of the mounts to be obtained in S. Felice in Giano where the leaders in that area will provide them, keeping in mind my interest in maintaining the greatest possible economy. Let us remain in the adorable hearts of Jesus Christ and most holy Mary.

With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Blood, succeeds, therefore, the letter of March 26, 1825, but precedes the one of June 19, 1825, addressed to the same person. Accordingly, we give it the designation "March-April".

⁵³ The year is 1825. (Cfr. the letter [n. 1093] to Cristaldi dated April 3, 1825, in which he speaks of Mr. Baldi's petition). The postal marking indicates "Velletri". So, St. Gaspar, after conducting the Three Hours of Agony in Veroli, moved on to Albano.

Mission and Retreat House in Albano, April 2, 1825

1093

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

I am enclosing a note from Monsignor Benvenuti which, after having read it, you should please burn, etc. I sent a reply to the aforementioned prelate with my feelings of respect for him, *et de hoc satis*.⁵⁴

Prudently, I checked with all three pastors in Frosinone to locate Mr. Rosina, but that name is not found listed in any of the books, despite the use of other inquiries made with even more diligence by me, etc. I add that Mr. Dori whose signature is on the petition, identified as the gonfalonier, is not here ... (I am speaking in reference to the Rosina memorandum placed opposite the anonymous writing). I would also like to point out that the script, it seems to me, is not in the least in agreement. That is how I see it. I would also like to have more data so as to be able to make new inquiries; you can imagine the concern that I have to be of assistance in accomplishing this good deed which pertains to the conversion of a soul, etc., etc., etc..

The petition of a Mr. Baldi from Meldola which I have sent to you comes from a very fine young man whom I meet when giving Missions in Romagna. Indeed, God will also accept our good intentions. Address your most appreciated letters to Frosinone. I thank you again for everything. Pray ceaselessly for me who renews his feelings of esteem and respect as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, April 3, 1825

1094

April 4, 1825

Fr. Giacomo Cocumelli

Ferentino

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵⁵

Venerable Father

The holy occupations of the ministry have caused this delay in sending a reply to your most appreciated letter.

1. I am enclosing the printed sheet describing the entrance for the holy Mission which can be carried out on the stairway into the church of S. Agata at the time of our arrival. And, so that no one will be worried, they should have a look-out watching for us so that the signal of ringing the church-bells will be given to announce our arrival to all. If we should get there beforehand, we shall first stop off for a brief visit to the most Blessed Sacrament in S. Agata. This ceremony signifies the consignment of the souls there, and it is to be done by the bishop or the one who represents him. Anyone who is able should be present there as a good example, to give the people a holy encouragement, as well as to provide the Mission with a good beginning.

2. It is not necessary that a particular speech be given by the one who makes the consignment

⁵⁴ And enough about this.

⁵⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

of the Crucifix, which should be a light one since it will be carried by me during the procession to the *duomo* or cathedral. However, in making the consignment of the Crucifix, if he wishes to say something, he is permitted to express his sentiments briefly, but very, very briefly.

3. At this point, a Missionary will direct the procession. Never are soldiers to be used etc.

4. In the cathedral, I recommend that the platform should be of fairly good size and quite roomy, moderately raised from the floor. No stand will be necessary for supporting the Crucifix. See that the steps of the platform are convenient and stable. The platform should be set up *a cornu Evangelii*⁵⁶ and positioned so as to divide the Church in half. It should be put in one of the apses which will, so to speak, allow those who are in the apse near the platform to be able to hear and see the preacher, and, in short, avoid any interfering pillars. You understand.

5. Preparations should be made for the benediction with the most Blessed Sacrament that a Missionary will conduct when the introductory ceremony is completed. More when we see each other in person.

6. You ask whether I will see to the transporting of the case containing the Crucifix and the image of most holy Mary or whether you should send someone to get these articles. Well, send someone early Thursday morning; also, you direct me to look after our traveling arrangements. I shall carry out everything as you are pleased to indicate to me.

