

St. Gaspar's Letters

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1451

June 28, 1826

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My very dear Giovanni Francesco

With pleasure did I receive the news about Angelici, concerning whose qualification I was unaware. *Laus Deo*.¹ I am even more consoled by the news regarding the Catholic piety which is so vigorous there, thanks to the propagation of our own most august devotion. This year, I conducted the month in Rome. Within a couple of days it will be terminated ... and oh how much more tenderly does my heart feel drawn to the mysteries of the most Precious Blood ... may I learn how to apply it evermore effectively to my salvation; hence, I ask you for your prayers, and as often as you can.

I shall be awaiting the cloth, and will immediately remit the money in accordance with your instructions. *Dominus retribuet pro me*,² for so many inconveniences that you bear for my benefit.

I am deeply sorry about the condition of your health and I shall not fail to keep informed about it. So, please take care of yourself. You know very well that we must conserve our health for the glory of the Lord. And, along this same line, let me know whether Canon Tarulli has still suffered from pains in the chest; whether he has spit blood; and how he is doing at the present time. Oh how distressed I am to learn of the condition of so outstanding a worker! Oh the great will of God! It has been a full month, now, that he has had these special sufferings. We are also concerned about our bishop of Terracina,³ a missionary of ours who is in the throes of death; except for a miracle, we are going to lose him. This ordaining of God's providence is a great lesson for all of us.

Now we come to matters of the spirit and the first thing we do is to establish the well-known truth that since the soul is connected to the body, it is necessary to realize that this relationship must be kept in balance to the extent that the Lord disposes. Violence in this regard is harmful *ex omni capite*.⁴ The condition in which you are maintaining your soul is greatly meritorious. The bitterness of suffering surrounds you. *Veni in altitudinem maris*.⁵ God will detach you from everything, and you will become spiritually dead to all things, nauseated by things of the world and even tired of living, except for the thread of the will of the Lord. What, then, shall we say? "*Superabundo gaudio in omni tribulatione*".⁶ It pleases the Lord that your suffering even becomes physically felt. While suffering, Jesus contemplated Heaven ... so, you too should continue to think in like manner.

Here, then, is the method which I would like to have you adopt:

1. After the noon meal, no application of the mind, rather, a visit to the church, a bit of a walk into the countryside at a scheduled time, and a few soft, ejaculatory prayers will be sufficient, or, a brief glance into your relationship with God as seen through all things. It will be useful for you to sing the praises of the things of God, as found, for example, in the Psalms etc. ; but also, a bit of the customary repose, since you are obliged likewise to preserve your health.

¹ Praise to God.

² The Lord will repay in my behalf.

³ Monsignor Carlo Manasse.

⁴ From every head.

⁵ I went into the depths of the sea.

⁶ With superabundant joy in every tribulation.

2. Meditations made from books are no longer your thing, but, rather, at an opportune time in the morning to place yourself in a state of silence. Do nothing, but only listen to the voice of God. You might say: "Lord, here I am at your beck and call". Allow your heart to speak with God, uttering its deep affection; do not get into reflective thoughts, except those that God himself arouses; rather, say ... Lord, speak to your servant. ... Oh would that I had always loved you. Then, look with tender glances at the crucifix and be filled with sentiments of confidence and trust in the Lord.

3. Offer only a few vocal prayers. Maintain a continuous realization of the presence of God; utter a continual stream of aspirations as an incessant plea in the presence of God.

4. However, be occupied also in external works... the Oratory ... the sick. All of this, of course, depending on your strength. Try this method for a bit, and you will begin to see the effects. A spiritual lesson, at night, with the family - but from books adapted for spiritual reading amongst which would be Rodriguez's Exercises for perfection, as well as Liguori's Practice of the love of Jesus Christ; likewise, the lives of the saints that treat of the vast picture of the world, and to see whether we are the children of God or not. I do not know whether I have made myself sufficiently clear. Finally, pay heed to the illuminations that God gives you, and do not fail to relate them to your Director who will distinguish what is from God and what is not, etc. With all of this I am not intending to lay the scythe to anyone else's harvest, but only to subject whatever I have expressed to you to more mature sources of counsel.

And what about me? Prayers - *ne cum aliis praedicaverim ipse reprobus efficiar. Gratia Dei nobiscum. Sum tuus ex corde, in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi.*⁷

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 28, 1826

P. S. It is true indeed that we have two houses of studies for young men of canonical age, fit for sacred studies. But one also needs to charge tuition, otherwise, how can one manage? You tell the young man you mentioned to me to become a Jesuit where, in order to be ordained, one needs only to make the vow of poverty. It is understood that God is calling him there. It is likewise true that at one time a position was granted *gratis*, but now that is not done at all ; and if it were possible, your concerns would be my commands.

1452

June 28, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

After my sermon, I unexpectedly found a packet addressed to me and in it were things that I sent to you. You can be quite certain, my Monsignor, that if I had had the time to prevent that dedication I would have done so, knowing how you think. But, *post factum*,⁸ one must be patient.

⁷ Lest after I have preached to others I myself should be disqualified. The grace of God be with us. I am yours from the heart, in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

⁸ After the fact.

Perhaps God wishes it to be so. Your humility should not cause you anguish, for you know that last year, quite unexpectedly, I saw that dedication directed to me, a real blockhead, and I should have bowed my head and said: *quod Domino placet fiat*.⁹ With respectful esteem, while asking you for your prayers, your excellency, I say, though in the greatest hurry, that I am still

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House, June 28, 1826

1453

June 29, 1826

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁰

Venerable Monsignor

I am inconveniencing you with this letter of mine in order to inform you that the excellent Alessandro Pontoni, known to the parish-priest whose family name I do not remember now, (but he is a priest of outstanding credits) having care of the area around Caldarola, has been associated with the Society for some time now. I have finally succeeded in placing him in the second house of studies opened in the Province of Campagna, observing the same principles set up in Giano. He is applying himself to studies and is doing very well, by the grace of the Lord. I would like to have him receive tonsure; you, therefore, could arrange for the dimissorials for tonsure and minor orders to be sent to the bishop of Terracina, and should something stand in the way, then to someone else in the vicinity. I say this because the good bishop of Terracina, under whose jurisdiction the house of studies exists, is gravely ill. In this way, that young man will have the consolation which he has been waiting for so long a time. In the many years that he has been in the Institute, he has always served to the edification of everyone; I can assure you of this myself, *pro veritate et conscientia*.¹¹ The necessary acts to be fulfilled in the Curia will be handled by the parish-priest whom you will inform, just as Prior Santanelli of Serra Sanquirico will do for Giacomo Valeriani who has departed for Zante, as I mentioned in another letter of mine. I kiss your hands and with full esteem, though in a hurry, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 29¹²

P. S. Pray a lot for me. Please contact Prior Santinelli with regard to Valeriani.

⁹ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

¹⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹¹ For truth and conscience.

¹² This letter belongs certainly to 1826 as is evident from the reference to the bishop of Terracina, Msgr. Carlo Manasse, gravely ill, as well as from the reference to the departure of Giacomo Velletrani (and not Valeriani) "for Zante".

1454

June 29, 1826
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
 Bishop of Agatopoli
 Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

Please enrol as aggregator in S. Salvatore of the diocese of Rieti Father Cherubino Lancia, the curate economist.

Next Friday, I shall point out to the aggregators only a few remarks concerning their duty of propagating our devotion as they gather together for a meeting; then, we shall discuss the idea of making the Chaplet known in other churches as well as the observance of the month next year. In a hurry, but with all my affection and esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

June 29, 1826

1455

June 30, 1826
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹³

Venerable Monsignor

Today the Lord has found me worthy to suffer a bit of a cross concerning which we will speak in person next Wednesday morning, a time which I would like to reserve for discussing what is pressing for the glory of the Lord. I will be with you at the usual time that morning. In the meantime, please read the enclosed matter which we will review in person. On the vigil of the most august solemnity, I shall offer my Mass for you; on Sunday, for the Holy Father, as well as for you. Prayers.

I would appreciate, in your audience tomorrow, that you, as you deem expedient, discuss the plans that the Holy Father has with regard to what I mention here ... the Canon etc. sees the urgency for his stay in Rome as well as the matters dealing with the Propaganda; the general needs of the Institute at present, and the continual assistance needed for the fullest development of the Society as well as of its houses of studies, etc. etc. His desires would be for the giving of Missions (not foreign missions, for not even the present status of his health would allow him to address himself to them, as well as because of other justifiable reasons). Likewise, for the glory of God, he sees the need for his remaining in Rome. However, since there are so many urgent requests for the ministry, which he is so anxious to accept, he would, for the sake of tranquility of soul, like to have his Holiness' pronouncement, etc., etc. Thus, lifted out of the mire of uncertainty, he could better direct his companions in the ministry and put all of his own doings in order along with those of the Institute. Finally, that he grant help to the Society which is in the course of preparing workers for the

¹³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

propagation of the faith, etc. In a hurry, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Buf.

