

St. Gaspar's Letters

1601 - 1650

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1601

March 26, 1827
Fr. Raffaele Rosati
S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

I need you for the Missions and you will learn from Father Raffaele Brandimarte the instructions and the method for traveling as well as the day of departure, while also advising you that another member will be coming to substitute there at the school and that he will be there before your departure. Please instruct him in the schedule to be observed so that he can continue the work without any change in the scholastic program that has been established. You will proceed to *Buon Consiglio*, our hospice in Rome, and there you will find another of my letters of instruction. It will be an easy matter that instead of the Missions, you will be conducting the Marian month in one of our Houses in the Province just as you have done there in the Fosco. So, prepare yourself for this. As for the traveling, make every effort to use the greatest economy. I suppose that you are acquainted now with our regulations in regard to traveling. If not, check with the above-mentioned Father Raffaele Brandimarte. Most revered Father Raffaele, pray for me and, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, March 26, 1827

P. S. You will consign to Father Brandimarte the care of the church and the sacristy, as well as your books and your room temporarily. Make sure that your passport has been signed. I think that instead of going on the Missions, you will conduct the Marian month in Frosinone. Keep making your preparations.

The expenses that you incur will be reimbursed in Rome where you will find an envelope for you.

1602

March 26, 1827
Mr. Giovanni Di Mattia
Vallecorsa

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Yesterday, I sent the two memoranda to Rome. Now, you will have to wait for the desired results. I also advise you that until I get a direct response from both the most reverend Treasurer and Monsignor Alessi, I will not be able to say anything further about this matter. Above all, offer prayers that, for the sake of justice and equity, everything will be achieved with God's blessing.

The best thing for your daughter is to join the Maestre. That, of course, will depend on the prayers that are said and the enlightenment that she will receive from God. Most illustrious sir, pray for me who, with esteem and respect, remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.
Frosinone, March 26, 1827

1603

March 27, 1827¹
Fr. Agostino Bazzoli
Forlimpopoli

I have written a most urgent letter to Monsignor Mattei in regard to the oratory and I am hopeful of good results. Above all, let us pray. In this upcoming year, may it please God, the holy Mission will be held and, at that time, I am hopeful to do more in favor of the oratory. By exercising yourself in the practice of virtue, which you are called to do in a special way by promoting good works, you will acquire immense merit for heaven. Most revered Canon, extend my best wishes to Count Giorgio and anyone else who remembers me, and, with esteem, respect and affection, I remain

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

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, March 27, 1827

P. S. Let me know whether you are acquainted with a certain author dall'Occa and whether he is of merit. If so, I would like to have, from Bologna, a copy of his work. I will, of course, reimburse you for any expenses.

1604

March 28, 1827
Fr. Fantilli
Maenza

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Vicar

While always recommending to your distinct zeal the pious organizations in existence there, I ask you, if it is possible for this year, to please supply me, as you did this past year, with oil in the same measure and good quality, I would like to have a line or so from you indicating the price so that we can come to some agreement.

Most venerable Vicar, pray for me, and, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone (where the first stone of the new church of St. Xavier was blessed), March 28, 1827

1605

March 28, 1827
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

¹ The upper half of this page was torn away, therefore the usual greeting is missing, etc.

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

My Monsignor

Oh how disappointed I was to learn of your state of health. I ask you to give me more consoling news which I hope for from the most merciful God. I offered a Mass for your quick recovery. I shall be leaving for a shift of retreats that are very, very important. Address your letters to Frosinone since I send people out twice a week to get the mail. When you see the opportunity, please ask the Holy Father for a subsidy for me. You can be certain that God, who sees all, will bless your words. I regret that I have to write this to you. But what can I do otherwise? The good work here in the Province is immense and the Reform very notable. On Sunday, the feast of the most holy Annunciation, the first stone of the new church of St. Xavier was blessed. Now, the bishop is anxious about Veroli. There are two boarding schools: In Sonnino, rhetoric and philosophy; in Sermoneta, theology and scripture. All of the students are young men of canonical age. The requests for the ministry are continuous and we are always in motion, along with a sea of problems. In the apocalypse, it is written: *Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni.*³ Recommend me to God and, most reverend excellency, with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, March 28, 1827

With royal approval, a Confraternity, *sub titulo Augustissimo Pretiosissimi Sanguinis*,⁴ has been erected in Aquila.

1606

March 31, 1827

Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

I thank you wholeheartedly for your recent most beloved letter. I understand what you tell me concerning the 100 Masses *infra annum*,⁵ and I was delighted to distribute them as the opportunities arose.

As soon as I get to Sermoneta, I would hurriedly like to visit with you. You can imagine how much I desire to do this. I am writing to you under the pressure of shortness of time since I am conducting the public retreat in Sora; pray for me. For the present time, when necessary, address your most esteemed letters to Frosinone where we have just blessed the first stone of the new church in honor of St. Xavier.

With pleasure did I learn of the good work that is being promoted there by Canon Mancini, to whom you will give my best regards. *Oremus ad invicem*,⁶ and, most revered Luigi, with esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

² Christ loved us and washes us in his blood.

³ They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

⁴ Under the title of the most August and most Precious Blood.

⁵ Within the year.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 March 31, 1827

1607

March 31, 1827
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁷

Venerable Monsignor

While the Lord is keeping me occupied in giving this public retreat, I am sending you a reply to your most appreciated letter relative to Father Gregorio Giobbi who, in Camerino, is occupied in dedicating himself to the work of the greater glory of God. The reason why I pointed out that in Lent attention should be given to hearing confessions in Pievetorina is that the people had requested this and, in addition, up to now we have been supported by the piety of the faithful there. Unaware of your desires, which to me are the same as commands, I wanted you to realize how proper and just it was to show preference to Pievetorina than any other good work. So many outsiders also come there and provision must be made for their consciences.

We pray to God that he will multiply the means available, increase the number of individuals involved and thus extend evermore the good work itself that has been done in that area. I have not inconvenienced you with additional letters of mine because I have been encumbered with so many things, and also because during these past months I have not been feeling up to par. However, let us always be together in the adorable heart of Jesus Christ. There, *sine intermissione*,⁸ pray for me, and you can be sure that I will do likewise. Most reverend excellency, I kiss your hands and, with the fullness of esteem, respect and very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 March 31, 1827

1608

April 3, 1827
 Msgr. Giuseppe Segni
 Bishop of the Marsi
 Pescina

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁹

Venerable Monsignor

⁶ Let us pray for each other.

⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁸ Without intermission.

⁹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Everything is already prepared for the two companies of Missionaries, including myself, who will be coming in order to conduct the holy Missions in your diocese. From you, I would like to have all the necessary, appropriate faculties, including those worthy of special mention, and be able to delegate them to the confessors from the area as well as those whom I might call in for assistance, should there be need for them. I ask you to send me a couple of lines here in Sora, where I am directing the public retreat as well as the Three Hours Agony devotion. On Holy Saturday, I shall be leaving for Frosinone and on the Wednesday after the third feastday, I shall be starting out again for the holy Missions. Pray a lot for me. While informing you that I have written by way of Arsoli both to you and the pastors involved, I now renew myself with esteem as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sora, April 3, 1827

1609

April 3, 1827

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Giovanni Francesco

I am writing only briefly because during these days I am conducting a public retreat. It is very true that the Divine Blood placates the Divine Eternal Father. Prayers. Propagate the devotion of the month wherever you can, as well as the public recitation of the Chaplet.

The young man from Camerino who has been proposed will probably be a missionary in some other group, but not, indeed, in ours. I esteem and venerate everybody, but at the present time Missionaries *in subsidium*¹⁰ are not increasing in number. The boarding schools for young men have been supplying and providing a sufficient number. As far as I can note, that young man is a certain Mr. Angelici concerning whose dexterity for preaching I would not know what to say. I believe that he might succeed, but I can give no assurance of that. You decide in the Lord. However, let all of this be between us *in communicatione spiritus*.¹¹ The devotion of the month in Offida was for me a consolation and with pleasure do I recall your holy conversation.

I will again be needing the usual amount of cloth or material. Give me some information about that and please excuse the inconvenience.

Father Marcellino Brandimarte was under probation with us, that is, a novice. Although he is a good man, he does not have the qualities for our Institute. I believe that now he might be in Rome at the hospice of *Buon Consiglio*. You can address your letters there. Let me know whatever is the cost. Who knows, I might find a way to dispose of it. Was that crucifix beautiful? So, let us settle things in that way.

A thousand greetings and best wishes to the Prior and to anyone else who remembers me there. *Oremus ad invicem*.¹² In Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect, I remain

¹⁰ For support.

¹¹ In communication of spirit.

¹² Let us pray for each other.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 3, 1827

1610

April 4, 1827

Mr. Domenico Antonio Gagliardi

Castelforte

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

While I am here in Sora conducting a public retreat, I am sending you a reply to your most appreciated letter. I thank you wholeheartedly for the kindness that you have shown to me. You can be certain that I shall correspond in like manner and in all truth declare to you that one of the people that I remember best is, indeed, you to whom I also owe endless gratitude for so many favors that I received from you. May God be blessed for the good results deriving from the holy Missions. Wholeheartedly, let us also give thanks to our great saint, St. Francis Xavier.

Bartolomeo sends you his best regards. Presently, he has recovered quite well. In one or the other visit that you make to the new chapel there of St. Francis Xavier, remember to pray for me. In Frosinone, recently, a new church in honor of our saint is under construction. May Jesus be our love, and, most esteemed Domenico, while extending my greetings to everyone there who remembers me, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sora, April 4, 1827

When you have need of writing to me, address your letter to Frosinone for reasons of forwarding.

1611

April 5, 1827

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

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

Venerable Monsignor¹⁴

Please read the enclosed and then send it back to me. Most reverend excellency, I kiss your hands, but in a hurry, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

¹³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹⁴ The postal marking indicates that this was sent from FROSINONE, and the time of arrival as April 5th. Hence, the letter was mailed from Frosinone around the beginning of April. The year is 1827 as is noted on the outer cover, perhaps by Merlini or by St. Gaspar himself.

Mis. Ap.

1612

April 5, 1827
Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj
Aquila

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My very dear Canon

I owe a response to two of your letters. I am writing from Sora where I am conducting a retreat. To observe a more precise order, I shall treat your letters item by item as follows.

1. I thank you for the exactness with which you carried out my directions, so very characteristic of your zeal.

2. With pleasure did I learn of the enrollment of His Majesty. You will have to get him to become interested in the plans of our Institute so that he will issue a decree that if any bishop would like to request our services, that request will be honored. This, truly, is the principle for achieving every good work and even more so when noting that the many Missions that have been conducted, thanks to God's favor, have made the presence of our Institute in the Kingdom a most desirable thing. You (along with the most reverend bishop to whom I send my heartfelt and respectful greetings) will be the untiring mediator.

