

## St. Gaspar's Letters

1801 - 1850

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1801

September 3, 1828  
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei  
 Archbishop of Camerino  
 Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>1</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

I give thanks to God that you will continue to be in Camerino where God is fashioning for you a very beautiful crown. I recommend to you the enclosed in behalf of the Suprema woman. While conducting the Mission in S. Leo, I was asked to do this and I am reliant on your charity. If I may be so bold, I would like to know the approximate time when you will be returning to your diocese so that, among all of the many appointments I have for the ministry, I might be able to regulate my schedule properly and also be able to visit with you again. With your return, I am certain that you will bring to conclusion the matters pertaining to Pievetorina for they are completely dependent upon your wisdom, advice and decision. Thus, at least by the upcoming November, the moral cases can be set up in keeping with what you are already aware of.

The petition to the *Buon Governo* in favor of the aforementioned Mission House, I hope will have a favorable outcome. With regard to the cleric Pontoni, the most reverend Treasurer has all of the information. The only thing that I would like to have now is a document from you, most reverend excellency, to facilitate the procedure. I have limited myself to ask that, along with the small fund of 100 *scudi* that he has, he will be allowed, for the remainder, to live in our Mission Houses. If, one day, he should decide to leave (something that probably will not occur), he would first seek out another patrimony, *ad instar*<sup>2</sup> the Regulars. Finally, pray a great deal for me; let us see each other often and continuously in the Divine Sacred Heart. While kissing your hands, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Miss. Ap.

Rimini, September 3, 1828

1802

September 6, 1828  
 Luigi Fuschi  
 Norma

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

Thank you for your recent letter. The additional one hundred Masses that you sent me are already being fulfilled. As soon as that is completed, I shall send you the regular document. If you should have others available, you would be doing me a very great favor to reserve them for me, without however prejudice to anyone else.

I do not recall what small composition that I may have mentioned to you. Please remind me

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<sup>1</sup> Christ loved us and washed in his blood.

<sup>2</sup> After the fashion of.

of that and you will be getting it promptly.

Oh how consoled in God you must be because of the work of the holy oratory! How many reasons that provides for blessings upon you! You can be certain that I never fail to pray for you and for everything that pertains to you, and I can also assure you that the very memory of you is most dear to me. You can imagine how anxious I am to see you again. In the meantime, however, let us see each other often in the Divine Sacred Heart. Therein, let us stimulate each other to love Jesus, the only center for our consolation. Here below everything is misery; only the love of God brings us happiness. The wood that maintains that fire ablaze is the holy Cross where, with all my affection and esteem, I leave you as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, September 6, 1828

P. S. Make every effort to stimulate the practice of the holy Oratory in the surrounding communities, as well as devotion to the Divine Blood.

1803

September 6, 1828

Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Giovanni Francesco

Due to my occupation with the Missions, I am late in sending a reply to your most appreciated letter. I understand the decision that you have made with regard to your eldest son whom I shall not fail to visit often, may it so be pleasing to God, whenever I get to Rome. Presently, I am unable to disentangle myself from the places in Romagna, otherwise you can well imagine what a consolation it would be to my soul to have enjoyed your excellent companionship. I have a new Missionary whom I am sending to our hospice in Rome and thereafter to our House in Albano, and perhaps he will have along with him one of our boarding students. If the trip can be arranged, it will be necessary to set up the appointment in Pievetorina. In that way, the expenses can be shared. However, no women are to go along, not even riding with the driver.

Even though I note that the month is moving on, I point out that no precise decision can be made, unless you will have the time to write to me again and then await my prompt reply. Nevertheless, you are to continue to do what you can in those duties that are most urgent. I assure you, indeed, that I, miserable one, do not fail to pray and have others pray for you. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, September 6, 1828

P. S. I recommend, for the upcoming year, the solemn observance of the month of the Divine Blood. Write and let me know in whatever way I can be of assistance to you in Rome.

1804

September 8, 1828

Allessandro Gambetti  
Mercatino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Alessandro

I ask you to take care of the enclosed. Thank you for the many, many favors that you have shown toward my companions, *et Dominus retribuet pro me.*<sup>3</sup> If you should need any books for the pious organizations, please let me know. Give my greetings to the archpriest. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, September 8, 1828

1805

September 12, 1828

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>4</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

I have never been so busy in the ministry as I am at the present time and I foresee that it will be so, perhaps, until the upcoming spring, if God preserves my life. We shall not be able to see each other. However, we can always see each other in the sacred retreat of the adorable Heart of Jesus.