M. Ap.

June 30¹⁴

1456

July 1, 1826

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

With regard to the new nuns (let this be between us) I have to find certain papers from which to draw up an extract, and that will require a bit of time. But, you can be certain that I shall not forget it.

Father Vittorio wrote to say that he would need an ankle-length cloak for summer-wear. I have understood everything concerning the Retreat. Note, the Missionary never travels alone, so I am at freedom in Alatri either to have two Missionaries or one Missionary and a Brother. With respect to this, we will work things out according to the will of God. So let it be understood that this good will be done, and in the event that I myself cannot come in person, because of dealings for Missionaries in the foreign fields, I shall send a mature member for the assignment.

I shall write to Terracina with regard to the cleric who will be going there to reside in that House. See that he brings along with him bed linens, hand towels, napkins, a table place-setting, coverlets, etc., in addition to a lamp. The oil, of course, will be provided by the House. I shall also write that they are to be content with the two *paoli* per day.

In Frosinone, with the hope of concluding the matter, only that will be done that is believed to be doable. Here are my thoughts with respect to your items: 1. There is no place more improper for women than the locale of S. Agostino; 2. if the Commune does not save the 100 *scudi* assigned for the women, it could save the expenses designated for the children, if they would work it out with us; and the good, more or less, would be achieved; 3. if they do not wish to move the children about, let them use the 300 *scudi* for the restoration of our present locale, and hopefully no women will be present in that area where we will have our church. The plans for income from our neighboring Houses, as well as the construction of the new church, is something that is unmanageable for us. God knows how we are struggling for means. The Society has a long list of projects and the religious functions themselves bring in very little. *Satis de hoc.*¹⁵

With regard to the wives of the gendarmes, note that it has always been their position not to open up matters; furthermore, it became a question of two or three married women, more or less, upon whom one hoped for a settlement. Then, too, with regard to things that border on the precarious, each one exercises discretion. So, the affair is concluded. The Society will go elsewhere. The priests will continue to conduct the Oratory in S. Agostino, and the church could then be taken

¹⁴ The year is certainly 1826 when the Saint was assigned to Rome "for the matters dealin8 with the Propaganda".

¹⁵ Enough of this.

care of by the members of the S. Xavier group, *et de hoc satis*.¹⁶ It would be helpful, in terms of prudence, for you to bring all this to the attention of de Mattheis, since I feel that I have done and said all that I can on the matter. As far as we are concerned, we must seek to use the greatest possible prudence. Anything more than this we will supply through prayer. Should they wish to have us for some preaching assignment, let them appeal to us, if they wish. What more can I say? *Patet cor meum*.¹⁷ I repeat, it would be very helpful for you to give a prudent warning to the gonfalonier. The decision made in Rome is quickly rectified if it is pointed out that since it does not seem possible for us to have a new church, it will be necessary to make some changes etc. and thus I say *volente nil difficile*.¹⁸ And, as far as we are concerned, any sensible person will acknowledge the reasoning involved. Even the bishop of Veroli is utterly persuaded of this whole matter. To tell you the truth, with respect to this situation, I will not burden the hospice in Frosinone with individual members, as is done in some areas, with convents being inhabited in the Province and the number of workers is being increased.

Asking you for your prayers, with esteem, though in a hurry, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 1, 1826

1457

July, 1826

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood evermore

My venerable Monsignor and loving brother

On the very day of the feast of the Divine Blood, the Lord has given me an inspiration with regard to our bitterest tribulation.¹⁹ "*Ecce in pace, but, amaritudo, etc.*"²⁰

1) Beware of the devil when you read this page; *in terminis*,²¹ it is definitely the will of God, to whom I have recommended myself.

2) I have not made a copy of it for myself, but you can take a copy of it for yourself, at most modifying a word, here and there, either in the spelling, the terminology or the sentence structure, *salvo in omnibus*,²² what is substantial. I request, however, that you send the enclosed back to me, when you have made your copy of it.

3) If some word or other should not be clear, bring it up to me next Saturday for our consideration.

¹⁶ And enough of this.

¹⁷ My heart is open.

¹⁸ Wishing nothing difficult.

¹⁹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Tribulation, Bitterest.

²⁰ Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

²¹ In limits.

²² I am well in all things.

4) We have reached the point when we must have a talk, *soluta oratione*,²³ being certain of the Divine good-will and assistance.

5) We will discuss things further in person, realizing that we can omit nothing that is known to us, since everything has a bearing. The Saints give us the example of the apostolic and respectful way by which we must conduct ourselves defensively for God's cause.

I think that it would be prudentially better for you to handle everything after our meeting on Saturday, preparing a folder for His Holiness in which you make known to him that, because of the difficulty of getting an audience, you intend to fulfill your duties in this way, always ready, however, to present yourself whenever requested. Meanwhile, time: in my opinion the matter will be passed over; and, until we get a better opportunity, we will forget about making petitions for the time being. We shall make progress by keeping hold of ourselves and navigating the best we can. Work this matter out at the foot of the Crucifix. If you want me to make a copy of the page in my own handwriting, I will have no difficulty. And if it should be necessary to identify it as my own, I am perfectly happy to do so, when the glory of God demands it thus. Otherwise, I prefer not to have my name mentioned.

I am *in Xti Sanguine*²⁴

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

1458

July 2, 1826
Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giacomo

I thank you for the note that you sent to me. Monsignor Muccioli has the papers from Treja and he will contact Monsignor Grimaldi. He likewise has the letter. But, you should write to some other person whose family-name you can remember, informing him of the above-mentioned matter, giving him the direction to refer it to the people who are promoters of this most important devotion of ours. With esteem and respect, asking you to assist Father Giovanni Innamorati with his moral theology, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 2, 1826

1459

July 2, 1826
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

²³ When prayer is finished.

²⁴ In the blood of Christ.

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Camillo

Although pressed with a shortage of time, I am sending you this reply.

1. If the two-volume work were to be given *gratis*, I would not have sent for it, requested by the author to dispose of it, nor would the price have been stamped on the cover.

2. Enclosed, you are receiving the amount that is due to you for the Chaplets, for the certificates for those who assume the duty of an hour, for the reams of paper, and for the one hundred copies of the prayers in honor of the most holy Mary.

3. We are caught up with our printed matter, but you should always take for yourself whatever you wish and whatever you feel is needed. Just keep me informed so that I can keep an account for myself. Feel free to use what you need.

4. When you have the opportunity, please send me two reams of paper.

5. Altogether necessary is the reprinting of the book for the month. Tell the printer that he should let me know his plan. However, he should not do any printing until I have been able to contact benefactors. Still, always try to get the best deal. In the reprintings, please be aware of the fact that a consideration found in the third day, for example, will be moved to another day in the month. The format of the printing should not be changed. On this, let us be in agreement.

6. Canon Morichi will not need a renunciation; however, let me know of another priest who can be his substitute helper. For the sake of convenience, of course, it would be necessary to work things out with that man.

7. On a small page, you could have them print a listing of the pertinent indulgences, as long as that does not exceed one *scudo*, and this will constitute a separate account. Pray a lot for me and have others do so too. In Jesus Christ crucified, consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 2, 1826

Quite a bit of time has passed since I sent you the life of the Blessed Girolamo.

1460

July 4, 1826

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Here is the rescript for you. Now, you send me the dimissorials in proper order and since you want the first Mass, I believe, to be in the Mission House in the Marche, see that they state *quemcumque Episcopum*²⁵ in accordance also with this same rescript. Be sure to take care of all this. Then, you can figure out the instalment payments for tuition up to the day of the ordination to the priesthood. Later, perhaps Father Vittorio can work things out with regard to Mass offerings. He will see to contacting his people. With esteem, respect and veneration, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

²⁵ Whatever bishop.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome , July 4 , 1826

Recommend to your relatives that they provide you with a summer cloak. Please, solicit etc.

1461

July 6, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

My venerable Monsignor

Cencelli, whom I met while giving the Mission in Fabrica, through the services of a priest associated with Monsignor Filonardi, has asked me to send you the enclosed memorandum, urging me to recommend it to you.

If, during your audience with the Holy Father, it should happen that you could speak in behalf of the House in Rimini when the distribution of pensions to the Archbishopric of Ravenna or Ferrara etc. are discussed, oh how delighted I would be! Also, in favor of that foundation, there is presently pending a matter dealing with a certain garden, I believe, in S. Agata. May the Lord bless your efforts and reward you for your lovable persistence.