7. The number of Missionaries involved will be four, and also a young man whom I usually bring along with me that you have met before, who looks after the temporal and economical needs.

8. Begin arranging the schedule for the mornings, *in genere*⁵⁷ concerned about the education of the poor people.

9. During the Mission, the litany of the B. V. M. will be added to all the sessions, along with a *Pater, Ave* in honor of S. Francis Xavier; the same will be observed in the monasteries. At the Mass, the Collect will be *pro petitione lacrymarum*,⁵⁸ and when the Mission has been completed, the Collect for the three following days is to be *pro gratiarum actione*.⁵⁹

10. Make a listing of all the pious organizations that are functioning or are deserving of a revival, so that, when the opportunity arises, a recommendation can be made for them.⁶⁰

11. The arrangement for the closing of the foyers etc. when the sermon is being preached.

12. Many prayers for me who wholeheartedly is and will be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. [Ap].⁶¹

Sora, April 4, 1825

If the pastors have not as yet had their first communion ceremonies, they could set aside a time during the Mission.

Send your reply to Frosinone where I shall arrive Tuesday evening after the Sunday *in Albis*.⁶² A bit of rest on Wednesday, then on Thursday, during the day, the introduction there. *Laus*

⁵⁶ From the Gospel side.

⁵⁷ In the genus.

⁵⁸ For a request of tears.

⁵⁹ For an act of thanks.

⁶⁰ The upper right-hand corner of the page is torn.

⁶¹ The bottom right-hand corner of the page is torn.

⁶² In white, i.e., the Sunday after Easter.

Deo et Mariae Immaculatae et S. Francisco Xaverio. My regards to everyone, especially to the most reverend Vicar.

1095

April 5, 1825
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

*Justificati in Sanguine ipsius salvi erimus ab ira per ipsum*⁶³

My Monsignor

Recently I sent you a letter from Monsignor Benvenuti, relating to the Missionary, who preached the Lenten series in Vallecorsa, and against whom the previously referred-to complaints had arisen. Now he has sent me a letter which I am secretly sending on to you so that, in consulting with the Holy Father, you can deliberate as to *quid expediat in casu*.⁶⁴ The Lenten preaching Missionary has handled the situation by giving generic replies, which you can note in the letter itself, and now he is asking me for instructions. You, with the wisdom and singular prudence with which God has endowed you, should decide whether we should pay no attention to the letter of the brigands or whether we should give them encouragement etc. I personally am in favor of the more gentle approach and we will not be wrong in doing so. But, please, let nothing of this leak out etc. We regularly travel through this Province and, taking everything into consideration, the most delicate prudence is never enough. The enclosed letter⁶⁵ arrived unexpectedly while he was conducting a public prayer in one of the churches of Vallecorsa. The man involved here is Father Giovanni Merlini, a native of Spoleto, surely known to the Holy Father, and a priest *omni exceptione maior*.⁶⁶ On the Thursday after the Sunday *in Albis*, he will be with me for the Mission in Ferentino. At that time, after I receive your reply, I shall look into the matter; oh, would that we could remove so much inquietude and aggravation from these places. If you think it a good idea, then, when speaking to the Holy Father of this matter advise him to be in favor of the more gentle approach. I will have to send you a paper pertaining to the encyclical and other topics, but, at the present time, I am unable to do so.

Furthermore, I would advise the Holy Father to find some way of seeing that the cardinal-bishop of Sabina, who is the legate of Ferrara, should be re-called to his curia in order to serve, as Pastor for his sheep who are most needful of his presence. The now-deceased Cardinal Mattei used to say to me: with difficulty are the dioceses governed when the six cardinal-bishops are in Rome; so, you can imagine what the situation may be in Ferrara. I am also aware of the groanings heard in the diocese of Palestrina with the absence of Cardinal Spina. No matter how much may be attempted by means of letter-writing as well as *per alios*,⁶⁷ it is the Pastor who always has those special blessings that are needed to bring about a more efficacious good result for the flock. Cardinal-deacon Vidoni, quite experienced in the work of the Delegation, perhaps might be able to succeed Cardinal Arezzo. The Holy Father will receive God's illumination and knowledge as to which good selection is to be made.