3. In the meanwhile, I would like that in the pages in Rome you would have them put in print the erection of the new congregation there. Please do this, and quickly.

4. With regard to the papal blessing which you have asked for, realize that the present Pontiff is quite restrictive about this. At most, I would request more plenary indulgences for the year. You think about this and then we will come to an agreement. With the enrollment of His Majesty, we can later attempt to get the papal blessing to be given once a year, and then you yourself will have to prepare the petition.

5. As for supplying alms there in a brotherly fashion, I would say that it should be worked out by the celebration of a certain number of Masses, which you will indicate to me, and the offerings left there for that purpose.

6. Please write to Canon Pistelli in Rieti and tell him that I have received the rules that he knows about and that I give him my thanks for everything.

7. You will be receiving the small, brass crucifixes from Rome, accompanied with a pertinent letter; also, another one for the statue of St. Xavier. I have already indicated that the indulgences will be procured as will be seen later.

8. You will be getting samples of our copper depictions of most holy Mary and thus you will be able to order whatever number you deem necessary. I shall try not to forget everything that you graciously requested of me. In case I do, however, please keep reminding me.

9. With reference to the gifts left during the recent Missions, what you say in regard to the sacred image of the most holy Mary in the church of S. Agostino is quite in order. You might also have the two urns from the most reverend bishop transferred there as long as that will be to the peace and satisfaction of everyone and cause no disturbances. The reason why I say this is because, presently, the same image that the Missionaries carry is there in S. Agostino. Two things must not be omitted: first, that there be an inscription: "gifts donated to the most holy Mary during the Mission etc. etc." which applies likewise for the residual gifts; second, that in no way at all are they to be

changed or given away. *Sunt enim vota fidelium*,¹⁵ and no one is permitted to change those pious intentions or be involved with asking for papal dispensations.

10. You will be doing correctly when you send the pertinent memoranda for the archives of the Archconfraternity in Rome.

11. With delight did I learn of the desires of the most reverend bishop of Ariano. *Laus Deo*.¹⁶ I found a beautiful oratory in existence there.

12. The boarding schools for ecclesiastics are being greatly blessed in order to bring about the renewal and the training of the clergy.

13. Here, for you, is a line-up of the good work that the Institute is promoting: 1. Missions; 2. Retreats, both public and private. Add to these: oratories, spiritual organizations etc. etc. 3. Ecclesiastical boarding schools for young men of canonical age, and following the pattern set for institutes of Regulars; to determine their sacred vocation, and to be trained in sacred studies. Thus, the Institute, in their own Houses, cultivates Theology - apologetics of religion - Sacred Scripture -- preaching materials etc. From this you can determine *quid sentiendum*¹⁷ about Civitaduale and *utrum expediat etc.*¹⁸ Please note that at the theological conferences, any priest, even though outside of our houses of study, is permitted to attend. In keeping with our regulations, we try to extend our good work wherever we can. Whenever you need any clarification about this, please feel free to write to me, realizing that in me you have one of your most intimate servants, for nothing must ever impede the program leading to the glory of God. I would be delighted to have a request proposed by the bishops in unison, that is, the bishops of Aquila - Penne - Solmona - Ariano - Avellino - Manfredonia, etc., etc., so that His Majesty will permit the erection of our Houses. If you, *ex se*,¹⁹ would prefer to confer with the most reverend bishop of Aquila, you can decide for yourself. What is certain is that firmness and many prayers will be needed. The devil will be doing everything possible for blocking this very good endeavor. It is written: "*ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*".²⁰

14. Extend my respects to Father Francesco Pacini and tell him that within a few days he will be receiving notification concerning the Masses that he knows about, and that they have already been said.

15. When the occasion arises, give my best regards to Sir Knight Rivera who is an excellent supporter of our efforts. You should know that he was closely acquainted with Monsignor Albertini, the initiator of our Society.

16. With regard to getting the church of S. Agostino to be declared a basilica, see that Monsignor Muccioli, who is stationed in Rome, takes care of that. I value highly the efficacious efforts that Monsignor Muccioli is able to do in this regard.

17. I like very much the sample for the certificates. The only thing that I would have included was that the good work to be performed is to say seven *Gloria Patri*, even though you may not consider adding there the listing of indulgences. Along with that there is the recommendation of

¹⁵ For they are the vows of the faithful.

¹⁶ Praise to God.

¹⁷ What should be experienced.

¹⁸ Whether they should be free.

¹⁹ Of itself.

²⁰ They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

setting aside one hour of prayer each year, the time being selected by pure devotion, and the prayer offered in particular for the holy Missions.

18. I shall urge Monsignor Muccioli to look into the matter of obtaining the relic, being quite sure that he will be successful in this undertaking.

19. Let us remain united in the heart of Jesus Christ and let us pray for each other.

20. Write to the excellent Baron Sardi in Solmona and specifically to the one who, it seems to me, is adept in music. Tell him that it is not possible to hold the Mission there in Solmona during the upcoming advent since this year I found out how difficult the roads can be. Better to have it during next Lent in place of the Lenten preaching, or, even next autumn. I shall be awaiting a favorable response to this. Ask him to give my best regards to Monsignor Tiberi and to urge him to have the installation of one of our Houses there, which is something that the prelate himself sincerely desires. Please add that since I will be informing his Holiness about the status of the seminary in Sulmona, it is necessary that I have a detailed memorandum. Finally, he should encourage him to have the public recitation of the Chaplet and promote the practice of the devotion of the month of June, following the booklet recently reprinted in Rome. When the opportunity arises, give my greetings to the bishop of Penne and to the archpriest in Nunzio, encouraging both of them to do great work and be persevering for the glory of God. In Jesus Christ crucified, most revered Canon, with esteem, respect and very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sora, April 5, 1827

P. S. When necessary, address your letters to me to Rome for forwarding, and from where I have received the package etc.

1613

April 9, 1827

Fr. Vitale Corbucci

Rimini

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Vitale

I would like to know the status of your health. Furthermore, let me know, candidly, if you would like me to assign you a room in the House in Rimini where, I understand, you might be able to do a great deal of good for our Institute because of your connections there. I recall that you told me that you would like to be far away and hence I selected Albano; but you would always be free to return. I should like to have a line or two by way of a prompt response. Most revered Father Vitale, while asking for your prayers, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your devoted, obliged and humble

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, April 9, 1827²¹

²¹ This is what both copies have. However, the Saint, in his letter of April 3rd to the bishop of the Marsi, says that he would be returning to Frosinone on Holy Saturday, that is, April 14th. We explain the use of Frosinone as the

1614

April 12, 1827
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I give you my thanks for the favors that you have done for me. I have already written to Severini to take care of reimbursing you. What you said to me in your letter is all right with me.

The listings for Segoni will be delivered. Give him my best regards and recommend me to his prayers.

It is very true that I will be going to conduct a Mission in the area of Tivoli. However, you should address your letters to Rome for a more secure forwarding. When will we be seeing each other again? You can be sure that if God calls me to work in that area there, I will immediately send you word. In the meanwhile, let us be in touch often in the adorable heart of Jesus Christ. When you write to me, do not have, not even by way of temptation, the thought that your writing to me lengthily would be an aggravation for me. God knows how deeply I cherish and esteem you in Jesus Christ with whom I leave you, as always with respect and gratitude, recommending to you the pious organizations, etc., etc., etc. and the month of the Divine Blood, etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, April 12, 1827

P. S. Ask the Capuchin nuns to pray to God for me.

1615

April 15, 1827
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²²

Venerable Monsignor

A certain Luigi Baldi from Meldola, who at a previous time had recourse to your most reverend excellency, asked me to present to you a most urgent request, namely that you will always keep him in mind and that a certain Giamini should not succumb to a grave and mortal illness from which he is suffering. This man has a job with the customs. He informs me that Canon Muccioli is well-acquainted with the aforementioned Baldi as I am too; in as far as I can say anything, I know that he is a God-fearing man etc. etc.

For my own peace of mind, I am not sure whether I recommended to you a certain Battisti from Frosinone who had submitted a petition for a position with you. I hope that you will excuse me

place of departure from the fact that St. Gaspar, although he was in Sora, saw to it that letters that had been received were sent to him from Frosinone. (Cfr. his letter to Cristaldi of March 28, 1827).

²² Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

if a certain good-hearted feeling impels me to write these things to you even though I try, at times, to set them aside. But then sometimes it is necessary to give in.

With regard to the assignment of the brethren in Aquila, please realize that I did not have the least part in that. I know that it was caused by the urgency for obtaining a church which had to be completely restored and managed along with the piety of the faithful. So, what is one to do in such a case? I intend to speak about the new confraternities of the Divine Blood in Aquila.

With reference to the nuncio in Naples, I inform you that I have written and given him sufficient information. Now, it would be enough that your most reverend excellency should contact him, in person, if you think that is a good thing. God is my witness in what our purpose is. The basic changes of the Reform movement are not evident and indeed many do not depend on reconciliations in the courts. Very useful would be the granting of faculties to bishops for setting up movable altars. I say that the whole picture of things, though to many it appears to be quite in order, with regard to the sacred nothing is more pitiable. I am competent of doing nothing more than to pray, to be silent and to suffer. For example, the episcopal see in Pontecorvo is involved in political affairs and the bishop does not know what direction to take! And is that the case also in the Papal State? How many other pious places are there that have been reduced to such methods, both regular and military? Has any settlement ever been made point by point for such a relationship, not to mention other possibilities? God is not happy with us. Let us always keep in contact with each other through the wounds of Jesus Christ. With esteem, respect and affection, and always completely grateful to you, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, April 15, 1827

P. S. The Gonfalonier of Spoleto promises to settle the payment for the past year. But when will the Reverenda Camera Apostolica settle those back payments so that we can satisfy our creditors?

1616

April 16, 1827

Fr. Giovanni Mimmi

Acquasparta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Prior

What you were pleased to say to me in your letter of April 10th is only the result of your singular kindness. I give thanks to the almighty for the good work that has been accomplished. The Lord sees in my heart the desire that I have that effectively there will be one of our Houses established there. However, you must not fail to cultivate those means which I have indicated to you on other occasions. Otherwise, it would be better to consider an Institute of mendicants, if nothing otherwise can be arranged. Indeed, I shall not be lacking in promptness to do this marvelous deed for which I am the unworthy instrument. Certainly it is very necessary that the bases for this mystical edifice be firmly established through prayer and industrious charity. May Jesus be our love, and, most revered Prior, in the Divine Heart, with esteem, respect and very particular affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 House in Frosinone, April 16, 1827

1617

April 16, 1827
 To a Pastor

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father²³

Next Wednesday morning I shall be leaving for the Missions. I see that you, however, will not be able to go. By leaving on Monday and then having to return in May, because of the just reasons which you stated, I see very well as something that would reduce the situation to a matter of moments. So, we shall make use of your favorable cooperation on another occasion. Pray for me who, though in a hurry, remain

Your humble servant

G. Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, April 15²⁴

P.S. I realize that since you have been absent quite a bit from your assignment there as pastor, you would have to stay put.