Please do not forget the letter to the most reverend Delegate in Benevento treating the freeing of that local; this is a matter of great interest.

Yesterday I received a rescript from the Congregation of the Council, signed by Cardinal de Gregorio and Monsignor Sala, using our most august title.

Let us pray wholeheartedly. The works of God are the fruit of tears, prayers and Christian courage. The bishop of Terracina, I forgot to mention to you, wishes you to thank his Holiness for the subsidy. More and more, however, his sickness *ingravescit*.²⁶ Oh how this saddens me! Prayers. If ever you should feel like saving a word in favor of the hospice of S. Norberto, do not forget to do so. I urge you to be concerned about the orders, which are experiencing special needs. I kiss your hands and, with sincere gratitude, I remain wholeheartedly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House, July 6, 1826

1462

July 8, 1826

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Giacomo

Patience. You were not able to go to Veroli. I found it necessary to send another of our men from Rome, for otherwise it would not have been taken care of in time. In the meantime, please

²⁶ It gets worse.

remain in Albano since I will have to make arrangements with Father Antonio Liparelli for only eight days of public Retreat in Alatri, in addition to the already-mentioned one in Veroli. Upon Father Antonio Liparelli's return, you will be able to look after your affairs in Bassiano. Meanwhile, I do not cease recommending the observance of the rule, and also that you give your assistance for an hour or so each day to Father Giovanni Innamorati with his moral theology. In my visitation to the Houses, which is going to take place in August, at that time we will take under consideration the listing of those who have and those who do not have a certificate, and that will be settled methodically for everyone. At that time, you, also, will receive the faculties that you wrote about. The ones that you have enjoyed up to now are exceptional ones for the Missions and they are completed. Recommend me often to God and with esteem, respect and affection, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 8, 1826

1463

July 8, 1826

Msgr. Antonio Santelli

Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Your efforts, as well as those of Father Pierantonj, are for me quite efficacious reasons for corresponding with you as best I can. You can be sure that the Society is heavily burdened in such a way that what happens each day is truly prodigious.

Therefore, in your good judgment, try to arrange the tuition to come to at least 40 *scudi*, both as a special favor, as well as not to set up an example; all the more so since the generosity already shown toward another renders the Institute even more impotent for accepting further requests. Above all, beds are needed and, in general, everything that is furnished in a seminary. The travel expenses to the House of studies is a personal expense, likewise the postage and the writing paper, along with personal clothing. Put all this in good order and then I will quickly prepare a letter of admission, especially since the schools are already underway, and have arranged everything quite well.

I feel delighted with the good work that you have promoted there; *Laus Deo*;²⁷ and, as far as I am concerned, I must say: *Dominus retribuet in benedictionibus dulcedinis*.²⁸

When you come to Rome to see your excellent uncle, I ask you, insofar as you are able, to reside in our House where we allow only our own men to stay as well as our Retreatants; these are principles which, as you can well see, I must maintain with good reason.

You are a part of our Society, although in a different sense. Yesterday I had to say "no" to a prelate who wanted to stay there with his servant.

May Jesus be our love; in his most sweet Heart, I remain, with particular esteem and most special affection, venerable Monsignor,

²⁷ Praise to God.

²⁸ The Lord will repay in sweet blessings.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Rome, July 8, 1836²⁹

1464

July 13, 1826
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

In a hurry, a couple of lines, though, in a future letter I will write more at length. My companions keep me busy with tasks, and we are reciprocally bearing our burden. I, out of duty, you, out of charity. Note that on the packages there are different addresses: Frosinone, Sermoneta. So, do not send them to Sonnino, but to the respective addresses, using a secure opportunity, if one offers itself; otherwise, write a couple of lines to the local superiors of those respective Houses.

Pray a lot for me. I have completed the month of the Divine Blood ... oh, with what consolation! In Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be with esteem

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Rome, July 13, 1826

1465

July 14, 1826
 Luigi Fuschi
 Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Luigi

Oh how pleased I was to see your handwriting again, allowing me now to renew my feelings of esteem, respect and sincere affection in Jesus Christ. I am ever so much consoled by the good work being done there. Truly, the people there are a Norm(a) for others. Let us be consoled that God is being glorified during these miserable times of ours, during which an increase in prayer is needed so that the radical reform that all of us are hoping for will become a reality. Let us forgive our neighbor as best we can and with an industrious charity let us carry out the works of the Lord. Not all have the same gifts. Training, also, is something very influential on others. So, one will support the other and thus we will maintain a balance in the equilibrium. May the Divine Blood be for us the fountain of ample blessings and you, through this devotion, have reason to be consoled.

As soon as the Missionaries got to the hospice, the Oratory was initiated in Sermoneta; now, I do not know how things are going to be worked out. We shall see. Prayers, and, in the meantime,

²⁹ In the copy, the date is written as 1836, but if you compare this letter with the letter to the same man dated June 10, 1826, it becomes clear that this letter, also, belongs to 1826.

let us be strengthened by the principle: "*non qui incoeperit, etc.*"³⁰

As for a foundation being set up there, what can I say? Pray for it. I know that the cardinal is acquainted with our Institute and has requested some of our men for propaganda. However, I am not able to judge, and that is how it is. *Patet cor meum*,³¹ my dearest Fuschi.

If ever you should have Masses available *ubique*³² for our Missionaries, please do me the favor, without harm to others, of sending them on to me. May Jesus be our love, my beloved Luigi, and in his Divine Heart, I remain, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 14, 1826

1466

July 15, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

I shall write to the most reverend Archbishop of Spoleto with regard to what you have suggested. On Monday, a report to the office of bookkeeping. May the Lord grant you ample reward for everything.

I wish the best for every Institute, and God knows that I love and esteem them all. But, first foundations are difficult things. You can surely be my teacher. Recently, in Giano, seeing that every other means was frustrated, I had to send them a rather decent piece of material, after using the greatest economy, otherwise the young men would not be able to receive orders; likewise, I sent 40 *scudi* to the poor Achille heirs who are in dire need. Our churches are open Missions; how needful are our oratories and gatherings of young people? In particular, Sonnino has been quite a considerable worry for me. I am yearning, too, for the moment when I can see the situation in Veroli cleared up.

Thank you for the efforts you have made with respect to Benevento. Item, for a Canon or Cameral Annuity covering the arrear-payments to Giano. Thus, the House will have a fund available and by that means be set in order. We shall see how the current expenses will be paid for. Still, I would like to have the subsidies, and, do you want to know why? In order to see our Houses in the Province more firmly established. I add nothing more. My obligations to you are infinite. I love the Institute, but only God knows what will become of it. If it were not for his glory, I would not care for it one instant. I would consider myself very fortunate if all I had to think about were spiritual matters. I would not have to suffer, and this is not a small matter, the obligation of multiplying crosses for you, and seeking to make them lighter for you, all because of our troubles. However, the glory of God outweighs all things. I kiss your hands, and, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

³⁰ Not the one who will begin, etc.

³¹ My heart is open.

³² Wherever.

G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 July 15, 1826

1467

July 15, 1826
 Fr. Crescenzo Antenangelo
 Arpino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

The time is too restricted for arranging a Retreat there. I would have ardently wished to have managed it, particularly to promote our most tender devotion to Xavier. Try to find some other priests. We will have the opportunity on another occasion. All the members of the Institute are most enthusiastic about the Jubilee year. In September, we might work out a full Mission in Arpino, or at another time to be decided upon, but let me know in time. I shall see to obtaining the faculty dealing with the Sorrowful Mother which you are requesting. Pray a lot for me, and with esteem and respect, dear Canon, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 15, 1826

1468

July 17, 1826
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piparno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

I owe you a reply to some of your questions. However, you are relying on a fragile reed when you have recourse to this wretched person. It is God who is wonderful within us, and with all my heart I have prayed that he would communicate to me his heavenly inspirations for this present matter. When, after you have prayed, God gives you his inspiration, write to me whenever you wish. I shall be ready to do the will of God to the extent that he himself renders me capable of being helpful to souls.

1. With regard to your situation, place yourself entirely with indifference into the hands of God. Do not be searching, do not be desiring, do not be refusing. Leave everything to the order of providence. You already know that the 24 hours of the day in behalf of the community are dedicated to your duties to God and your religious. The more we follow this proposition with simplicity, the more we will be certain of pursuing the divine will. In fact, it would be an even greater act of perfection if we would not reveal even our own personal desires. In any case, let us be responsive: the will of God is that mystical bed spoken of in the Canticle; it manifests itself in the usual way. As far as you are concerned, this is the rule that should be maintained by you.

2. If, indeed, you are enjoying sufficiently good health, and you pray to God for it, so too should the command of obedience to your bishop be in full vigor. It is certain that the observance of

the rule is something of immense importance.