I decided to send you the enclosed matter from an excellent religious, hoping that it might bring you some consolation.

There are three things that I would like to have through your kindness. The first is that you please see that my faculties from the Holy Father for the entire year of 1829 are confirmed. The second is that you do not overlook the matter of the pension from the Datary, since I can no longer handle all my postal expenses. The third is that, since this house was neither a reimbursement from the duties, as once was the case, nor any hope of receiving at least a partial endowment, it might receive some sort of subsidy *pro interim.*<sup>5</sup> However, if you should see that not even this petition would be proper, do whatever you judge best in the Lord. I do not wish to add to your spirit any further worries. Let us adore the Cross and let us by degrees place upon it our own sacrifices. A Society, whether considered in itself or in relationship to the times, or in the fruits that it produces, though it is not loved ... from whom does it come? ... it is because of this that I am reminded of the vexation that S. Giuseppe Calasanzio experienced in Rome, as well as S. Filippo for his institute etc. etc. *Pator, sed non confundar! ... Satis de hoc.*<sup>6</sup>

The only thing I wish to say is that I always pray that the Lord will double, so to speak, your spirit of magnanimity in defending and sustaining God's cause, the cause that God has entrusted to

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<sup>3</sup> The Lord will repay on my behalf.

<sup>4</sup> Christ loved us and washed in his blood.

<sup>5</sup> For the time being

<sup>6</sup> I am suffering but I am not overcome. ... Enough of this.

you. Meditate often on these words: "*ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*".<sup>7</sup> God has reserved for himself the time for the end of the world. But, before being its judge, he reproduces in our minds the remembrance of the price by which we were redeemed as well as the abuse offered it by the impious. He points out to us the religious cult to be offered in retribution, and to sinners themselves he thereby opens the gates of his mercy. *Justificati in Sanguine salvi erimus ab ira per ipsum*.<sup>8</sup>

Finally, I have forwarded the documents of substitution for Brandimarte and Romani so that an order in their behalf can be obtained, starting from the first semester throughout this current September. I ask also that you keep this in mind so that they can be provided with the pertinent instructions. I have enclosed everything to a certain Mazzolini who wrote to me for the rescript etc. If there should be something more left over for Lenten series in the Abbacy of Farfa, it would be up to you to dispose of it in favor of poor churches, or something similar, etc., etc., etc. I am

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, September 12<sup>9</sup>

1806

September 15, 1828

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>10</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter, after getting back from the Retreat given to the clergy of a nearby vicariate. I understand all that you tell me relative to the most reverend Treasurer, and I do not have any doubt at all about your total kindness in giving assistance to the good work being done by a most beloved Institute that is bringing the highest glory to the Lord. As far as I can recall, with your executing the rescript, the Ceccarelli affair should remove the debts that were contracted with the original establishment. Later on, a Mission is contemplated which, when the rescript is fulfilled, should be arranged before the end of the year 1828. I would not like to see postponed this good work which will afford the House in Pievetorina a firmer basis and support. In your own wisdom and good judgment, you make the decision.

The most reverend Treasurer agrees with me on the idea that one is quite right in asking that Pontoni should, speaking in general, be ordained with the fund of 100 *scudi* that he possesses, confirmed by the accurate testimony of his pastor. Likewise, that he should continue living in our Mission Houses from which, if he wanted to depart (something that will probably not occur), he would first make plans, *ad instar*<sup>11</sup> the Regulars, to seek out some other title. Another solution might

<sup>7</sup> They conquered the dragon through the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>8</sup> Justified by his blood, we shall be saved through it from wrath.

<sup>9</sup> The year is 1828.

<sup>10</sup> Christ loved us and washed in his blood.