1618

April 16, 1827
 Student Orazio Bracaglia
 Sonnino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My beloved in Jesus Christ

With pleasure did I read your letter and I must say to you the things that follow.

1. I shall not ever fail to pray for your soul, and now I have even a greater obligation. However, you must return the favor in my behalf, and of that I have no doubt.

2. I am happy to learn that you have been instructed in the rules for prayer and you should never forget them. You will see that, little by little, God will help you to put them into practice. The basic thing in the spiritual direction of a soul consists in recognizing the effect of grace on the heart, and then, after consultation with your spiritual director, to come to realize what God's will is for us. So you should often say: "*Loquere, Domine, quia audit servus tuus*".²⁵ That is the beautiful ejaculatory prayer that I like to use. To this, you can add still another: "*Doce me facere voluntatem*

²³ It is not possible to identify precisely who this parish priest is. The letter is found among those addressed to Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci, the vicar forane of Guarcino, and those of Father Pietro Fusari, pastor of Fumone. It is very probable that it was addressed to the latter who had helped St. Gaspar often in the work of the Missions.

²⁴ The year has to be 1827. In fact, in that year (cfr. the letters (n. 1593 and n. 1608): March 19 to Giacomo Giorgi; April 3 to Monsignor Giuseppe Segni) St. Gaspar left "for the Missions" to be conducted in the diocese of the Marsi, on "Wednesday", as is mentioned here in this letter, and that day was Wednesday, April 18th.

²⁵ Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.

tuam quia Deus meus es tu".²⁶ Do not become upset if, during prayer, your mind wanders off to something else. A servant wishes to speak with his master and the master, at times, is involved with one thing or another, and then the servant has to stand there still and expectant. But the master is also happy to see that and is pleased with the servant's virtue. Apply this notion to your own life. The devil would like to confound the working of God by causing you anxieties, but you should overcome him. "*Expecta Dominum, viriliter age, et sustine*".²⁷

3. With regard to a general confession, think no more about that now. Continue to consult with Father Beniamino and have recourse to him just as Samuel did with Eli.

4. As for receiving communion, be obedient to what Father Beniamino directs. What a beautiful thing it is to receive Jesus! If you are not moved with fervor, express your desires nevertheless. Offer Jesus your desires. *Desiderium pauperum exaudivit*.²⁸

With reference to school, I shall see what I can do for you. Pray for me, and I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*²⁹

Frosinone, April 16³⁰

1619

May 1, 1827
Msgr. Giuseppe Segni
Bishop of the Marsi
Pescina

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³¹

Venerable Monsignor

Please excuse me if, before today, I did not send a reply to your most appreciated letter of this past April 26th. I simply could not manage to find the time.

Most willingly would I like to cooperate with the urgent requests of the excellent Don Giuseppe de' Baroni Carusi, but you can surely imagine that, though trying hard to balance out everything to the greater glory of God, it would not be at all feasible for me to undergo the expense of undertaking a trip in that direction of Chieti. At most, we might arrange for a bit of help for the new nuns at the time when a Mission is being given in that area, and, in the meantime supply another member who could surely take care of that good work which I myself cannot do. At the time when I was in Puglia, I was not at all made aware of this matter. Perhaps, at that time, I might have been able to do something about it. In Carsoli, I strongly urged the devotion to the Divine Blood, for it has been written: "*Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*".³² Wretched thing that I am, I sought to stimulate, as much as possible and in keeping with the circumstances, this very great good work. I have reserved for my current Missions those that are most proximate to the Roman State. I

²⁶ Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

²⁷ Wait for the Lord, act manly and stand your ground.

²⁸ The Lord has heard the desire of the poor.

²⁹ There is no signature [Being his lowest servant in Christ.]

³⁰ The year is 1827. Cfr. the letter (n. 1594) to the same person, dated March 21, 1827.

³¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

³² They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

kiss your hands. Venerable Monsignor, I implore the charity of your prayers in which I have great trust, and, with esteem, respect and deep-felt affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Pietrasecca, May 1, 1827

1620

May 1, 1827

Fr. Nicola Santarelli

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Fr. Nicola³³

After completing some Missions, I shall be back in Giano and we will discuss things in person. In the meanwhile, Brandimarte will be taking care of the business affairs and also hear confessions. You look after things in the school. You can be sure that this is *ad tempus*³⁴ since I shall be bringing along with me the man whom I shall be assigning to that House. On the feastday, help out with confessions while having Father Tomasso supply in the urgent matters dealing with the boarding school during the time when you are occupied in the work of the ministry. Advising you that, should it be necessary to write to me, you should address your letter to Rome, I remain, with esteem

Your devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Pietrasecca, May 1, 1827

1621

May 1, 1827

Fr. Nicola Santarelli

S. Felice in Giano

For the month of the Divine Blood

I divide the days according to the three ways: purgative, illuminative, unitive.

Introduction

*Christus dilexit Ecclesiam, tradidit semetipsum pro ea, ... acquisivit Sanguine suo.*³⁵

We are presently facing times in which it is necessary to purge the entire earth *in Sanguine Agni*.³⁶

Purgative

³³ In the same wrapping St. Gaspar sends to Santarelli the preaching outline for the month of the most Precious Blood, which is found in the following letter.

³⁴ At the time.

³⁵ Christ loved the Church, he gave himself up for it ... he acquired it with his blood.

³⁶ In the blood of the Lamb.

The laments of Jesus Christ. ... *Quae utilitas etc. ... factus est sudor eius etc. ... quid sunt plagae istae?... Oblivioni datus sum tamquam mortuus a corde.*³⁷

Invitations of Jesus Christ: *Justificati in Sanguine, salvi erimus ab ira per ipsum. ... Pacificans per Sanguinem etc. Torcular calcavi solus et de gentibus non est vir mecum.*³⁸

Triumphs of the Divine Blood in keeping with the invitations: *Aspersi corda a conscientia mala et abluti. ... Teneamus spei nostrae confessionem. Vos qui aliquando eratis longe, facti estis prope in Sanguine Christi.*³⁹ (Consult the Office and the Mass of the feast of the Divine Blood).

Illuminative

The grandeur of the price: *Empti enim estis praetio magno. Tanti quid valet?*⁴⁰ Thus, St. Augustine (Office).⁴¹ From this, one sees the reason for having a great love of Jesus Christ who, nowadays, is insulted by so many.

The tenderness of love in the way that he pours out his Divine Blood. Alas, wherever I turn my glance, whether to the scourging etc. or to the crowning with thorns etc., all arouses me to a tenderness of love: *Vestitus erat veste aspersa Sanguine. ... Quare rubrum est indumentum tuum etc.*⁴² Jesus is covered with blood. ... What lessons etc.

The burning charity with which he applies it to souls in the sacraments, in the offering to his eternal Father in the divine sacrifice of the altar. (This is the devotion which revives the spirit of religion in its basic principles, in its practices, in its glories etc.)

Unitive

*Nondum usque ad sanguinem restitimus.*⁴³ Courage to remain with Jesus on the cross to defend holiness of life, virtue etc. etc. and to overcome the infernal dragon with that Divine Blood, thus making one capable of a greater union with Jesus Christ: *Ipsi vicerunt draconem proner Sanguinem Agni.*⁴⁴ Through suffering, develop love for Jesus Christ, which is an extension of perfection beyond the courage that joins us to the cross. One begins with the courage to suffer, one continues on then to the joy of love and one takes delight in its precious qualities etc. Finally, our glory lies in the suffering endured in behalf of our most tender devotion etc. *Glory in Prophetis*⁴⁵ who announced its glories and triumphs, *glory in Apostolis*⁴⁶ etc. etc. who preached it to the people etc., *glory in Martyribus*⁴⁷ who through this devotion withstood etc. *Glory in the confessors* who derived courage etc. *Glory in the priesthood* which first was prefigured etc. and then completed in Jesus Christ. *Prima in symbolis, nunc in veritate. Si sanguis hircorum etc. Gloria in filiis*

³⁷ This sentence is written in the left margin. [What usefulness etc ... his sweat became etc. ... why these blows? I was given to oblivion as one dead from the heart.]

³⁸ This sentence is also written in the left margin. [Justified in blood, we will be saved from wrath through it. ... Bringing peace through blood, etc. I trod the wine press alone and there is no one with me from the nations.]

³⁹ I have sprinkled hearts and washed them clean of a bad conscience. ... Let us hold on to the confession of our hope. You who at one time were a long way off have become close in the blood of Christ.

⁴⁰ You were bought at a great price. What is of such great worth?

⁴¹ This sentence appears to have been written in a handwriting other than that of St. Gaspar.

⁴² He was clothed in a garment sprinkled with blood. ... Why is thy apparel red, etc.?

⁴³ We have not yet resisted unto blood.

⁴⁴ They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

⁴⁵ In the Prophets.

⁴⁶ In the Apostles.

⁴⁷ In the Martyrs.

*Redemptionis. Per Sanguinem Jesu Christi haereditate possidebimus terram. Gloria in sanctis qui semper fructus redemptionis perceperunt, gloria in aeternitate beata, etc. Gloria Deo et Agno.*⁴⁸

On the day of the feast

*Habebitis hunc diem in monumentum et celebrabitis eum solemnem Domino in generationibus vestris cultu sempiterno,*⁴⁹ and this is to be done: 1. In gratitude for the benefits received; 2. in petition for future benefits; 3. through this to be triumphant in the Divine Blood in *eterno.*⁵⁰

1622

May 5, 1827

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

We are seeking to have suffrages offered in behalf of a few primary promoters of our work since this has been promised and is something that should be done because of the zeal that they demonstrated for our Archconfraternity.

Up to now, these are the Missionaries who have died, in addition to our founder ... a certain Marchetti ... Tani ... Achille ... Tucci ... Di Nicola ... Lenta ... along with one or the other Brother. Di Nicola died in S. Felice in Giano while preaching on the most holy Mary. The others died as a result of illness. In them we have advocates in heaven.

With regard to the sanctuary there, it is certain that, should the Augustinians be leaving, which is something I think will not be so, it would be up to us to look after it. The purpose for our Institute is to conduct Missions, Retreats, apostolic organizations etc., the solving of moral cases if the bishop assigns them, the sacred studies of theology for the young ecclesiastical students who would like to come to our Houses of study. Nothing more. The balance, therefore, is quite evident. If you would like to have more details, please write to me. Presently, I am engaged in a Mission and scarcely can I keep up with things. When you reply, use the address: "Rome". I, however, am hopeful that the Augustinians with their novices can re-establish themselves.