3. With regard to a continuous fasting, not for now at least. Rather a bit more praying. We ought to move quite slowly with regard to things of that nature, and be a bit more energetic in humility and the growth of our interior life.

4. Also, do not be worried if you tend to be quick with regard to thoughts, etc. etc. etc. Much more meritorious is the control that you exert over them. Do everything, indeed, with a peaceful spirit, not becoming excited or agitated. God is a God of peace.

I must declare that I, in writing matters such as the above, have always tried to use an approach of condescension; but your guidance is to be the one that you yourself receive directly from God's enlightenment. all I can do is pray that *in lumine tuo videamus lumen*.³³

I conclude this letter by recommending myself to your prayers as well as those that you can get others to offer too. Oh how needful I am of prayers! There simply are no words adequate enough to express this! May Jesus be our delight, our peace, our comfort. I leave you in his Divine Heart, begging you also to keep in your prayers our excellent Monsignor Manassi who, except for a miraculous intervention that we should pray for, is, I believe, being called by God. He is indeed ready for heaven because of his particular merits, and God is relieving him of the cares and crosses of his episcopal duties. I add nothing further. With esteem, I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*³⁴

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, July 17, 1826

1469

July 17, 1826

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

I have an urgent need for the cloth or material. I beg you please to take care of this and let me know again to whom I am supposed to remit the money. I seem to have mislaid the letter in which you gave me this information. Pray for me who, though in a hurry, remain with esteem

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 17³⁵

Your uncle, Cistercian Father Pangalli, sends you his greetings.

1470

July 17, 1826

Fr. Crescenzo Antenangelo

³³ In your light we see light.

³⁴ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

³⁵ The year is 1826. Cfr. the letter to the same person dated June 28, 1826.

Arpino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Esteemed Canon

Enclosed is the faculty you requested. With regard to the formula to be used, you will have to contact a Servite Father, or, check with Missionary Superior Father Giovanni Merlini, the Missionary President of our House in Sonnino. I do not have the time exactly for making a copy of it for you. I just cannot manage everything. Pray for me, who, with esteem, remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 17, 1826

1471

July 20, 1826

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Here I am to assure you of the receipt of the dimissorials. I shall await the tuition that you mentioned to me, as well as the cloak. As a result, the House will be relieved, at least in great part. God does not wish for me to come to Alatri. Other matters dealing with foreign missions are restraining me. As soon as I am able, I shall come to the Province and then we shall see.

Do not be upset about the Oratory. *Pusillus grex*.³⁶ Meditate on these words.

In view of the fact that the Missionary will be living with you, *tantum*³⁷ as one completely ours, I spare you the inconvenience of a brother-in-service, *hoc casu exceptione digno*.³⁸

See that the Retreat is conducted in a church that is convenient.

I have received 12,50 *scudi* from the coachman. I shall write to Frosinone to have them send, immediately, the other money to Father Vittorio to cover the expenses for the first Mass. I shall await the payment of the tuition when the parents of Father Vittorio can handle it. I shall inform Fr. Vittorio of what his mother is sending for the ordination. Everything will go along well; have no doubt about it.

Allow me a bit of time in order to be exact in the details concerning the new Institute.

For the Retreat there, I am sending the Superior of our House in Albano, Father Antonio Liparelli. You send someone with a mount to pick him up when you wish, but, be sure it is in time for the 23rd. You will be completely delighted with the choice.

I kiss your hands, and, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem, respect, and particular affection

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

³⁶ Little flock.

³⁷ So much.

³⁸ The case being worthy of exception.

Rome, July 20, 1826

1472

Middle of July 1826
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
 Bishop of Agatopoli
 Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest brother³⁹

I am returning your page to you.

I have already seen Canon Raffieri in order to give him the final report on the matter dealing with the members of the St. Xavier group. He will contact you in this regard and you should both arrange to visit Monsignor Lancellotti so that the way will be cleared. ... I am referring to the once very steep road that leads to the Paolotti. a stairway would probably be the best solution. For the glory of God, you, together with Canon Raffieri, should try to convince Monsignor Lancellotti.

In the meantime, it is necessary for the Chapter to assure a visit to the restoration and to set aside every suspension. Above all, we must pray so that the work that was begun will be brought to a conclusion.

As of now, Monsignor Giannoli will be officiating for the 14th of September and giving the fervorino at the Cross.

I would like to have the rescript from Monsignor Fatuti with a copy of the extension of the petition, as is usually done, so that I can put that copy with my records. Also, an extract or listing of all the confraternities that have been erected with an indication of what letter-communication has been done, when needed. I shall use every useful and economic method in making that information known. I do not know whether the Archconfraternity would be able to handle that expense. At any rate, I shall take care of it with the 20 *scudi* coming from the Lovatti matter of the House in Giano. God will see to a compensation.

I urge you to take care of the matter of suffrages; perhaps, if the rescript is ready, this can be worked out, as long as I am in possession of the model so that I can verify, with exactitude, just what was promised to the contributors and thus avoid that *mortuo ne prohibeas gratiam*.⁴⁰

I kiss your hands, and, with total affection and esteem, I remain

³⁹ This letter does not bear a date, but from various indications it seems that it ought to be located in 1826. In fact, in it reference is made to the work being done in S. Maria in Vincis (cfr. the letters (n. 1359, n. 1390 and n. 1483) to Muccioli: March 15, April 23, August 8, 1826); it also refers to the rescript from Monsignor I. G. Fatuti, which is dated May 27, 1826; it speaks of the suffrages for the contributors (cfr. the letters (n. 1334, n. 1344, n. 1411 and n. 1476) to Muccioli: February 20th and 28th, May 15th, July 26th etc. 1826). Furthermore, it appears that the letter should be assigned to June-July 1826. Indeed, the rescript of Monsignor Fatuti is mentioned, which, as we know, is dated May 27, 1826 (Cfr. the letter of May 27, 1826). Also, in the postscript of the letter, it mentions that Fr. Giuseppe Bufera is "an aggregator, while in the letter of July 22, 1826 to Possenti, St. Gaspar promises that he will send the certificate of "aggregator" to Bufera with the mail delivery. Therefore, this letter is prior to that one of July 22, 1826. Finally, his reference to "your page" in this letter as well as in the letter of July 2-7 to Muccioli seems to associate the two letters (this one: around the middle of July 1826?) and cast some faint light on the cause of that "very bitter tribulation" that is referred to in the letter (n. 1457) of July 2-7 of 1826 and the relevant footnote (the suspension of the work of restoration in S. Maria in Vincis?).

⁴⁰ Do not withhold good will for the dead.

Your humble servant and loving brother

G. C. d. B

M. Ap.

Fr. Giuseppe Bufera is an aggregator in Fabriano (if you have not already noted that).

1473

July 22, 1826

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Camillo

1. With the mail delivery, I shall send the certificate of aggregator to Father Giuseppe Bufera.

2. With impatience, I am awaiting the Chaplets.

3. I like your suggestion about the certificates. The only thing needed now is to work on the enclosed form to be used for extending the selection of an hour of prayer to be observed throughout the year, and thus there will be a special, perpetual adoration of the inestimable price of our eternal salvation.

The form is set up in such a way that it can be used by any Pious Union that has been canonically erected. With it, one satisfies the desires of the enrolees who wish to have a document, even though that is not essential for membership. Whoever enrolls can simply be given this certificate, leaving blank the place indicating the hour of prayer. Anyone who designates an hour of prayer should fill out the certificate. Please see that everything is correctly spelled and that there is room between the empty spaces.

4. Let me know whether you have received the Life of Blessed Francesco Di Girolamo which I sent to you from Pievetorina for Father Camillo Rossi, our Missionary. If not, look for it; and then write to me in detail and in peace.

5. Also, for my peace of mind, let me know whether you have collected the money. Promote the Oratory in Cereto and revive, as well as you can, all the good work there. Tarulli will be able to help you since he is experienced in the ministry.

6. In the mail, you will be receiving 2,10 *scudi*, the payment for the two reams of stationery. So, it seems that there are no other accounts between us except for the endless number of thanks that I owe to you, for which I say again, "*Dominus retribuet pro me*".⁴¹ In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect,

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁴²

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 22, 1826

1474

⁴¹ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

⁴² Being his lowest servant in Christ.

July 25, 1826
 Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
 Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

The young man Severini, who helps me in economical matters for the Missions, gave me the enclosed. So, let me know what I should do and if you notice any involuntary mistakes, let me know.

Tell me to whom I should consign the money that is due as a reimbursement. I cannot remember that.

There were five rolls, all sealed.

I would like to have 50 additional yards of material. Send them to me at your convenience. I am writing in a hurry.

Consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 25⁴³

1475

July 25, 1826
 Fr. Luigi Moscatelli
 Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

You have probably received the 10 *scudi*. The peasant must have arrived by now. I recommend him to you. Quickly put him to work in the garden so that he will become familiar with the regulations dealing with the Church's property, not to cut down etc. See that you train him well, since he is a new man, having, however, been only for a short time under Merlini. It is necessary to use patience with Vincenzo since the poor fellow is a good man but not having much talent. Advise the companions there not to get disturbed, without reason during recreation time. I urge the observance of the rule.

At the beginning of September, would you be willing to go as catechist to Bassiano where a Mission will be held? Send me your reply. I beg you to give me an affirmative answer. Check with Father Giacomo Giorgi to see whether, immediately after the feast of the Assumption, he could go for the Mission in Beneventano. Please, a prompt and decisive response. I recommend Innamorati to you who could be assigned to some task in the church in order to keep him occupied, always, of course, under your direction.

Would you be willing to conduct the Retreat in November, called for by our rule? If you wish, the outlines are found in the directory, preserved in the Archives. Consider me to be, with esteem etc.

Your humble servant

⁴³ This letter belongs to 1826. Cfr. the letter to the same person, dated July 17, 1826.

G. C. del Bufalo
M. Ap.
Rome, July 25, 1826

1476

July 26, 1826
Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

Please read the enclosed matter, and note where the special lines are. I need, at the earliest possibility, to have back the same printed matter which I am sending to you, and I have confidence in your concern and expedition. As for the expression of consolation that you probably notice, let us give thanks to God, the giver of every good gift. *Soli enim Deo honor et gloria.*⁴⁴ It is proper that I should communicate this, *quasi aliud agens*,⁴⁵ to the one who has become familiar with the preceding difficulties. I consider this most urgent for giving greater glory to God whom we serve. Communicate all of this, in particular, to his Eminence Cardinal Falzacappa. You can make a copy of the interesting paragraph for yourself from the printed matter.

Effectively and by a personal visit, remind Mr. Lovatti. Review for him all of the points that are pending, those that were the fruit of our meetings, especially the article dealing with suffrages. Let us take our rest in the hearts of Jesus and most holy Mary, and, while asking you to keep me incessantly in your prayers, I, with complete love and affection, renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant, and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

July 26, 1826

1477

July 26, 1826
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I believe it is a good idea that I inform you that I am writing to Giano to get whatever information we can have concerning the arrear-payments. You will see, however, that what will be discovered *quoad substantiam*⁴⁶ is exactly what I pointed out to you in another letter of mine. All of my concern in this project, always submitted to your wisdom, is for setting up a firm basis for that House which is also a House of Studies etc. Noting its needs, I have urged you to be zealous in helping me in bringing about success in this regard. If one were to calculate the assistance received

⁴⁴ For to God alone belong honor and glory.

⁴⁵ As if doing something else.

⁴⁶ As to substance.

from the Holy Father previous to the issuance of the decree, I would find myself, you can be sure, very, very confused. Only the Achille heirs *ex facto*⁴⁷ of Don Luigi (in addition to what he left) are they advancing 420 *scudi*, to whose account I recently gave 40 *scudi*. You can see how things are and the need we have for the Pontiff's complete benignity.

I have already taken care of getting, as best I could, the drapery material, as I already informed you, my Monsignor, I have that sort of character that if one of the Houses would have as much as it needed, I would say: "That House needs nothing urgently". But, assailed from every side and laden always with distressful worries concerning temporal things, I come begging, and I again urge you, to say a word to the Holy Father that he should not deny this favor for the sanctuary of S. Felice; thus, when, with your charity, he is confronted with the petition, based on very just reasons, surely God will see that you will obtain it for us. As soon as I have received an answer from Giano, I shall quickly right to you again. In the meantime, continue your efforts foreseeing and predisposing whatever you can in every discussion concerning this our first foundation. I have to blush each time I write to you about temporal matters, but what else can I do? God knows, God sees, God views everything. That is quite enough. I kiss your hands, and, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

July 26, 1826

1478

August 3, 1826

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Giacomo

Canon Betti has written to me asking for the help of some workers. I asked Canon Moscatelli to contact you to see whether you would like to be of assistance in the good work that is being done. However, it would be necessary, in the meantime, that as soon as Liparelli gets there, you would send to Bassiano for his things, just as I would send for them, so that you could then be on your way to Benevento for the autumn Missions there. The departure would occur around the 20th of this month. I would like to have your answer. Recommend me often to God. While begging you to condescend etc., most revered Father Giacomo, with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 3, 1826

1479

August 3, 1826

Fr. Giovanni Innamorati

Albano

⁴⁷ From the fact.

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Esteemed Father Giovanni

With the occasion of a young man passing through that area where our Mission House is located, I am also writing to you a couple of lines to ask you about your present condition, about the climate, so that I do not overlook anything that can pertain to the obligations given to me by God, whom we must irrevocably serve. What a good fortune for us to live in a community where the fulfillment of our sacred duties is, without doubt, facilitated in its execution, along with our individual association with an Institute which is promoting so much good work to the glory of the Lord! So, do not be amazed if the invidious devil shudders and seeks to becloud, shall I say, the intellect of anyone who is striving to advance God's glory! Thus, the prophet says: "*montes sicut cera fluxerunt a facie Domini*".⁴⁸ The mountains of difficulties, like wax, will be melted down. The fire of love which is acquired through prayer wonderfully exemplifies all of that! Is it not, for us, a glorious thing to be able to say with the apostle: "*Ego vincit Christus*"?⁴⁹ Everything is rightly sacrificed that leads to the glory of the one for whom we live. Let all of this be considered *in communicatione spiritus*⁵⁰ as our food in common for eternal salvation.

I would like to see you approved as a confessor as soon as possible, but do not become disturbed about that; you will keep in contact with your excellent superior there.

In any way that I can be obedient to you, please give me your command. The only thing I ask is for your continuous prayers before the throne of God for this poor soul of mine. Let us be filled with confidence in the merits of the Divine Blood, and may it be our mystical armament of defense against Lucifer: "*Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem agni*".⁵¹ I kiss your hand, and, with esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁵²

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 3, 1826

1480

August 5, 1626

Fr. Adriano Maria Tarulli

Matelica

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Esteemed Canon

Your recent letter brought tranquility to me. Praised be to God. However, please take good care of yourself. You very well know that we are to be custodians of our health so that we, in all things, can do the will of God. You are yourself a witness of the caution which I recommended to you from the very beginning of your apostolate. Later on, your zeal led you to go too far. God is pleased also with our good intentions. Indeed, you have been another Xavier in Matelica, the

⁴⁸ Mountains flowed from the face of the Lord like wax.

⁴⁹ Am I a prisoner of Christ?

⁵⁰ In the communication of the spirit.

⁵¹ The conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

⁵² Being his lowest servant in Christ.

neighboring areas and everywhere else. By the example that you give, by the counsel, and by the moderate labors that you undertake, you can enliven and better the good work of our Missions.

Do not cease to pray a lot for me, so that I will be able to prepare myself for the eternal years. Here below, everything is misery; God alone can satisfy the desires of our hearts. I would like you, in good time, to pull the strings that will bring about the promotion of the month of the Divine Blood everywhere you can, and at altars where they have sacred images of the Crucified Lord. Oh, how dear to my heart is this devotion of ours! I would like to see the Chaplet recited in public. How wonderful a thing it would be if, in the Marche, one could arrange for another foundation of ours, more centralized than the one in Pievetorina. Presently, we have a request from the diocese of Fermo.

Furthermore, (if you can), I would like you to conduct the Retreat, called for by our rule, in Pievetorina, and that would also take care of your own. As long as it is not something that will disturb you, perhaps you will be able to make this arrangement. For piece of mind, you might consult the doctor. Even though you have left the Institute, I have always considered you as still associated *in subsidium*.⁵³ So, offer prayers for all that pertains to it, and urge priests to consider its spirit. In Zante, at present, an establishment of ours will be made, as well as another in the Americas. Another House of studies has been opened in the Province of Campagna, similar to the one we have in Giano. These are my delight. Shortness of time prevents me from going on further. But, you can read in my heart what affection I nourish for you with whom I live in spirit in the Divine Sacred Heart. There, while kissing your hands, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, August 5, 1826

1481

August 5, 1826

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Esteemed Canon

The delay of the information that you sought to have concerning the nun was brought about because of an investigation that I made of the fundamental articles written by Monsignor Albertini which I would like to send on to you. So, have a bit of patience as a copy will be forthcoming. Indeed, I praise your most ardent zeal *et aemulor aemulatione sancta*.⁵⁴ Who knows how many things God is asking of you.