⁶³ Justified by his blood, we shall be saved through it from wrath.

⁶⁴ What should be expedient in the case.

⁶⁵ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Brigands, Letter to Merlini.

⁶⁶ Greater by every exception.

⁶⁷ Through others.

With esteem and respect, most reverend excellency, consider me to be in Jesus Christ
Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 5, 1825

1096

April 10, 1825

Fr. Giacomo Cocumelli

Ferentino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Father Giacomo⁶⁸

Thank you for your letter. With regard to the entrance ceremonies, everything is fine, and will be carried out as it will please you to inform me.

With respect to the platform *a cornu Epistolae*,⁶⁹ you make the decision according to the necessary arrangement that you find to be practical. Never, however, should it be set at the door or near the door of the church, something which is not to be done as we will discuss in person. So, for the introductory services, please see that the platform is set up according to the details I gave in a previous letter. As for the festive days, we shall discuss it together and in common agreement *in faciem loci*.⁷⁰ Do not think that the observations that I indicate to you are the product of my own whims; they are, rather, based on practice and experience.

We are in agreement with regard to the transportation. For the introductory service the church will be adequate, seeing that the main door as well as the smaller entrance is kept entirely open. Ventilation does not bother me, but, on the contrary, is good for me. After having been given the consignment of souls, a Missionary will take charge of directing the people. As for the singing that is to be had for the introduction, instead of the litanies, perhaps some hymn of praise could be sung; but this is incidental.

After the introductory service, on that very same night, the oratory will be conducted for men only; during the Mission, this is done for reasons that I will explain to you in person, and it always takes place in the cathedral. For that reason, the brethren of the oratory should be on hand.

For the sake of public edification as well as for all the other good motives that you can imagine, on Friday morning, after choir, there will be a conference for all of the clergy whom you will direct to come to the gathering in the sacristy of the cathedral; that gathering can then be continued for three successive mornings in the form of a triduum, in order to revive the spirit of fervor.

On that same Friday morning, two hours before noon, we shall initiate the private exercises for the leaders of the primary assembly as well as nobility, in the church which you are to select according to the information that you have on hand. Try to select a church that is centrally located and not occupied with other pious exercises.

Inform the nuns that on Friday morning, at an early hour, there will be a conference for

⁶⁸ This copy has no date. There is a notation in Fr. Luigi Contegiacomo's handwriting which says: "from a notation on the original letter: April 10, 1825. Postal marking: Frosinone"

⁶⁹ On the Epistle side.

⁷⁰ After the fashion of the place.

them, and it will be so scheduled for three successive mornings. On the evening of the day of the introductory service, they should send someone to the hospice where the Missionaries are lodged to get the precise information with regard to the exact time which will correspond to the desires of the nuns.

If there are inmates in the prisons, we will likewise begin a triduum for them on Friday morning, two hours before noon. Each Missionary has his own assignment of work, and during the first days, at various times of the day, general encouraging speeches are given, so that the number of souls approaching the sacraments will be increased for the greater glory of God. One must not overlook or delay the exposition of facts, which is something that we can better discuss in person. With a holy enthusiasm, set everything in order and prepare well so that these projects can be productive from the very first mornings. Whatever doubts may arise, we will discuss them immediately upon my arrival. As soon as I get there, let me know which church is to be used for the exercises for the leaders, as well as the schedule to be observed for the laborers in the morning, keeping in mind that before the catechetical instruction there will be a Mass offered by one of the Missionaries. During that time, a priest, selected from that area who has consulted with me after the introductory service, will read the Christian acts etc. Let us be in agreement.