With reference to the cloth, you should provide what can be obtained for 30 *scudi* and, at any indication from you, I allow you to get it from whomever you may suggest. Pray a lot, a lot, a lot for me so that I can respond to the nobility of the ministry. Sending my heartfelt regards to all of your family etc., with esteem, I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁵¹

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Pietrasecca, May 5, 1827

⁴⁸ First in symbols, now in truth. If the blood of goats, etc. Glory in the sons of the Redemption. By inheritance through the blood of Jesus Christ we will possess the world. Glory in the saints who always received the fruits of redemption, glory in a blessed eternity, etc. Glory to God and to the Lamb.

⁴⁹ You shall keep this day in remembrance and shall celebrate it as solemn to the Lord in your generations with everlasting reverence.

⁵⁰ Forever.

⁵¹ Being the lowest servant in Christ.

1623

May 6, 1827
Mrs. Francesca Carrara
Sora

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious lady⁵²

With this letter I assure you of the fulfillment of the celebration of the Masses that you know about. I have already assigned the respective offerings for the Institute's benefit. The Lord will reward you for your charity. I am writing from Pietrasecca where I am conducting a Mission. I would like to have the glorious month of the Divine Blood observed publicly in Sora. It would be sufficient just to read from the booklet. Please inform Father Ferdinando Gigliozzi that in order to have either Missions or Retreats, a letter from the Curia is always required. Most illustrious lady, while asking you for your prayers and extending my best wishes to Olimpia, with esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Pietrasecca, May 6, 1827

1624

May 20, 1827
Luigi Fuschi
Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Luigi

While giving a Mission, I am writing to let you know that, except for some unforeseen thing, I shall be in Sermoneta shortly after Pentecost. Venerable Luigi, pray a lot for me, and with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Poggio Ginolfo, May 20, 1827

I wrote to the archpriest of Cori Jannoni that I would be passing through. But now you can tell him that I will no longer be taking that route.

1625

May 22, 1827
Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj
Aquila

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

⁵² The letter does not have an addressee, but it certainly must be Mrs. Francesca Carrara in Sora. The handwritten letter of the Saint, in fact, was presented to the episcopal Curia of Sora by Mr. Enrico Carrara.

Most esteemed Canon

I thank you for your most appreciated letter of the 8th of this month. Let us pray for a foundation in Civitaducale. However, it would be better to work it out for Aquila in the locality of S. Agostino. *Rem forsam perdifficilem postulamus.*⁵³ We shall go wherever God wishes and if God so wishes. I am hopeful.

Recommend ever more and more to the archpriest of Nunzio, to whom you will give my greetings, the pious organizations and tell him that it is necessary to suggest to the bishop of Penne that he insist etc. etc. *Pulsate, etc., etc.*⁵⁴

I am writing during the act of giving a Mission, so, this letter will be brief. However, you should still address your letters to Rome.

I have no doubt that you have made arrangements for the month of the Divine Blood and for the revival of the oratory, etc. etc. I see only too well the spirit that animates you in keeping the historical records of the Missions there. May God be praised, *cui omnia.*⁵⁵

Give my warm regards to the most reverend bishop, to Father Francesco Pacini and to anyone else who remembers me. I kiss your hands. Pray to Jesus for me, wretched one that I am. At the foot of the cross, most reverend Canon, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Poggio Ginolfo, 1May 22, 1827

1626

May 23, 1827

Msgr. Giuseppe Segni

Bishop of the Marsi

Pescina

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

Most reverend excellency

With this most humble letter of mine, I recommend to you, as strongly as I can, the enclosed memorandum, which, I am told, could be brought to the attention of the Marquis Tomassi and then have it sent to the Marquis de Turris. Since it treats of a favor that is easily granted and because of the serious reasons stated, I have no doubt that, through your efficacious mediation, a successful result will be forthcoming. Most reverend excellency, I take advantage of this opportunity, with esteem, respect and veneration, to renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Poggio Ginolfo, May 23, 1827

⁵³ Perhaps we ask for something very difficult.

⁵⁴ Strike, etc.

⁵⁵ To whom everything.

⁵⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

1627

June 1, 1827
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵⁷

Venerable Monsignor

I recommend to your particular charity the enclosed petitions.⁵⁸ One regards Vallecorsa, the second, Pievatorina, the third, Giano. I did not want at all to dwell on this but the really essential thing is your efficacious mediation. God sees our needs. I do not care to go into the details with your most reverend excellency since you already have everything clearly set in your mind. I shall not fail to pray. Only allow me to remind you that, *capta opportunitate*,⁵⁹ you bring to the attention of the Holy Father the good work done by our Institute (in addition to the spiritual) in restoring so many places, so many abandoned churches, supplying the sacred furnishings that were quite needed, along with the expenses for beds, etc., etc., clothing for our brothers-in-service etc. One can rely only very little on the pious offerings of the faithful. You know that, and also that prudent plans call for caution in such a delicate ministry as ours; not little is demanded in managing it well in keeping with the rules of the saints.

It would likewise be a good idea in your discussion to keep three things in mind. The first pertains to Albano and its subsidies. Pius VII did not acknowledge the Bull of Honorius and he protested that. So, the Datary should make compensation to the one to whom it belongs. With regard to the boarding schools, I no longer can take funds from the Province to give to Albano. In the area of temporalities, things are getting more expensive day by day. Little by little, each month, we have to have chairs and desks made etc. This, you understand, is precisely necessary; nor, do we fail to employ the rules for the most rigid economy. In short, it is not only the cost of daily fare, which in itself becomes quite a notable expense that has to be taken into consideration, but many other things to which attention must be given. Indeed, it is a miracle how things have been managed with equilibrium. With the arrear-payments made to Giano, I have liquidated the credit due to the Achille heirs. You know that that locale had to be restored; now, it inspires devotion from the moment one enters it. Simplicity and cleanliness. Still, there are debts pending from the first moment we took it on. Little by little, we will do everything necessary. Let this be for the record. After God, we are obligated to your most industrious charity. Is that not a motive for you to be consoled in the Lord?

The second thing is to remind the Holy Father about a hospice for us in Rome, along with a congruous endowment to maintain one brother-in-service and one Missionary who will act as Procurator for the Institute and take care of business matters. I have already selected Canon Betti for this position.

The third thing is exemption from pastors just as the seminary in Rome is from the locale of S. Michele etc. I point out that we are reaching the point of being a true Institute. We have the privilege of our own calendar in common following the example of the Regulars. Some particular offices have also been granted to us by the present Pontiff who also, in our suffrages, permitted us to assign St. Francis Xavier as the Protector of our Institute. At one time, we used to reside in the

⁵⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood

⁵⁸ Cfr. the following three letters.

⁵⁹ Seizing the opportunity.

places belonging to Regulars and exempt from the pastors, except in the case of Frosinone. But now even that one is taking on the appearance of a convent. We know that every Society has its beginnings and its progress. We are similar to the Filippini Fathers; these do not take vows and neither do we. However, the Filippini Fathers do not conduct Missions, Retreats etc. and in this we are different. At your request, I will draw up the pertinent petitions. So, perhaps a little better subsidy will be given as a consequence. I shall not cease recommending this forward progress of the Institute, first to God, and then to you, who has supported it with that apostolic love that God has bestowed in you and for which he has continually supplied brilliant proofs. Let this be a confession of the truth. I kiss your hands and, in Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem, respect and a very special affection, I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁶⁰

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, June 1, 1827

1628

June 1, 1827

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Father

The Missionaries, resident in Pievettorina, diocese of Cammerino, humbly have recourse to the throne of your Beatitude, to petition for a prompt subsidy to cover the necessary work of restoration in their sacristy and for sacred utensils; that etc.

In behalf of the Missionaries in Pievetorina

1629

June 1, 1827

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Father

Among the Mission and Retreat Houses activated in the Province of Marittima and Campagna by the now-deceased pontiff, Pius VII, of holy memory, one of them is in Vallecorsa. The place assigned to us there is an ancient convent and church which *olim*⁶¹ belonged to the monks who were called the Viennese Fathers. However, that locale was in such a condition of disrepair that, with the sincere concern of the clergy and the people of Vallecorsa, an effort was made and is still being made to restore it in such a way that it would be a presentable place for the work of the Institute. The church also had to be given a new form since it too was in dire need of very notable repairs. Now, the Missionaries, along with the clergy and the people of Vallecorsa, ask for a sovereign's subsidy; that etc.

In behalf of the Mission and Retreat House in Vallecorsa

1630

⁶⁰ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

⁶¹ Formerly.

April-October 1827

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Father⁶²

On the occasion when our Mission and Retreat House was supposed to be transferred from Frosinone to Veroli, your Holiness deigned to empower, with a sovereign's rescript, the most reverend Monsignor Treasurer to take possession of the locale, *olim*⁶³ belonging to the Augustinians, acquired from the Marquis Bisleti with the payment of 80 *scudi* annually. Later, Monsignor Cherubini thought that he would like to retain the Missionaries in Frosinone so that their good work in that center of the delegation of Marittima and Campagna would not be lacking. Along with that, the Lord inspired the hearts of the people of Frosinone to occupy themselves in completing the construction of the church and house designated to be a Mission and Retreat House. Thus, there was no longer reason for taking over in Veroli the aforementioned locale of S. Agostino. Likewise, the highly-regarded Marquis Bisleti also changed his mind, or, at least did not concern himself further with completing a contract. Now, most Blessed Father, Canon del Bufalo, Missionary Apostolic and most humble petitioner of your Holiness, requests that the aforementioned sum of 80 *scudi* might be assigned to the benefit of the boarding school for our young ecclesiastical students in S. Felice in Giano, to help with the economical management of that place, so closely related to our objectives; that etc.

Can. Gaspare del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

1631

June 3, 1827

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶⁴

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am back from a course of Missions at the boundary of the State and the Kingdom, and precisely in the area of Vivaro, Collalto etc. etc. To the glory of God, the good work achieved was immense. Praise be to God, *a quo omnia et cui omnia.*⁶⁵ I am here passing through Albano where, if

⁶² This petition is not dated. Merlini wrote the note: "October 30, 1827" and filed it with the letter to Cristaldi bearing that same date. However, this petition cannot be placed with that letter because in this petition, the request is that the 80 *scudi*, accorded to Veroli, should be assigned to the boarding school in Giano, whereas in the letter (n. 1673) of October 30, 1827, the request is that they be assigned to the new church of St. Francis Xavier in Frosinone. Probably, the petition should be placed somewhere between March 28, 1827 and October 30, 1827. Indeed, in the letter (n. 1605) to Cristaldi on March 28, 1827, St. Gaspar seems still to be in favor of the foundation in Veroli, while from the letter (n. 1675) of October 30, 1827 he asks that the subsidy for that foundation should be given to Frosinone. Hence, this petition in behalf of the boarding school in S. Felice in Giano must be located somewhere between the above-mentioned dates, and most probably in the summer of 1827. In fact, in the letter (n. 1639) to Cristaldi, dated June 24, 1827, St. Gaspar complains that the boarding school in Giano is costing quite a bit (cfr. also the letter (n. 1638) to Meloni, June 17, 1827). So we assign the date for this letter to April-October 1827. We place it with the letter (n. 1627) to Cristaldi, dated June 1, 1827, since in it there is also the mention of a petition for Giano.