Thanks be to God for the Retreat. Oh! how such news brings me consolation!

I know that there is one or the other peasant person there who is attracted to our Institute. Write to me in detail about him *omnibus perpensis*.⁵⁵

Pray to God a lot for me. Today, I am writing in a hurry, and, dear Canon, consider me to be

⁵³ As an auxiliary.

⁵⁴ And I am emulating with a divine emulation.

⁵⁵ Weighing everything.

with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, August 5, 1826

1482

August 6, 1826

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Camillo

I have received the certificates. I notice, however, that my more economical form did not get there in time. Now, I am looking over my accounts and checking to see whether we are in agreement, everything being taken into consideration, except, of course, for the immense obligations that I have to you.

Keep the work on apologetics as your own. Let us be in agreement on this.

As soon as you can, please send me immediately six reams of stationery, the usual kind, half being the one *scudo* type, half the 12 *paoli* type. I shall quickly see to your reimbursement.

Furthermore, I would like to know what it would cost to have around a hundred books of the month in honor of the Divine Blood. Try to get the strictest economical bid. The only thing to watch out for is the change in the topics for the respective days. For example, what was read for the first day will be moved to the sixth; but, in substance, the printing of the booklet should be exactly the same. However, if the change is going to increase the cost, then we shall leave it just as it is. Only one thing more; I would like the name of the author, who is Monsignor Strambi, to be added. You take care of everything and great will be your merit. You cannot possibly imagine how greatly God will bless this marvelous devotion.

A thought occurs to me and it is this. Would it not be possible to have the legacy which is in Cereto deeded to the House in Pievetorina, along with the fulfillment of all the requirements of the testator with respect to Missions? Perhaps it could be arranged as a last will and testament. Make every effort to revive and promote good works everywhere: the Oratories, our Chaplet, etc.

When the Chaplets are reprinted, I would like them to use another type of paper for the outside cover. Also, in the certificates indicating a choice of an hour of prayer, one word has to be changed and the word is *insinuate*⁵⁶ and it is to be replaced by the word *ingiuate*.⁵⁷ (This, in order to gain the indulgences).

Up to now, I have been writing before the arrival of the mail. Just now, I received your letter and I proceed to answer it, following your line-up.

1. I have received the Chaplets. As for the life of Blessed Liguori, you should check with Father Camillo Rossi, our Missionary Superior in Pievetorina, who, more than once, has assured me that he has sent it on to you; this should not be any sort of expense for you. I had a duplicate copy of it among my books. Then, too, I shall be looking for the Life of Blessed Girolamo, and as soon as I

⁵⁶ Insinuate [suggestion].

⁵⁷ Command [order].

get it, you will receive it.

2. I give thanks to God that I do not have any debts still outstanding with you.

3. In regard to the month of the Divine Blood, the printer said that he would facilitate the reprinting. Check very carefully with him. His plan is inexecutable. All of this stems from the piety of devoted persons united together. Let us make every effort to get a reasonable price, that is, the lowest one, not the highest.

4. You have probably noticed that the prayer to the most holy Mary, if I am not mistaken, was printed in Rome; now, will you encounter difficulties there? That, of course, is of little concern. An oversight can occur anywhere at all.

5. Oh! how consoled I was to get that news concerning your daughter. Recommend me to her prayers; tell her to be always persevering, etc. Oh blessed solitude!

With esteem and respect, most venerable Camillo, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 6, 1826

1483

August 8, 1826

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

Please, as a favor, get permission for us from the Monsignor Vicegerent to put the displaced stones etc. that are in S. Maria in Vincis in a symmetrical order as the restoration work that is to be done continues. When you see him, please ask him, if you will, to grant this favor, for this will make that little church more beautiful, etc. With esteem, but in a hurry, most venerable Monsignor, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House, August 8, 1826

1484

August 11, 1826

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

Sonnino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Giovanni

Zapponi has finally returned to Frosinone. *Laus Deo*.⁵⁸ With regard to the employee who wished to have lodging, I have already responded in the negative. Indeed, Spaziani knows our rule! I

⁵⁸ Praise to God.

gave the 2 *scudi* to Severini for the account covering the room and board for Gherardi as well as for the Mass offerings!

Then, too, I shall be sending you 20 Masses that are to be celebrated on sight. Severini has the offerings listed under your account. Please be advised of this. I would like to have them taken care of quickly, so, if you are burdened with other obligations, see that they are said by our companions, but be sure to prepare the record, as is our rule, and send it to me. I am trustful of your exactness in this. Zapponi will be expecting further clarifications from you.

Now, this is God's will concerning you. In view of the fact that you do not have the worries of being the economist, and furthermore that you have time to prepare yourself methodically for the ministries, always in consultation with our Merlini, and finally that you have adapted well to the spirit of our Society which is something that I am deeply interested in seeing, I am assigning you to the position there in Sonnino where you will remain as part of the family. During Christmas, Easter, and October vacation-time, I shall send you out on Mission work. For the remainder of the year, you will function there in Sonnino, teaching classes in accordance with the method that Father Merlini will point out to you. During vacation periods, you will take care of giving visitation sermons and, all in all, I see a great deal of good being done through your services; all this until you go to Goa where St. Xavier lies in repose. Courage and prayers. In Frosinone, make all possible arrangements on paper, working it out with Merlini, whom you will be able to interrogate. Balance out your economic matters; and, since the Commune of Sonnino does not have the responsibility of covering your expenses to Frosinone, you, yourself should send for your baggage and in this, too, you should consult with Merlini. Let me know if you are at ease with this deliberation. Pray for me and, with complete affection and esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 11, 1826

You should continue perfecting your Lenten series. Merlini provide you with thoughts etc.

1485

August 14, 1826

Fr. Pietro Butti

Aatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

Deo gratias in omnibus,⁵⁹ and also *ipsi honor et gloria*.⁶⁰ Now let us pray *ut fructus maneat*.⁶¹

I have written to the priest in Trevi and I told him that the certificate *in subsidium*⁶² is granted only *a die petitionis post annum*,⁶³ so that the individual can first have the opportunity of

⁵⁹ Thanks be to God in all things.

⁶⁰ To him be honor and glory.

⁶¹ That[your] fruit remain.

⁶² For support.

⁶³ From the day of possession, after a year.

exercising the ministry with our men. I then urged him to become a permanent member of our Society, as I have the desire of assigning him to Giano under Father Biagio. You put in a good word for our Society.

As for you, it is necessary that you first take part with our men in at least one Mission. You select the time and the Province.

The articles that you know about are being copied. May Jesus be our love. Give my greetings to the most reverend bishop, to your nephew and Canon dell'Uomo etc. Pray and have others pray for the one who, with esteem and respect, most esteemed Canon, renews himself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 14, 1826

P. S. Let me know whether you would like to take part in a Mission in Umbria or in the Kingdom etc. Do not forget to remind the mother of our Father Vittorio of the final tuition payment, but do so without causing her anguish. See that it gets to me in Rome. Father Vittorio has probably sent in the document of ordination etc.

1486

August 15, 1826

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Giovanni Francesco

I understand what you tell me about the additional fifty yards of cloth. I shall be awaiting your bill which I will quickly reimburse. I thank you for your concern, and once again I say *et Dominus retribuet pro me.*⁶⁴

You mention nothing to me about the uniforms. Please remember my last questioning as well as my inquiry on other occasions etc.

I shall be obedient to you with regard to stamping the letter. Recommend me a lot, a lot to God, and, with best regards to all of those there in your household, asking you for your prayers especially in your private holy oratory, consider me to be with esteem and respect, dear Giovanni Francesco, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 15 (what a beautiful day) 1826

1487

August 16, 1826

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

⁶⁴ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

My dearest and most appreciated Canon

It is quite true that I did receive another letter from you, but you are not to attribute my delay to a lack of attention, but rather to my continuous occupation with the foreign missions, along with the other things that the Institute requires. When, however, *feceritis haec omnia dicite: servite, inutiles sumus*.⁶⁵ So, here I am renewing with you our spiritual pacts and our most intimate union in the Divine Heart.

As for the adaption of convents, there is probably a great deal to be said: *multi multa dicunt*, and, in no way at all could I be a judge or a part. You do understand me. A thought comes to me, though, and it is that you should send to the Holy Father's desk a new petition for one of our foundations there in Alatri; tell him about the area etc. I hope that God will bless your effort. That city is very, very dear to me, and oh! how I would like it to have this great good, also, to give its Oratory more influence. Soon, we will be opening a House of Studies in the Monastero delle Canne. Prayers.