As for other things and projects, more in person. This ministry presents a special sacred army. If there are or are not any new communicants, we will discuss that when we get together. However, what must not be overlooked is the teaching of Christian Doctrine in every parish during the Mission, with the priests in various assignments assisting the pastors, and this is done for two reasons: 1. that the people be given awareness of this holy work of teaching; 2. to bring home and repeat more forcefully those things that pave the way for the cleansing; of consciences, and also for the preparation of the children to make their First Communion or Confession. As to this, you people should decide whether or not to use this program which, in other places, in keeping with the rules, is usually not omitted. You should likewise select a cleric who, living near the dwelling place of the Missionaries, will be able to read at table, only during the morning meal, the life of St. Francis Xavier which I will give him.

For greater regularity during the Missions, each parish will carry a crucifix followed by the men, with the pastor bringing up the rear. Right after them, a small picture of the most holy Mary or St. Francis Xavier, if one is available, to serve as guide for the women. Then, after the entrance, the confraternities will be lined up along the way, the clergy will go to the church of S. Agata, and in the open area near the church of S. Agata, all the women, while the men without uniforms are situated on the other side. The Missionary who is directing everything, after having received the consignment of souls, will order the procession toward the cathedral. If someone is not healthy enough to manage this, he can, it is understood, be exempted from the procession, especially the most reverend bishop who, I believe, is not yet fully recovered.

After the noon meal, during the days of the Mission, at the signal from the Mission director, each parish must make its way with devout recollection to the central church, following the method described above. There, the men and women are immediately put in separated groups. At the conclusion of the Mission, the Missionary Director will announce in a loud voice: the parish of ... may now leave ... since it is more distant etc. and so on.

A schedule is to be announced at the introductory service. If that does not occur, one should do whatever is possible, but, Father Segneri says that one cannot measure the advantages of using that sort of procedure etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Prepare for me a concise listing of all the pious organizations, confraternities etc. in existence there etc. with your own personal evaluation of what is still in force and what has become defunct, but still worthy of being revived. *Ora pro me.*⁷¹

Greetings to all etc. Continue looking for a suitable place for erecting a Cross as a remembrance of the Mission, and perhaps even two of them, if necessary. These Crosses will be financed by two of the leading families there whom I myself will contact after receiving the information. A thousand greetings to the most reverend bishop.

1097

April 13, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁷²

Most venerable and beloved Monsignor

Here I am back from giving the Retreat to the clergy of Sora, and, oh how I have been edified! Help me to give thanks to God. How many things I have to tell you about! But how can that be done since time is so limited! Next Thursday, the Mission in Ferentino will begin. Offer special prayers! Always send your letters to Frosinone so that I can keep my correspondence in order.

I hope that you will forgive me if I ask you to consider the matters I have enclosed which deal with various memoranda in regard to conscience matters. Since I had no one to whom to entrust them, I asked Father Giovanni Battista Gaspari, former Vicar of Abano, to handle them. God's glory will bring you serenity as you are given this inconvenience, keeping in mind also that your zeal is always completely directed to the good of souls etc.

With respect to the Rosina matter, I, in truth, made a search for the fellow in Frosinone, not having received the address until you were kind enough to mention it in your recent letter. As to the investigation of his character, I have no reply to what you referred to. However, in the meantime, with prudence I continue searching, *quasi aliud agens*,⁷³ with the assistance of my companions in various places, etc. and I shall not cease investigating in Palliano which I notice is the place of origin for the anonymous letter. Meanwhile, prayers.

Also, would you feel inspired to ask His Holiness' authorization for the same faculties that were obtained for Atri and Penne, applicable for the Missions in the following dioceses: Todi, Rieti, Norcia, Sora, Gaeta, Pescina where I continue sending workers from our neighboring Houses? My Monsignor, you would be doing a great good since the confessions are endless and it would be a suffering for the Companions if they could not be of help to the poor souls. The matter could be handled in short, if His Holiness would so deem for the pure glory of God, and only for the time of the Missions given during this Holy Year, to give me the faculty to communicate the same, and I would be happy, most happy for the indulgence to be available on the concluding day. What is of interest to me is to bring peace to consciences.

⁷¹ Pray for me.