<sup>11</sup> After the fashion of.

be to assign to him an open chaplaincy which does not bear the burden of residency, at least, *donec provideatur*,<sup>12</sup> wherever it might exist, and see that the duties are fulfilled *per alium*.<sup>13</sup> Perhaps the hospital might have one. In your zeal and efficacious efforts, try to help this young man who deserves consolation. You will also be doing a big favor for our Institute which recognizes in you one of its most outstanding and benevolent promoters. Indeed, who knows if its good work will not be extended later one to other places in your dioceses. Whatever beneficial work you can do for us will always be regarded as an act of charity.

As soon as I learn the time of your return, I shall provide you with a detailed prospectus of our Institute which you can also share with Monsignor Mario, to whom you can extend my very good wishes, in whatever needs may exist in his area.

One more thing. When you see their eminences Falzacappa and Franzoni, I ask you please to express to them my sincerest respects.

Finally, at this time, I would like to know whether the Retreat to be given in your seminary is to be conducted in the same way as the one for this past year. According to our rule, our men will be engaged in the Novena in honor of St. Xavier. Within a short time, I shall be adding another Missionary in Pievevitorina. In addition to our young students, I am acquiring other workers in Romagna where, I simply cannot find the words to describe this, our Society is so very warmly accepted and there are so many requests from the bishops who are eager to help it, to spread it and to support it.

I kiss your hands. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem, gratitude and a very special affection, as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, September 15, 1828

P. S. Once again I am contacting Milani for the *ultimatum*. Though full of respect for the most worthy Milani, I will be relying, when you return, on your active cooperation so that in November the courses will begin etc., etc.

1807

September 15, 1828  
Alessandro Gambetti  
Mercatino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Alessandro

Thank you for your recent letter. Perhaps I did not express myself well in my preceding Letter. In it I said that if it were necessary for the archpriest to have further clarification concerning the arrangements of the recent Missions or whether he needed some books or printed matter for the success of the Missions, all he has to do is to drop me a line or so, so as not to render this good work ineffective. Above all, I wish to recommend the devotion to the Divine Blood. In Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

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<sup>12</sup> Until it is forseen.

<sup>13</sup> Through another.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*  
 Miss. Ap.  
 House in Rimini, September 15, 1828

1808

September 16, 1828  
 Baldassarre Rogaj  
 Mayor of Vaccarella

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed sir

Here I am sending a reply to your letter. As far as I know up to now, the money sent by you for the painting has not been received, unless it has been sent as this mail delivery is being made. At any rate, you should look into this.

I would be pleased to receive the regular documents, signed and verified by the Vicar General, in case there should be some miraculous occurrence through our Saint. In the meantime, you can imagine how delighted I was to receive the report that you sent concerning everything that has taken place there.

With regard to the other relic of which you spoke, at the present time, people are on vacation. With this upcoming November, if it please God, remind me about this and I will see what can be done. As for the reliquaries, first gather the offerings and then write to me, indicating what type you would want.

I shall make every effort to get the remains of a holy bishop, but first I will try to find out the expense involved.

Pray and have others pray for me who remains, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini for forwarding at the present time, September 16, 1828

P. S. At this very moment, I have received a letter from Rome confirming the fact that the money has not been received as yet, etc.

1809

September 16, 1828  
 Fr. Innocenzo Betti  
 Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

How consoled I am to receive the news of the release of the place there! Let us give due thanks to God. God will provide us with a benefactor who will fix up the place. He is a good Father! It would be a very good idea to have a copy of the letters in question so that they can be filed in the archives. I shall not fail to thank the Most Rev. Treasurer for his solicitude. Likewise, I shall take care of the letters of gratitude, which you want me to send there, as soon as you supply me with a

model letter, since you are *in faciem loci*<sup>14</sup> and know etc., etc.. So, obey me blindly and supply me immediately with those sample letters and I shall make up the packets. Hurry, therefore.

In this matter, say a prayer in particular for me and my intention, and also have one said by another soul who is accepted by God. I am always more in need of prayer the more God, amid thorns and crosses, defends and governs his Society.

I have understood the matter of the promissory note. The Bishop of Nocera's parcel will be going out. For the time being, I am having the painting that belonged to the deceased Carboneri placed in Albano. But tell me, and let me know whether there are other things more urgent that will not permit delay, concerning the parcels that have been sent. Send the watch and anything else to my house in Rome, as soon as possible, and also send notice to me that you have done so.