⁶³ Formerly.

⁶⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁶⁵ From whom everything and to whom everything.

you wish, you can send me your reply for the time-being. I would like to have news concerning your health which, I pray, you are taking care of, since your type of work is so very, very demanding. We are never our own masters to work *ultra vires*,⁶⁶ except when given extraordinary inspirations. Just between us, I feel within myself a certain weakness due to disturbance of the nerves as well as stomach problems which, little by little, are causing me to become more and more sensitive. That, however, does not prevent me from the execution of my duties and it seems to me that God, through my suffering, wants me to handle well the total burden that the Lord has placed on my shoulders. *Cunctis diebus, quibus nunc milito, expecto donec veniat immutatio mea.*⁶⁷ This is my greatest concern! I weep when I see things in the Church, alas, in such a deplorable state ... perhaps you do too. *Orabimus ergo provoluti coram Domino. Videntes non vident, intelligentes non intelligunt etc.*⁶⁸

I close this letter by asking you for many prayers. I do not fail to do the same for you. On Sunday, the feast of the most holy Trinity, I shall offer holy Mass for you. Remember that during this year I have received no subsidy to cover postal expenses and many other things which only God knows about. Most reverend excellency, with esteem, respect and gratitude, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Albano, June 3, 1827

Pray a lot, and greatly do I recommend the Institute to you during this most holy month of the Divine Blood. *Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni.*⁶⁹ I am concluding this letter after having preached on the glories of the Divine Blood.

1632

June 3, 1827

Giovanni Calvi

Sora

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Giovanni

I remember our discussions very well when I, quite strongly, said that I will be coming there, unless some unforeseen orders came from the Supreme Pontiff, in which case, then, I would send another member. Indeed, in addition to the very heavy and continuous obligations I have toward the Society, I also feel that my voice has been heard too often in Sora and I would probably be more of an annoyance than a benefit. Consider, likewise, that a new voice would be more striking. I am only too well-aware of my own wretchedness and incapacity. At any rate, if you people want me to come, I shall be obedient. I would not want to prevent the doing of a good work. However, if you should decide otherwise, please let me know by addressing your letter to Frosinone for the purpose of

⁶⁶ Beyond one's strength.

⁶⁷ In all the days, in which I am now serving as a soldier, I wait with longing until my change comes.

⁶⁸ We will pray, therefore, prostrate before the Lord, etc. Seeing they do not see, hearing they do not understand, etc..

⁶⁹ They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

forwarding, and address it specifically to Father Merlini. Most revered Giovanni, pray for me who, with esteem and respect, remains

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, June 3, 1827

P. S. I have not failed to offer suffrages for the soul of the deceased Father of S. Silvestro. He was ready for heaven.

1633

June 11, 1827

To a Cardinal

...⁷⁰ provides for the aims of Pope Pius VII. Perhaps this too may be just an empty rumor; I simply would not know what to say; however, I do have a way of discovering the truth. I am acquainted with the locale and I know that that location would not provide an opportunity of doing as much good work as could be done in a more centralized place. Nevertheless, it would be necessary for us to adapt to the situation and accomplish whatever we could. Indeed, S. Salvatore would really be the proper center of action, but it lacks adequate lodging. God will make his will known to your most reverend Eminence. While asking you for many prayers and kissing the sacred purple, I have the honor of renewing myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

June 11, 1827

P. S. at the beginning of September, our ecclesiastical boarding school in Benevento will be opened. Praise be to God.

1634

June 13, 1827

Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj

Aquila

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

I read with pleasure the report on the Missions in Aquila. I noticed in it your own religious aim and the purity of your intentions which evidently worked together. There is only one thing that caused me to be upset and that was the placement of my name there. Oh how I would have preferred that you did not even think about that. All of this, however, was born of the particular consideration and kindness which you nourish towards me, for which I will never be able to compensate except with my poor prayers that the Lord will fill you with his choicest blessings, in time and eternity.

One observation with regard to the report and this is, in short, a matter of history. The Archconfraternity was erected even before the period of my exile. Its beginnings, at least, go back to that period of time. After the exile, the union of the Missionaries to it took place so as to make use of

⁷⁰ Only the bottom half of this letter is had. It is written to a Cardinal, but it is not known to which one.

its means for their objectives. This, however, was a pure accident which is not of value. The reference to Missions covers everything and, *in circumstantiis*,⁷¹ in no way vitiates the historical account. Please remind Fr. Luigi Sardi in Solmona to remit to you the six scudi that are due to the Archconfraternity for the aggregation there in Solmona, which Severini anticipated in the reimbursement. I kiss your hands. Give my sincere regards to the most reverend bishop. Pray that I may be able to correspond fully, through my holy vocation in the ministry, to the objectives which the most loving God intends. In Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, June 13, 1827

1635

June 14, 1827

Giovanni Calvi

Sora

I understand what you tell me concerning the Retreats. Around August, we will review the situation. Except for an unforeseen impediment, I will be coming. But, in case I could not, I already have in mind a capable member. You probably have my other letter regarding the Brief. So, now, pray a lot for me. With esteem and respect, I am

House in Albano, June 14, 1827⁷²

1636

June 17, 1827

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

In reply to your very dear letter, I say that you should think no longer at all about a reimbursement for the decree obtained from the Sacred Congregation of Rites in honor of the great apostle of the Indies, St. Francis Xavier. The Saint himself has made provisions, but, do not cease recommending me to him.

Likewise, tell Mrs. Tagliaferri that she can be certain that the release that she makes to the Institute of the possessions of Don Vittorio are in just compensation of what the Institute has a right to have. The tailor says absolutely that he has another small bill of Don Vittorio which may have been overlooked. To conclude, I shall see that it is taken care of at my own expense, so no further concern should be had in this regard. The notification of Masses, as a matter of fact, was never received. Perhaps the letter got lost. It is sufficient that I know that they were celebrated. May thanks be given to God from whom I sincerely pray for the perseverance of Don Vittorio in the Company of Jesus, now that that situation has been finally settled.

⁷¹ In circumstances.

⁷² This copy does not have a signature.

I, too, can see that your uncle presently needs all of your assistance. His sufferings which I learned about in Frosinone are an announcement of his approaching death. I, wretched as I am, shall help him with my prayers, You do the same for me so that I can prepare myself for the eternal years (*magna hominis cogitatio*⁷³ ...).

Give my best regards to Canon Domeniconi. I kiss your hands, venerable Canon, and, in Jesus Christ crucified, *qui redemit nos in Sanguine suo*,⁷⁴ with esteem, respect and very special affection, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo in Albano, June 17, 1827

1637

June 17, 1827

Fr. Vitale Corbucci, of the Oratory

Fossombrone

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Vitale

In reply to your most esteemed letter of the 12th of this month, I say to you in all candor that it affected me very deeply, that is, your separation from us. As for me, I was not able to assure you more securely of the complete assistance which you would have liked to have received from us. God knows what is in my heart, and I can candidly tell you that my inner intentions were in conformity with the extrinsic actions that I have always manifested in your regard. Patience. In all things, may we always fulfill the lovable will of God to whose divine good pleasure it is necessary that we always be resigned.

Most pleasing, and for me the greatest consolation, is the news that you give me of your total effort in behalf of the devotion to the Divine Blood. The certification as a Missionary *in subsidium*⁷⁵ alludes to work of the Missions but, I think it is a good thing to include you as an aggregator for Fossombrone, since there is here a question of indulgences that can be gained by those who are enrolled. I have no doubt at all about your interest in our Society, no doubt at all, since I recognize well your love for God, whom we all seek to serve with that alacrity of spirit which is the basis of every effort for perfection. Therefore, our union in the sweetest hearts of Jesus and Mary will remain unchanged. In your charity, do not cease praying for me and for our Society, and have others do so too. You have come to know my needs and my woes. *Ego sum vir videns paupertatem meam*.⁷⁶

Send me often news about yourself; I would appreciate that very much. Order me to do whatever you may find opportune and I assure you that I shall always be the same one who now, with esteem, respect and veneration, renews himself as

⁷³ The great thinking of man.

⁷⁴ Who redeemed us in his blood.

⁷⁵ For support.

⁷⁶ I am a man seeing my poverty.

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁷⁷

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, June 17, 1827

P. S. I repeat, whatever the situation, you are always a welcome guest in any one of our Houses.

See that the confraternity of the Divine Blood is erected there.

Ask me for whatever you may need.

1638

June 17, 1827

Fr. Tommaso Meloni

S. Felice di Giano

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Dear Fr. Tommaso

I am sending a reply to your letter from the House at Albano. When we see each other, you can tell me what you wish. I hope to head in that direction on the 2nd of next month, unless something unforeseen occurs. At the present time, I am completing the Visitation of this House in Albano, and I am yearning for the moment when I shall be there with you. In the meantime, I tell you to rid yourself of every fear. Put your trust in God and in obedience. If you had followed through with your rationalizations, you would not even have become a priest: and, how many blessings would you have deprived yourself of?

Perhaps you may not have any respect for me - I certainly am not deserving of it in myself and I rather deserve scorn and disregard. But, if you have any respect for the office that I hold, the responsibilities that Providence has entrusted to me, the illumination that God gives to the office according to that principle, then, you must quietly settle down, otherwise you would be making yourself the judge of your own case. Do not think for a moment that I wrote to you about hearing confessions because of a scarcity of members. No, for thanks be to God, I can be at ease, *in circumstantiis*,⁷⁸ about the members that I have, always, of course, nurturing a true desire to have even more of them. Furthermore, would I compromise the dictates of conscience because of such external reasons? Surely not. Your soul is close to my heart.

However, thorns, crosses, troubles are nothing new in the history of the Church. What does all this prove? It proves that ours is a work of God: this is the manifest sign of it. Would you expect the devil to sit by? He cannot get rid of our Society: he is just trying to upset it.

Now to the subject of the House of Studies. To put it frankly, I would have rather opened Sermoneta than to increase the resident students there. In the provinces, I can run things more economically because of the abundance of materials, and the House of Studies would be closer for me, too. It is more expensive to have it in Giano, besides being farther away. Houses of Studies are not being closed; rather, they are being multiplied as will occur within a short time in Benevento. But, even prescinding from the distance involved, for which we have to provide funds, I have to seek out in the most convenient way possible the very necessities of life as well as accessibility. This is

⁷⁷ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

⁷⁸ In circumstances.

the reason why I would have liked to transfer the House of Studies from Giano to Pievetorina. But, up to now, I have made no decision. What I must do now is to bring it to maturity through prayer. This is a situation that concerns itself with future school years and not just the present one. You can be certain that I shall go about arranging things in such a way that I can feel at ease about them. Little by little, it will all work out. Prayers, time and patience.