In regard to Deacon Tagliaferri, I would like to see him become a priest today so as not to have to wait for tomorrow. However, *edoctus experientia*,⁶⁶ I adhere to the solid policy that a sufficient knowledge of moral theology which, no matter how much it may be studied in summary form, it requires a bit of additional time. Still, I have sent all of the information to the excellent Fr. Biagio Valentini with whom you can discuss things further. It is entrusted to his conscience.

For the person you mentioned, I shall not fail to pray. You continue to be another Xavier in your locality. Along this line, I am still awaiting the design promised by you know who. Recommend me a lot to God. In Jesus Christ crucified, with complete esteem, respect and very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 16, 1826

P. S. Latini did not wish to join the Institute. And I hear now that he is in Veroli. I do not know whether I have mistaken the surname.

1488

August 17, 1826

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Camillo

Here I am sending a reply to your always cherished letters. In regard to your vocation, I was under the impression that you possessed at least a sufficient knowledge of the Latin language. *Sapientioribus ergo me remitto*.⁶⁷ Let us drop that topic.

I do not lose hope that there could be one of our Mission Houses there in Fabriano. Prayers, for the need is extreme, and along this line do not forget the devotion to Xavier in Cereto. Otherwise,

⁶⁵ You who did all these things say: be servants, for we are useless.

⁶⁶ Taught by experience.

⁶⁷ I submit to those who are wiser.

what more can I say? You actually are more fervent in this regard than I.

The affairs of the Propaganda prevent me from going out at the present time for Missions. Six companies of our men, however, are out in the field. The petition put forward by you has been given to them. Now, prayer is necessary.

I would say that the 45 year old woman should be proposed to S. Anatolia with the Alberici who are promoting a pious institute, and they would be delighted with that assistance. If she would like to be a Maestra Pia, she should write to the bishop of Amelia who is looking for someone. I shall be awaiting more news in another letter from you. The life of Blessed Liguori will be sent to you.

Have the Capuchin nuns remember me in their prayers, as well as anyone else that you can get.

Right now, I believe that I have not forgotten anything. Let us remain in the Divine Heart where, dear Camillo, with esteem, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 17, 1826

Send me quickly the two reams, and indicate to me the cost, etc.

1489

August 21, 1826

Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi

Lenola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Here I am sending a reply to your most esteemed letter. God knows how vivid is my remembrance of you, the one with whom I intend to be united in a special way in the Divine Sacred Heart. If I have not written to you again, that was due to the situation of never having had the opportunity to do so. But, let us renew our spiritual pacts, recommending each other significantly in our prayers. I would like to know whether the archpriest is there and how his health is, for I would like to write to him too.

With regard to the faculties that you have asked for, now that vacation-time is very, very near, I do not see any chance of proposing your petition. Perhaps by all Saints day or shortly after the octave of all Souls' day, you will again send me your handwritten petition and I will see that it is presented.

As for those other works, they are not in existence in Rome. I am referring to the ones that you mentioned in your most esteemed letter. At least from the investigation that I was able to make, this has to be my response. They were authors from some past epoch and hence are located only with great difficulty. Perhaps you can select others. As for the obtaining of old books, allow me to point out two things. First, the warning that is issued by certain knowing individuals; I do not deny that, occasionally, favorable situations can result in case of death etc. and that there really was no danger involved. On other occasions, however, one could remain in the dark. Second, it is necessary to be careful that they are not books belonging to a sacred library, illegitimately sold in past ages of pitiful remembrance; in that case, by probing everything with exactness, it would be an easy matter of

working things out, but, it must be done *debito modo et cum opportunis legitimis facultatibus*.⁶⁸

I have sent you the relic of Xavier. I hope that it arrives safely. Pray and have others do so too for the person who now, most revered Canon, with esteem and respect, remains.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 21, 1826

1490

August 21, 1826

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Giacomo

I learned of your visit *ad tempus*⁶⁹ to your house. Let me know when you will be returning to Albano and at approximately what time. The key to your room, according to our rule, should be deposited with the Superior. From this very time, you are set to be the Lenten preacher in Vallecorsa where you will do great work. Preaching is done from the platform. The people have been gathering there in crowds, as you well know. In this matter, let us unmistakably be in agreement. This is the will of God.

As for books to be used by priests, I find very excellent, because of its contents, the work entitled: "*Il Parroco di Lione*". This work comes in five volumes, octavo size, I believe. Let me know if you would like to acquire them. As for books for nuns, in addition to Father Pinamonti, an excellent work, there is the book entitled *La Monica Santa* by Liguori, or the *Conferenze* of a certain Barbugli. Also available for the clergy are other authors, but, very useful are the *Lettere* of St. Jerome to Nepoziano and the books *De Sacerdotio* of St. John Chrysostom, along with his *Commenti* on the letters *ad Titum et Timotheum*. However, you intend to exercise humility and so you do well to interrogate me. Now, you make your decisions and I will make every effort to locate them. Let me know where you wish to have me send them.

If you can get some Masses in Bassiano which can be offered *ubique*,⁷⁰ write and let me know. Do there whatever good work you can. I am hopeful of conducting the Retreat, called for by our rule, in Albano. May Jesus be our love. Most revered Canon, consider me to be, in the Divine Heart, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 21, 1826

1491

August 21, 1826

⁶⁸ In the required manner and with the opportune legitimate faculties.

⁶⁹ At the time.

⁷⁰ Wherever.

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁷¹

Venerable Monsignor

The servant of the most reverend bishop of Terracina wrote me the enclosed matter. I cannot express to you how deeply felt is this loss which effects in my poor humanness an indescribable suffering. However, in all things, may the will of God be done. *Nunc nobis instat dies Domini magna.*⁷² I kiss your hands and wholeheartedly and with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

August 21⁷³

1492

August 24, 1826
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I received the package of printed materials. A thousand thanks for your kindness.

I shall be awaiting the six reams of stationery; please let me know the cost so that I can reimburse you.

Our establishments are being promoted, even abroad, and another House of Studies for young men has been opened in the Province of Campagna, now that brigandry has been brought to an end.

Let me know whether we owe anything and, for my own information, let me know how many booklets the printer has on hand, to be sold.

Pray and have others pray a great deal for me and for the good Monsignor Manassi, bishop of Terracina and one of our missionaries, called by God into eternity. Oh how saddened I am with such a loss. Ask Canon Tarulli also to keep the deceased in his prayers.

Always in Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be, venerable Camillo, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 24, 1826

P. S. The Life of the B. Girolamo is now ready for you. On the first occasion possible, I shall send it to you. Look for another one for Father Camillo Rossi.

1493

⁷¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁷² Now the great day of the Lord presses upon us.

⁷³ The year is certainly 1826, both because this letter is located in the collection of letters to Cristaldi for the year 1826, as well as, principally, the reference to the bishop of Terracina, Monsignor Carlo Manasse, whose death was being announced; it occurred on August 19th in Naples where he had been taken for health care.

September 2, 1826
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

Here I am sending you a reply to your letter. I suppose that the postulants are of canonical age. Madaleni is probably healthy and unencumbered, although short in stature. You say nothing about what he is fit to do, and finally, I have no doubts about his good character. In Terracina, there is an opening for a gardener. Note, we are occupying the place of the Passionist Fathers and hence not in the lower part of the city. I re-read your letter and I noticed that the two proposed individuals are intended for Campagna. Hence, I could place one in Terracina and the other in Sermoneta.

The cleric or the sacristan, I suppose then, will not be taking up studies and I could assign him to Albano. I shall await your response and then we will come to a decision. If this man is weak, be careful that he does not lose his status there in the uncertainty of turning out successfully for the Institute.

Do not become disturbed about the pious works. Be insistent, as best you can, and try to get the bishop to oblige anyone who is about to be ordained, etc.

Would you be able to go to Bassiano for a Mission during the second half of this current month? Do what you can to participate in this one Mission alone. Send me your reply promptly.

I shall be awaiting the room and board payment for our Tagliaferri who was also expecting to get a long cloak made of household bunting. Let me know what I should write to him.

I feel that the nephew of Aloysi will not succeed in his studies because of his health. In that case, I shall assign him as sacristan, under your directorship, to the cathedral, if the other man decides to become a brother-in-service. In that way, he will be breathing the air of the place of his birth. If the two peasant workers would like to go out a bit farther away, please let me know. The smaller one, who is not, however, uncouth, in order to avoid tauntings in a very external Society. In short, he is not to be uncouth, more than this I do not ask, and perhaps it will be better that way etc.

Let us offer a few more prayers for the person you know about. In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 2, 1826

1494

September 2, 1826
Domenico Antonio Gagliardi
Castelforte

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My most illustrious sir

In reply to your very kind letter, I inform you that the anointing of the sick with oil from the lamp of St. Xavier is to be done on the forehead. Next, with a bit of cotton, or something else, it is to be cleansed, and out of respect, then, it is to be burned. First, with vibrant faith, a particular prayer should be said in honor of our Saint.