⁷² Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

⁷³ As if doing something else.

My Monsignor, pray a great deal for me, a most wretched thing, and let us become saints. *Ego dilecto meo*⁷⁴ ... what beautiful words these are ... *dilectus meus mihi. et ego illi.*⁷⁵ What a marvellous thing is the love of God! With the complete outpouring of my poor spirit, most reverend excellency, I kiss your hands and I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, April 13, 1825

P. S. May the good Father Luigi Achille recommend me often to God. He is one of our first companions in Giano, who, because of his advanced age, I have sent to the House in Albano some time ago, because of reasons of charity, and that God will call him and will that he be with him.

1098

April 16, 1825

Mr. Cosimo Cav. De Tuzi

Sermoneta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

As Father Pietro Spina will tell you in person when he returns there, as will also Father Antonio Liparelli, everything is going along well with regard to what you mention about the trip to Rome. With regard to the place, I hope that everything will be handled by Canon Betti, Missionary President in Frosinone, at the time when he will go to Rome for the month of June. At that time, I will give him a reply.

With regard to drawing up your legacy, do not fail to work that out with the most reverend bishop. Pray for me, most illustrious sir, and with esteem and respect I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

In the act of giving a Mission, April 16, 1825

P. S. At the entrance in Rome, one sings: "*Viva, viva Gesu che per mio bene etc.*", and also: "*Mentre il Prezioso Sangue*", as well as "*O amabile Maria*", and the song of St. Xavier: "*Dell'Indie etc.*"

1099

April 17, 1825

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

S. Nicola in Carcere

Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

⁷⁴ I to my beloved.

⁷⁵ My beloved to me, and I to him.

Venerable Monsignor and loving brother

In the process of giving a Mission, I am writing a couple of lines to ask you to sign for me during my absence the notices for the suffrages of the deceased contributor. In the period of time following, you can give the notices to Severini, starting from now. I will then sign and later periodically send them back to him.

I hope that you remember to gather together the data on Msgr. Albertini, and I urge you strongly on this matter. You probably have terminated the Bedoni business. As for Lovatti, do not stop being ever insistent.

As for all other matters, the same as usual. The Society, by the grace of God, is making progress, and the good that it promotes is immense.

I am compelled to advise you that even though you may have a good purpose in changing the wording of the certificates of aggregators, still, *non expedit*,⁷⁶ especially removing the line dealing with unity. That was something well-developed by Msgr. Albertini. He wanted me to use these regular certificates because by the wording: "We the President and the Officials", I also had a place, as an individual member of the board. Thus, whether the President or one of the Officers, *ut in casu*,⁷⁷ signed by way of authorization, etc. etc., would depend on what was more convenient. So, it is always good to look at the Archconfraternity as a whole.

Lastly, offer suffrages for the soul of our excellent Fr. Luigi Achille, Missionary Superior in Albano, deceased, who I hope will now protect the Society from heaven.

Meanwhile, I spoke to you of the Octave observance to be conducted by a Missionary using a raised platform, because it seemed more congruous to me. I am, however, very content that Father Pellegrini will do it.

We have an immense number of petitions for the ministry from everywhere. Give my best regards to his Eminence Falzacappa. Pray for me who am and will constantly be with all esteem and special affection

Your humble servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

(Ferentino) April 17, 1825⁷⁸

1100

April 17, 1825

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Grutti

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Luigi

I am inconveniencing you with this letter in order to find out whether you will be able to do me the favor of giving a single Mission in the diocese of Norcia at the beginning of June. Try to work this out. Offer suffrages for the soul of our deceased beloved Father Luigi Achille. For this coming November, I am already begging you to give our Retreat in Pievstorina. In a hurry, but with

⁷⁶ It is not expedient.

⁷⁷ As in the case.

⁷⁸ According to the postal mark this letter went out on April 19 from Ferentino (a city in the province of Frosinone, Diocesan seat) where the Saint was preaching a Mission.

esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

While giving a Mission, April 17, 1825