Whoever feels he is not called into our Society should consider making that decision along with his own director. This decision is not up to me. *Unusquisque consulat conscientiae suae.*⁷⁹ God has no need of people in his work; we are the ones who reap benefits from his Society. The Lord will multiply his gifts for those who remain and it will be sufficient that on our part we do what is required of us. In addition to that, through prayer, let us place it in God's hands, and let us never cease to take counsel with one another as the opportunities arise. Let us surrender our own will in all things and we shall have died to ourselves.

I am not writing to Santarelli, for the sake of brevity, but urge him to hold his classes so as to complete successfully this present year, assuring him that later on he will not be burdened with this responsibility. I am making an effort, at least as best I can, to free him for the ministry. In the meantime, he should insist on good progress in the studies. With reference to the lower classes, Incelli, if his health is good and to the best of his ability, should offer his assistance. I realize well enough that he too, does not have the health to stand the hardships of teaching.

Give my regards to all. I urge all to be tranquil, quiet, well-ordered, recalling that we are all here on this earth to exercise virtue, and God never ceases to provide us with tests. Being enclosed by walls and being associated with Companions is not what upsets us; rather, it is ourselves who have the strange idea of selecting our own crosses instead of carrying the ones that God sends. In short, we simply have not sufficiently died to ourselves. At any rate, since all of us have the firm resolution of doing good, we shall not be wanting in the means for making progress.

Tell Fr. Rafaelle that he and another of our men should go to pay a courtesy visit to the new archbishop as soon as he arrives,⁸⁰ especially if that is before I get there.

May Jesus be our love, and asking all of you for suffrages in behalf of the deceased Canon Bertoni, I am and shall always be

*Suo infirmo in X'to Servo,*⁸¹

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, June 17, 1827

P.S. Even were we to drop the House of Studies, it would still remain a House for Missions and Retreats. As a consequence, the good work would never be lacking. The Brief, from the present Pope concerning Giano, has made this foundation even more secure. God will further manifest his will.

1639

June 24, 1827

⁷⁹ Let each one consult his own conscience.

⁸⁰ The new archbishop of Spoleto was *Msgr. Mastai Ferretti*, cf. Additional Biographical Data: Mastai Ferretti.

⁸¹ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁸²

Venerable Monsignor

I have been told that within days you will be promoted to the sacred purple. I rejoice wholeheartedly since the Lord is opening up for you a broader field for achieving good work in the Church. I know how your heart is opposed to any rank of dignity, but that is what the Lord wills and, indeed, you have the qualities to sustain it. With the broadening of your responsibilities, do not forget me in your prayers and ceaselessly keep in mind our needs; I have no doubt at all of your complete vigilance.

I have resolved not to bother you again with details etc. etc. It seems to me, really, that I must do nothing more than to pray. Yet, as I see the burdens increasing day by day, and that I must keep an eye on all of the objectives of our Institute, I would like, if it be God's will, the Holy Father to remember to provide me with a subsidy for the management of our Institute. Soon, I shall be going to preach the glories of the Divine Blood. Next Sunday, the feast day of our title, I shall offer holy Mass for you. I give you this information so that you can join with me in my intentions. When the preaching of the month has been completed, other appointments will be waiting. I shall try to figure out which ones I myself can take on and those that I can assign to others. My companions in the Province of Campagna have completed, with great fruitful results, a very important Mission on the island of Ponza. The King of Naples has indicated to several bishops his special affection for our Institute. May Jesus be our love and may we irrevocably belong to Jesus.

I recommend the petition for Rimini. Recently, the vaulted ceiling in the sacristy in Pievevitorina collapsed; it was of *Cammera Canne*. This mess was discovered one morning after a heavy rainfall. May God be blessed in all things. I kiss your hands and constantly remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, June 24, 1827

P. S. The piety of the faithful, displayed in their hauling of materials and other things for the new church of St. Xavier, is indescribable. The construction in Vallecorsa is also going along well. God is blessing our boarding schools. The one in Giano, however, is costing quite a bit since it is located out in the countryside.

1640

June 24, 1827

Fr. Francesco Paradisi
Montalto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

Here I am sending a reply to your very dear letter. The bases for a true vocation are the following: 1. the desire to do what is accordingly more perfect; 2. the greater good that one would be

⁸² Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

able to do in comparison with what one is presently doing; 3. the greater security that one would have for eternal salvation. With regard to the first point, canonically speaking, there would be a year *ad deliberandum*.⁸³

Furthermore, since there is no vow of poverty, one remains the master of his own property. Positing these basic things, is this perhaps not a more perfect career to which, for quite a while, one has felt stimulated by God? In regard to the second point, the good work that you are doing there, where indeed there is a shortage of priests, could never be compared to that of propagating everywhere the glories of the Divine Blood etc. *Egredere de terra tua etc.*⁸⁴

The third point: to live in an Institute would secure you more solidly in the matter of your eternal salvation. External things are not, ordinarily, the principles of a vocation, but are, at most, impulses to verify them. As for your saying that you would have to do something of which you are not capable in the ministry, I respond that you would, indeed, be doing a great deal with your actual gifts. As for communicating your thoughts, through withdrawal, silence and prayers you would accomplish even more. By being in the Institute you would also share, in a special way, in the good work of the others. One must not stand in the way of a vocation, and, if one follows through with it, one will succeed in it by means of prayer, patience and humility. What do the saints say about this?

The bishop might be upset if you were to occupy yourself in other ecclesiastical appointments outside the diocese. But, with regard to an Institute which is a status of higher perfection, how could he possibly be opposed to that? Wretched thing that I am, I shall not fail to pray. I am doing so and I will continue to do so most wholeheartedly. However, you ought to be more resolute, more open.

Finally, what further burden would our status be adding for you? None. It assures you only that you will be doing a greater good. Therefore, after you have studied the notion of perfection, why not surrender yourself to it? More than this I cannot say, and, believe me, if I could I would say to you, just as I have with others: do not come to the Institute. With complete frankness, would I say this to you. These are God's works. You must be the caretaker. I kiss your hands. I am and will constantly be, with esteem,

Your most devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, June 24, 1827

1641

June 24, 1827

Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Giovanni Francesco

I am sending you this reply in order to remind you of the cloth or material of good quality that I ordered. I do not know what to attribute this delay to, since I know so well your kindness in offering your services for every good work.

⁸³ To weigh carefully.

⁸⁴ Go from your land, etc.

Perhaps you were fully occupied in observing in a holy way this great month! Let us be strong in this devotion which is the treasury of every good gift. Pray for me, dear Giovanni Francesco, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, June 24, 1827

1642

June 25, 1827

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

Terracina per Benevento⁸⁵

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Domenico

I begin this letter by informing you that your Rev. Uncle's apprehension⁸⁶ that I was not satisfied with the Congregation of the Sorrowful Mother is unfounded. Suffice it to say that I thought I would collapse from all the confessions. This is the fact. Indeed, I left Sora extremely contented.

When your Uncle spoke to me about sending you to Campoli, I answered: "The rule does not stand in the way of one's returning, *de licentia*,⁸⁷ to see one's relatives, *et ad breve tempus*":⁸⁸ I added nothing else, and I concluded: it depends on the individual. Actually, if you decidedly wish to go, I am not able to refuse. In that case, you must come to an agreement concerning the time and manner with Canon Betti, whose responsibility it will be to assign you a companion, according to the rule. This is all in keeping with my disinterested involvement.

As for your spirit, here is what I would enjoin upon you, as the miserable guide of your progress in the ways of God: a novena to the Holy Spirit, during which you will examine yourself in the light of prayer as follows:

1) Which is more perfect, to return or not to return home, keeping in mind the example given to the companions and the practice of the Saints?

2) As for your relatives, whose desires are justified indeed by the pleasure they will experience in their loving reunion with you, they will be satisfied in seeing you again in person, but, how will they react when you have to leave? When you weigh the pleasure against the displeasure, perhaps more deeply felt, which is preferable, if you have a sincere regard for true charity?

3) What about the spiritual good that Merlini, a new voice heard there, together with another of our companions, could achieve there in Campoli?

4) Will God give you fluency of the tongue there as he does when you are away from there, the reward for your growth in virtue?

⁸⁵ On the outer sheet, above the address, we find the following notation put there by Silvestri: "Concerning whether or not to go home": it is a synthesis briefly stated of the present letter, concerning the matter that was of greatest interest to the recipient.

⁸⁶ Fr. Domenico's uncle was *Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri*; cf. Additional Biographical Data: Silvestri, Canon Giuseppe, No. 3.

⁸⁷ About license.

⁸⁸ And for a short time.

5) Would it not be better to leave the relatives in a mood of expectation and, *quasi alius agens*,⁸⁹ seek the greater glory of God?

6) What will you be hearing in Campoli and Sora? One will be saying one thing and another, something else! Is there more humility in showing up there or in staying away?

I shall be with you in my many prayers, with the understanding that whatever your decision may be, it will always be clearly an act of prudence and, I repeat, *quasi alius agens*. Then too, you will be faced with the great temptation of going to Bauccho. Behold, a Missionary among thousands who hasten to the solemn functions.⁹⁰

By all the preceding, I do not intend to prohibit you from going to see your relatives, but rather to call to your attention the Institute which has set you on the road to acquiring so many victories for heaven. Before saying yes, I would like you to pray and communicate to me the thoughts that you will receive from the Father of lights.

I know another one of our members who has an eighty-year-old father. He has never manifested in any way the desire to visit him. He does not have any other brothers etc. etc. I know of another who, with his mother near death, replied: "The help that I can give her is prayer".⁹¹ The reasons for returning home, even *ad tempus*,⁹² demand something more solid and substantial. *Sapientioribus autem me remitto*.⁹³ Would Xavier perhaps have gone back for the death of his mother because he had not seen her for a while? I, myself, in losing my mother while I was in exile, would I have been able to free myself from the police in order to hasten to her assistance? Imagine the most sorrowful circumstances, but also take note in practice of what sacrifices God calls us to make. "*Holocausta medullata offeram tibi*".⁹⁴

With pleasure I note the triumphs of our St. Francis Xavier. In an authentic form, I would like the records of the miracles preserved in the General Archives, so as to have a collection of them.

As for your soul, I would like your examination of conscience, made at a quarter to noon according to the rule, to be accompanied by some thoughts from Thomas a Kempis,⁹⁵ I consider this to be most useful. Also, meditate frequently during the day on the thought expressed in our regular maxims concerning humility.⁹⁶ Finally, do not fail to keep in touch with me whenever a particular situation arises, whatever the Lord may put into your mind, in order to be so directed in the progress of God's working in your behalf.