With regard to taking up a collection, which has been forbidden by the most reverend bishop

of Gaeta, it is not proper for me, as you very well realize, to write to anyone else about it. However, what has been prohibited is a public collection. That does not prevent you from privately seeking out benefactors to bring glory to Xavier whose image, I hope, will become miraculous. In that way, subsequently, the fire of devotion will be immediately enkindled. Note, however, that always when offerings have been made, the will of the donors is to be carried out with absolute exactness, so that no one can interfere with the dispositions that they have expressed.

In order to have a Mission there during Lent, it is necessary that the mayor discuss it with the Monsignor who is then responsible for anything else that is to take place. As for the establishment of one of our Mission Houses there, it is required that the Commune discuss it with whoever is in charge. I, as an outsider, can give very little advice on that procedure. If our Society should not succeed in being there, then they should seek to get some other institute which is already in existence in the Kingdom which, *per se* will be fortified with the necessary faculties for the greater benefit of the people.

I ask for nothing else than a prayer for me in return for the Life of St. Francis Xavier. I give thanks to God that already one devout woman is desirous of doing something in favor of that blessed image.

Pray to Jesus for me, and, filled with esteem, respect and gratitude, while extending my best wishes to whoever asks me for them etc., I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, September 2, 1826

1495

September 3, 1826

Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi

Lenola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

I shall use all diligence in obtaining the authors whom you requested and if I should succeed in that, it will be my responsibility to send them on to you in Vallecorsa.

I was pleased to receive the news concerning the archpriest to whom you will give my very best regards., and, ask him whether he would, at some time or other, be able to satisfy a few Mass intentions, contributing the offerings for the benefit of the Institute. In that event, all he has to do is to inform me of the number and the time; great merit will be his before God.

If something should come up with regard to the future Lenten preaching in Lenola, you are not to become worried. In time, everything will be worked out with the bishop, and that, in every detail.

With respect to the certification as a missionary *in subsidium*,⁷⁴ please note that the Congregation in charge in Rome has decided that anyone who has already been accepted may be granted it, but anyone who has not been nominated up to now cannot request it unless, *infra*

⁷⁴ As an auxiliary.

annum,⁷⁵ (safeguarding some question of health) he acknowledges that he will be able to offer his services in some way to the Institute. In such cases, it has been decided to assign devoted aggregators for our most important devotion. So, you can now make your decision based on these points and I will take care of the matter for you. Tell the archpriest that he should complete the work on the altar that he has selected in the church and both of you should be insistent there for the welfare of the pious organizations, so that stability of good works in behalf of the people will be promoted. Let us become saints; pray and have others pray for me who, with esteem and respect, remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 3, 1826

P. S. If the archpriest should have some of his lessons in a printed form, I would appreciate having them for the Missions. *Oremus ad invicem*⁷⁶

1496

September 3, 1826

Fr. Luigi Maria De Giorgio

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

I, too, was concerned about another deacon, Don Luigi Rossi, as regards the upcoming ordination; but, nothing has been worked out. At least six months must elapse in order to obtain that grace, and six months from now we hope that the new bishop will be selected, for whom we are not to cease praying.

I cannot describe to you the sorrow that I experienced upon the loss of the excellent Monsignor Manassi.

May you take good care of yourself; pray and have others pray for me who, most esteemed Canon, with esteem and respect remain and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, September 3, 1826

1497

September 4, 1826

Mr. Lorenzo Colognesi

Comacchio

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

The sorrowful news of the loss of our holy Monsignor Manassi probably has reached you by this time. I cannot tell you the deep impression this death has caused in my heart; also, the efforts I

⁷⁵ Within the year.

⁷⁶ Let us pray for each other.

have made to procure suffrages for the deceased. Our comfort lies in the will of God who has called him to himself, removing him from this miserable valley of tears. He was ripened fruit for heaven. Now, I must relieve myself of a doubt that I have and it is this, that the deceased Monsignor Manassi gave me a journal, containing just a few handwritten pages by some Jesuit, treating of the method to be observed in giving the spiritual exercises. I cannot recall whether he gave me this for the benefit of the Institute as well as my own, or whether he gave it to me just to make a copy of it. You tell me what I should do and I will quickly be obedient.

Let us remain in the adorable wounds of Jesus Christ, preparing ourselves for the years of eternity so that we can be re-united with the center of every joy. I conclude this letter by informing you that the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood and the members of the Oratory of S. Francis Xavier here in Rome offered obsequies for the deceased Monsignor. All of our Missionaries, too, were eager to display due and proper signs of their religious attachment to the deceased. In the present circumstances, that is what was incumbent upon us so as not to be neglectful of our duties in charity to which the Lord directs us. In the meantime, asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem

Your humble, obedient servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, September 4, 1826

1498

September 7, 1826

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I must point out three things to you. First, remember the brief of indulgences for Ascoli. Father Giovannelli has written to me about that. You probably know the situation better. Second, recommend Vincenzo Menicucchi who was a helper with our Monsignor Albertini and later with Monsignor Manassi, and presently is in need of a new employer. If Monsignor Cherubini, who I hear is the Delegate in Frosinone, or others should be in need of a servant, see whether you can be of assistance for this man who is capable as a barber and a cook. Third, remember the fervorino to be give on the feast of the Cross, the 14th, by inviting either Monsignor Giannoli, Canon Visconti or Father Pietro Pellegrini. I shall not be able to be present for the services because I am impeded by other occupations. You can invite the usual Canons; send a notification to Monsignor Santelli in S. Giorgio. Let us remain in the Heart of Jesus Christ, where, with total affection and esteem, I remain

Your humble servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House, September 7, 1826

P. S. It is necessary to advise those who are slated for the monthly retreats not to forget etc.

1499

September 8, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

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

Venerable Monsignor

This letter is *in communicatione spiritus*.⁷⁸ It has been quite some time now that I have been praying to the Lord that he be pleased always to direct my steps during the ultimate period of life which still remains for me. For this reason, I feel stimulated to write to you the matter which follows. Why I am here in Rome and for what purposes is known to you. The urgency which the Institute had to have someone here in Rome who would serve as the central figure for its affairs, I have come to realize more and more as my work. And, in fact, in addition to the directing of the Houses and two centers of studies, now added is the burden of foreign correspondence. Then, too, there is always the continuous task of working on so-called preaching materials, plus everything else that you, in your wisdom, can realize well. Finally, just what my life is now I would like only to make known to you. It is, so to speak, a perpetual exertion. Still, there always remains in me a certain, shall we say, yearning for giving holy Missions and that is somewhat satisfied by the work of the 24 in the Institute and my continuous concern about them.

Furthermore, I would be very scrupulous about abandoning those things that have already been set in motion, and, remembering certain utterances of Monsignor Albertini, it appears to me that this is to be my way of life. I have always been reliant on your counsel and direction, after God, and hence I beg you to advise me now on what is helpful for me for a greater tranquility in my soul, since I wish only to do the will of God. Presently, I am sending out companions for the Missions, and I would not dare take one on myself unless it were the will of the Holy Father. So if you, at some opportune moment, could detect a bit better what the sentiments are of our Holy Father, it would be a great act of charity if you would please communicate the same to me. I add nothing more.

My Monsignor, let us always remain in the wounds of Jesus Christ, the only mansion of peace in this miserable life. And, there, let us pray that the spirit of prayer, of humility, of patience will be diffused evermore in our hearts. Amen. I kiss your hands and with the fullness of esteem, respect and affectionate attachment, having just celebrated holy Mass for you, most reverend excellency, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

September 8, 1826

P. S. If the Holy Father should wish that I take part in one or the other Mission, please let me know.

1500

September 9, 1826
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

⁷⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁷⁸ In the communication of the spirit.

Most esteemed Camillo

I have received the six reams of stationery. I paid the postage and I have remitted to you, by return mail-delivery, 6,90 *scudi*. For everything, *Dominus retribuet pro me.*⁷⁹

I am urgently in need of 500 Chaplets from the one thousand which you mentioned have been printed there. I entrust this task to your charity.

I learned about your trip to Loreto, where, I am sure, you remembered me and our Institute. I give you my most deeply felt thanks. I hope that God has blessed your trip.

The reprinting of the month will be done here in Rome by printer Contedini at his own expense.

Let me know whether you have received the two lives, one of B. Di Girolamo and the other of B. Liguori. One of the two should have gotten to you by way of S. Anatolia. That is what Missionary Rossi in Pievetorina has written to me. Let me know whether I have overlooked anything. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 9, 1826

⁷⁹ The Lord will repay on my behalf.