Pray to Jesus for me. While kissing your hand and with all affection and esteem, I am and will always be constantly

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

⁸⁹ As if doing something else.

⁹⁰ *Bauccho*, cf. Geographical Data.

⁹¹ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Valentini.

⁹² At the time.

⁹³ I submit to those who are wiser.

⁹⁴ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Silvestri, Fr. Domenico, No. 6

⁹⁵ This is a reference to the famous book "*De Imitatione Christi*", generally attributed to the ascetical writer Thomas a Kempis, born in Kempen (near Cologne) in c. 1380 and died in 1471; however, this data is greatly disputed.

⁹⁶ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Admonition, Salutory.

House of Missions and Retreats in Albano, June 25, 1827

1643

June 28, 1827
Fr. Rafaelle Rosati
Frosinone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Rafaelle

In doubt whether Merlini is there or not, I am writing this letter to you so that you will send to me here in Albano, Antonio, a native of this city and our brother-in-service. The reason for this is that I must have his assistance in the provinces. He should be here in Albano by next Sunday so that he can accompany one of our companions who will be leaving on Monday, July 2nd. Assure him that his father will not take him away from his vocation and, therefore, he can come in all tranquility and will reside in our Mission House. Tell him also that his father has given me an office book of most holy Mary for his use and that I will give this to him upon his arrival. In a hurry, but with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. I repeat, see that he comes immediately etc.

From the House in Albano, June 28.⁹⁷

1644

June 29, 1827
Mgrs. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁹⁸

Venerable Monsignor

A priest here in Aalbano reminded me of you. He is a man who, within a short time, will be going out to give testimony for the good of the Church of Jesus Christ, so greatly loved by our most beloved Redeemer who acquired it through his Blood, and now, through his Blood, wants to remind all of the most glorious thoughts of our religion! A great Servant of God once said to me that the Lord before coming as judge, would call back to the memory of people the inestimable price of redemption, thus summoning all to repentance. The Divine Blood, indeed, is the offering to be presented to the Eternal, Divine Father, for it is written: *sacificans per Sanguinem Crucis ejus sive*

⁹⁷ The year is 1827. St. Gaspar was certainly in Albano in the years of 1827 and 1830. But only in 1827 did July 2nd occur on Monday, not in 1830. Also, cfr. the letter to the same person, dated July 25, 1827. Rosati was in Frosinone for the month of the most Precious Blood

⁹⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

*quae in caelis, sive quae in terris sunt.*⁹⁹ It is a just thing to render a cult of special compensation, especially in our times, to Jesus who continues to repeat: *quae utilitas in Sanguine meo?*¹⁰⁰

Finally, while the devil would like to have all people be the victims of justice, through this devotion, may I say, the gates of divine mercy are opened and the only means established for reconciliation is made available. *Justificati in Sanguine salvi erimus ab ira per ipsum.*¹⁰¹ Oh! if I had the time, I would like to set down my thoughts in a small composition which would be so very helpful to the interests of our religion. I have no difficulty in saying this. God supplies me with beautiful ideas, and that is that. However, the devil continues to assault both me and our Institute. But, it has also been written: *ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni.*¹⁰²

Our devotion is based in dogma; it is an essential devotion and one cannot help but recognize the values that it offers. If the Holy Father were to pronounce a judgment, *ex cathedra*,¹⁰³ he would have to agree with the principles expressed; not to mention, furthermore, what could be said about ... the priesthood ... the sacraments ... all of religion which beckons us to exclaim: *redemisti nos Domine in Sanguine tuo et fecisti nos Deo nostro regnum et sacerdotes.*¹⁰⁴

So, you will be receiving 50 of our Chaplets and two copies of the devotion of the month of June, so that this devotion will form the basis of your handling of your pastoral duties. Most pleasing for me was the receiving of the news concerning the Abbey of S. Salvatore. I am unaware of much church news which, even after having been made known to me, I see undergo changes, so I simply take care of whatever pertains to my work. I acknowledge the burden that has been placed upon your shoulders recently, but, *qui finem designat, media etiam proportionata, et ad finem conducentia praedisponit*¹⁰⁵ ... So have courage in God. *Confortamini in Domino et in potentia virtutis ejus... Praeliare praelia Domini.*¹⁰⁶

Therefore, I am presently most convinced that after you have received the Diaconate, you will soon be offering holy Mass and thus be giving greater help to your flock; then, what will be the comfort that your soul will experience upon the visit of Jesus? After offering Mass, you will always make decisions on the matters that are most involved; after offering Mass, you will give the choicest pieces of advice and you will demonstrate the most special magnanimity in looking after the works of the ministry. In the package of booklets, referred to above, I have taken the liberty of including 34 pages dealing with the good management of a church and sacristy: *dilexi decorem domus tuae.*¹⁰⁷ If I am not acting too boldly, I would like to suggest that you read the life of Tenderini (but the first printing of it). It will be pertinently useful for you in the discreet direction of souls. Please excuse me if I have been a bit forward, for I am indeed aware of the wisdom that God has endowed upon you. May all of this be taken *in communicatione spiritus.*¹⁰⁸

⁹⁹ They are sanctified through the blood of his cross both in heaven and on earth.

¹⁰⁰ What profit is there in my blood?

¹⁰¹ Justified in his blood, we shall be saved through it from wrath.

¹⁰² They conquered the dragon through the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁰³ From the chair, i.e., officially.

¹⁰⁴ You have redeemed us O Lord, in your blood and have made us for our God a kingdom and priests.

¹⁰⁵ Who designates the end, and predetermines the means, proportionate and leading to the end.

¹⁰⁶ Be strengthened in the Lord and in the power of his goodness. Fight the battles of the Lord.

¹⁰⁷ I have loved the beauty of your house.

¹⁰⁸ In communication of the spirit.

I point out that not even I know how this letter of mine developed in this way; I certainly did not premeditate it. God must have been pleased for me to speak of spiritual things. So, please do not cease praying for me so that I will correspond to the most exalted objectives of my vocation. Then, since I have already traveled the major part of my life, pray that I may know, with all my heart, how to prepare myself for the eternal years. *Homo brevi vivens tempore repletur multis.*¹⁰⁹ St. Jerome was accustomed to say: *Quotidie morior et quod scribo hoc de mea vita tollitur.*¹¹⁰

With regard to the Missions, which you mention in your most appreciated letter, all you have to do is to give orders. I note that, despite the varied inconveniences with which God holds me united to him on the Cross, he nevertheless supplies me with adequate strength to govern the Institute and, while giving a Mission, I enjoy even more energy. God is marvellous in his workings.

The requests for the ministry come from Romagna, the Marca, and Umbria, in addition to those of the Kingdom of Naples which are never lacking, just as it is so in the Province of Campagna. In Umbria, it is Monsignor Bonanni who awaits my services and it is already every bit of a year that we have been in contact. I shall decide only after the Mass on Sunday, the feastday of the humble yet opposed title of our Institute. That is something which simply proves that it is from God. If the Cross were missing, so too would be the inheritance left to us by Jesus Christ. Human nature may be resentful and would like to put it otherwise, but *obmutui et silui ... pati, et non loqui.*¹¹¹ Such is our present time.

Therefore, God-willing, I shall write to you again next Sunday, supplying the address for my letters and I will also send you the petitions that we have considered and which are to be presented *pro opportunitate.*¹¹² I can see and read everything that is in your heart. That says it all. I imagine that you would want your Missions either in November or during this upcoming Lent. God will give you his holy inspirations. Even if it were before then, I would leave a Mission that had been started just as Xavier would have done at the request of St. Ignatius. In my heart, you deserve to have preference in everything and over everyone. That is what duty, gratitude and my religious spirit demand. This is the language of the heart.

Finally, since we are in soul and body joined together even in temporal matters, I point out that *propter instantem necessitatem,*¹¹³ the career that I have assumed has made me a pauper in every temporal sense. I hope, in fact I am certain, that this may have opened up the opportunity for gaining merit for heaven. When I was in exile and had nothing else to worry about except myself, I refused to accept any offering (let this be between us). I have no desire to receive ecclesiastical benefices. I have no attachment to relatives, yet I cannot be forgetful of them. God so wills it, circumstances demand it and their living a holy life gives me, in this respect, a great deal of consolation.

But, tell me whether it is a justifiable thing or not for me to ask for adequate means to govern my career! Please realize that I am reasoning things out with you, not about you, to whom I owe so very, very much. The only benefice that I have is burdened with a rental payment of 50 *scudi*, the responsibilities of Masses etc. etc. The subsidy of 12 *scudi* that I received in compensation for the position that was surrendered by me in favor of the now-deceased Cardinal Fontana who wished to

¹⁰⁹ A man lives for a short time and is filled with many miseries.

¹¹⁰ Daily I die and what I write is taken about my life.

¹¹¹ I became dumb and I was silent ... I suffered and I did not speak.

¹¹² For the opportunity.

¹¹³ For an urgent necessity.

have me in the Secretariat for ecclesiastical affairs, is almost enough, believe me, just for postal expenses.

Our business affairs are becoming more numerous, the letter-correspondence is growing larger, and certain expenses required by the ministry are inevitable. If you were able to see into my heart how it suffers to keep begging you, you would come to see even more the reason that impels me to desire that I should not be overlooked by the Holy Father, even though he may be occupied with many other things. I am not asking for riches or anything of that sort, but simply enough to be able to pursue my career which, at the cost of any sacrifice even to go begging for alms, I wish not to abandon, if God, in his mercy, finds me worthy of continuing it. At least I would not have the discomfort of writing to you from time to time for handouts. Taking everything into consideration, both spiritually and temporally, the Mission Houses have always been, shall I say, revolving continually before my eyes.

The situation of scant means and yet many commitments causes me to realize that I must plan carefully to see that nothing is lacking that is essential. Hence, if I have one *paolo* available, let me put it this way, my first thought is for the Institute and then for myself. The Holy Father, when he was Cardinal Vicar, had also given offerings to me, and I, with proper manners, thanked him. I am hopeful that as Pope he will be mindful of me and thus provide me with a bit of, shall I say, comforting respite and restore me to a state of tranquility. I kiss your hands. With the desire that you will, as a favor, drop me a line or so, using prompt delivery, I remain and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*¹¹⁴

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, June 29, 1827

1645

July 6, 1827

Msgr. Giuseppe Lais

Bishop of Ferentino and Apostolic Administrator in Anagni

Ferentino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹¹⁵

Venerable Monsignor

Oh how I thank you for your recent most appreciated letter of the 4th of this month. I note in it the kindness and consideration that you show toward me and our Institute, and for this I give you my deeply felt gratitude. I understand what you say with regard to the priest you referred to. I cannot applaud you sufficiently for your very wise suggestion to retain him on probation *ad annum*.¹¹⁶ In order for a plant to produce fruit, it must have its roots firmly established. Your excellency, we are to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. But urging, first of all, is the *testimonium bonum*

¹¹⁴ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

¹¹⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹¹⁶ For a year.

*ab his qui foris sunt.*¹¹⁷ Jesus, himself, although he was in essence holiness itself, still by way of example *coepit facere et docere.*¹¹⁸

So, make your decision, with the help of the Lord, as to what is necessary for the spiritual welfare of the priest as well as for the expectations of our loving mother, the Church. I shall only be obedient. However, it will be necessary, after he comes to join us, that you supply some wherewithal *ad annum.*¹¹⁹ But, since he will be receiving offerings for Masses which are abundant in Benevento, the situation, as far as I can judge, will not be difficult to manage successfully. Then, I shall entrust him to the care of Canon Betti, the Superior in our House there. I shall likewise recommend him to Canon Gonnelli who is also in the family in Benevento, and I am looking forward to a happy outcome. The cost of travel will be the responsibility of the young man himself, but Merlini, the Superior in Frosinone, with a bit of maneuvering might be able to cover the expenses for that trip. I would appreciate very much getting your ultimate determination so that I will be able to provide opportune information to our own men. I shall do nothing more except to pray that *in omnibus*¹²⁰ the ever lovable will of the Lord will be fulfilled.

With regard to Milizia, it is quite true that, after he requested that I send him back to the Province since he had extreme urgency for that, I suggested that he go to Sermoneta, a place adapted for the basic training in the ministry. Then, not having learned anything further from the young man, I had reason to suppose that his ties to his relatives might have brought about a change of sentiments in him. But it is truly a consoling thing that I was able to notice, in your most appreciated letter, that this young man is persevering with good will to return. I, too, am worried about his uncle.

My Monsignor, do not cease taking care of your health and never forget to pray for me and for our Institute which is so very close to my heart. Through the experiences that I have had as well as those when I was in exile, I observe more and more how necessary it is to reactivate the clergy and its sanctification.

So, *in communicatione spiritus,*¹²¹ if I am not being too bold, I would like you to investigate a bit *utrum expediant* the theatrical performances in the Seminary, which (I recognize well) have been justified by so many observations and regulations which seek to remove from the situation any indication of being inappropriate. Yet, what am I to say? I have found that not a few priests (speaking generally) are eager for theatrical performances, for which reason, in one or the other Province of the Papal States, I had to do everything I could to bring things back to order. There was one who said to me: "Father, I developed my passion for them in the Seminary". I, (with the grace of God), gave him my answer on the topic and pointed out to him the impropriety! At any rate, the desire to have that practice removed has become so strong in me that, even though it is *per se* considered an upright thing in the Seminaries but not so proper because of the consequences, I have wanted to communicate to you these thoughts of mine which perhaps might be only a worthless disturbance of my own.

Please forgive me if I have dared to write to you about this. My purpose was only to communicate to you my ideas, while having the desire that other forms of relaxation be substituted

¹¹⁷ Good testimony from those on the outside.

¹¹⁸ He began to do and to teach.

¹¹⁹ For a year.

¹²⁰ In all things.

¹²¹ In the communication of the spirit.

for our young men! I know that the Jesuits have made use of them, but then what can I say? *Sapientioribus me remitto.*¹²² The Clergy must gently be removed from any obstacle that would stand in the way of their pursuit of perfection. I kiss your hands and, with the fullness of esteem and respect, venerable Monsignor, I remain

Your devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Apostolic

House in Albano, July 6, 1827

1646

July 6, 1827

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Father

The Missionaries, resident in the church of S. Paolo in Albano, request the erection¹²³ of the Way of the Cross in their private chapel, even though there is one erected in the church. They ask this for the convenience of retreatants who withdraw to this Mission House for a retreat, as well as for any individual person who would like to gain the holy indulgences. That etc.

In behalf of the petitioners signed below.

C. del Bufalo

1647

July 9, 1827

Mother Maria Nazzarena de Castris

Piperno

Most reverend Mother

Today I felt moved to write to you so as to renew our spiritual pacts in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ and also to recommend myself in a particular way to your prayers, since on the feastday of St. Ignatius Loyola, the 31st of this month, I was ordained a priest. You know very well what obligations I have to God and what urgent need there is for prayers. This is the reasoning that has stimulated me to write to you.

The death of Monsignor Manassi is still deeply felt by me. As for the present bishop,¹²⁴ I am not able to say to what degree he favors us. It does not affect me for I believe that God disposes

¹²² I submit to those who are wiser.

¹²³ On the fourth siding, there is the granting of the faculty: "*Ex audientia Sanctissimi Die 6 Julii 1827. Sanctissimus remisit preces arbitrio P. Ministri Generalis Ordinis Minorum de Observantia cum facultatibus necessariis et opportunis. C. Card. Guerrieri Gonzaga*". Then, too, the rescript of the above-mentioned Minister General dated: "*Datum Romae ex Aracoeli die 10 Julii 1827 Fr. Io. a Capistrano Minister Generalis*". Finally, the statement of the erection which was accomplished: "*die 4 Augusti 1827 Fr. Franciscus a S. Romulo Sacerdos de commissione*". [From an audience of his Holiness July 6, 1827, His Holiness sent back prayers at the discretion of Father Minister General of the Order Minors of the Observance with necessary and opportune faculties. C. Cardinal Guerrieri Gonzaga." ... "Given at Rome from Aracoeli July 10 1827, Fr.Io. Minister General at Capistrano" August 4 1827. Fr. Francis of S. Romulus, a priest from the Commission".]

¹²⁴ Monsignor Luigi Frezza.

things in order to test our virtue. At any rate, sufficient for me is to use the 24 hours of each day to promote the diving glory and to work for the salvation of my soul. You know how the works of God are born. The work of our Society, more than any other, is envied by the devil. Give my regards to all the community there. Recommend me to their prayers in common and, in Jesus Christ crucified, the only center of our consolation, consider me as

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*¹²⁵

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, July 9, 1827

1648

July 11, 1827

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo, always beloved in the Lord

When will we be seeing each other again? Prayers.

I inconvenience you with this letter of mine because of the 2000 Chaplets to be printed, asking you to see to the exactness of the job, economy of cost, and haste. It would be a lot better if the covering for the booklets were of a different color. And, should there be an increase in the expenses involved, we shall proceed as usual. I would like to have a reply in that case, so that I can regulate things according to my own economic status. So, please send me immediately the cost that will be involved. But, go ahead and place the order for the printing, nevertheless. The money will be forthcoming as soon as you inform me. I preached the month of the Divine Blood in Albano, and oh! what a consoling thing it was for my soul.

Pray a lot, a whole lot for me, venerable Camillo, and as I renew my esteem and respect again, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, July 11, 1827

1649

July 17, 1827

Msgr. Luigi Piervisani

Bishop of Nocera

Nocera Umbra

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹²⁶

Venerable Monsignor

¹²⁵ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

¹²⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Here I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter of the 12th of this month. I thank God for your safe trip. I am always desirous of seeing you restored to full health that I wish for you sincerely, truly invigorating, because of the needs of the Church in these miserable times of ours. "*Posuit episcopus regere Ecclesiam Dei quam aquisivit Sanguine suo*". Do not forget about the completion of your printing for the occasions. I would like to see them in use throughout the entire diocese since they are so firmly based in solid doctrine and reflecting principally the spirit of St. Charles. I, too, give thanks to the Lord for the sufficient health that I enjoy at the present time. Within a few days, I shall resume my work in the ministry. Accompany me with many prayers and do me the favor of continuing your letter-correspondence which I cherish very much. All you have to do is address them to Rome.

Now let us proceed to another part of your most esteemed letter, namely, that dealing with Father Pietro Pellegrini (all of this remaining, in the usual way, in secret communication between us). You will recall the time of our Missions in the Province of Campagna. You had him as a companion in Valmontone. Later, speaking about it, we came to the conclusion that, with a bit of maturing, he would have developed a career that would be quite useful for the glory of God in the ministry. But then! The particular circumstances of his family led him to think about embracing another career, and this is how it came about. He was in Terracina where, manifesting his thoughts (as best as I could learn) to Monsignor Manassi, it was learned that he would be going as a vicar in Sezze. I, (and I speak with complete candor) said to myself: "This does not seem to be a career etc."

At any rate, it was not within my power to advise him in any way, since I was quite aware of the facts. The only thing was that Monsignor Manassi sent me a letter in which he asked whether I was displeased with his departure from Mission work, as well as from our Houses. I gave him my answer that, despite the disappointment, I was not able to stand in the way of what remained completely within the power of Father Pietro.

After Monsignor Manassi died, he was left without the position of vicar and then went on to become a beneficed cleric, apparently in S. Pietro, or at least that is what I was given to understand. I do not know for sure whether he received a benefice, etc. I have always loved him just the same as I do the others, and God knows how much I would like to cooperate for his welfare. Whether he has any background in legal studies, or at least sufficient background for work in the ecclesiastical curia, I do not know. It is quite certain that he could have acquired a bit of practical experience in Sezze.

So, if you were to accept him, with the intention of forming him as you did with Canon Parigini, then that would influence greatly his future welfare, and, with you retaining him most dependently under your direction, I am very hopeful for him. But, as for proposing him to other bishops, I would not know what to say. From all of this, you notice that I am really not capable of giving you any further evaluation since I lack particular knowledge of things relating to Father Pietro which would allow one to make a better judgment. However, from the remarks here, you can still make some deductions. In general, I conclude that since he is desirous of a career as a vicar, it would be a very great act of charity if you were to take him to yourself.

As far as I am concerned, I can say sincerely that I would like to see him in service to his church of S. Pietro and that he would apply himself in Rome to the ministry. But then, I also have learned that the climate of Rome is not good for his health. Therefore, an ecclesiastical appointment outside of Rome, and these are surely not lacking, would be better for him, especially if it meant preaching and hearing confessions. I would feel a lot more at ease about this man since, in my opinion, he would be out of place in an ecclesiastical curia. He could be trained to take care of

Lenten preaching and, while being handled by a capable director, he could do a great deal of good work for souls.

I close this letter by recommending myself a lot, a whole lot to your prayers. You know the esteem and respectful affection which joins me to your sacred person. May Jesus be our love and let us continually see each other in his Divine Sacred Heart. I kiss your hands and, with complete obeisance, I am and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*¹²⁷

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, July 17, 1827

1650

July 17, 1827

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

Please do me the favor of providing me with the information as to what it would cost to have one thousand copies of the enclosed handbill. In a big hurry, but I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, July 17, 1827

¹²⁷ Being his lowest servant in Christ.