Once I have everything together, I must set up eventually an annuity, as I have mentioned to you before. It goes without saying, try to have the greatest possible haste, but at the same time certainty, etc.

I need to have the entire file of the deceased's papers, properly certified, for my return to Rome. I do not want any other reminders to remain in those archives there except the one pertaining to his death and the document of consignment of everything to me: and that is enough. Also included therein, send me the documents concerning the Masses assigned by me. The whole matter will then be filed in the General Archives, and a memorandum of it left in the archives there: and that is enough. Let us understand each other in this matter.

I would say that *hoc anno* I shall appoint Canon Aloysi for the Visitation to be made there, according to the Rule. Are you happy about this?

I think that it is an inspiration of God that you wrote to Lady Luiggia di Borbone. Furthermore, I would like to have knowledge of the Society spread throughout the world.

You will give the Retreat there called for in the Rule.

Think about a House of Studies, at least for seniors. Pray. Oh how the Church has need of this. Arrange the place in keeping with the ideas of the Institute, bearing in mind also Retreats for lay people in the inside area, etc.

Consider me in J.C. Crucified, with all my affection

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rimini, September 16, 1828

P. S. Remember Cencio, for I do not know whether he will recover this time, etc. He has fallen into an indescribable depression.

I have acquired two new Missionaries.

Have Silvestri get ready for the Lenten series, etc.

P.S. Perhaps a charitable mason worker could make the repairs on his own terms, setting up a salary, etc.

1810

September 21, 1828

Fr. Innocenzo Saverio Betti

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<sup>14</sup> After the fashion of the place.

Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

My very dear Canon

This is one of the greatest consolations that anyone could ever have received ... the release of our place there. Now that we have it *in actu*,<sup>15</sup> I am happy. Praise be to God for it. I would like you to have a triduum of thanksgiving in honor of Xavier, if you agree, offering it at least in general for the grace received etc.

You are correct in telling me that I should spend more time at my desk; but you would have done better to have told me: "you don't spend enough time praying". But what can I say for myself? ... God has wanted me out in the field to propagate the great devotion to the Divine Blood. Within a few days I shall leave for the Missions again. However, you are to keep writing to me at Rimini. How many things I would like to tell you, but time is lacking. Little by little we shall get them said. In the meantime, I shall apply myself to what is most urgent.

I give thanks to the Lord that the Church there is being beautified ... *dilexi decorum domus tuae, etc.*<sup>16</sup> As for the House ...; a sack around the neck ... take up a collection ...; this is a formal suggestion. Go around knocking on doors - that is how God wants us to set up the foundations -, and say: " ... here is Canon Betti with his little money pot". Write immediately both to Pacca and Pedicini and ask them for help ...; also to the Treasurer . . (but *ut ex se*<sup>17</sup>) and ask him: "Are you not going to donate anything?" etc. On my part, I am offering you six *Sc.*, and they are at your disposal already in Rome. Giggia will send them to you as soon as you tell her where she is to forward them. It is little; but, since I am burdened beyond belief (please believe me), I simply cannot do more.

I am awaiting from you the sample letters. Then, I will take care of them immediately. But hurry with them. See that you conclude the transferral of the possessions of Carboneri together with all the papers etc. In those archives there, only the notification of his sickness, death etc. should remain.

Would you like to have another Missionary in residence there?

I thank God that you have prepared Aloysi (giving him the regulations) for being an Extraordinary Confessor. Do not refuse the Monasteries on the outside, and from time to time you should go yourself, leaving Silvestri as vice-economist, etc. The poor Communities are in need of it. Promote the community life, etc.

You say to me that you are a forgotten soul. ... This is not so. I always have you ever before my mind. I appreciate your advice and am most grateful; you can offer me as much as you like, for I will thank you for it.

Write a letter to Fontana and rejoice in his preaching. You can be sure that he received the grace through Mary. At the present time, he is on the Missions. I overburden him, but he seems to me to be getting heavier. You must surely know that Fr. Biagio has been appointed President of the House.

I have learned of the package in Rome, which has arrived on time, etc., etc. Have Silvestri prepared for Vallecorsa and the Lenten series there. I understand about Rosati whom I sent there to be formed by you for the work of the Society. I also have learned about the citations from Sig.

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<sup>15</sup> In act.

<sup>16</sup> I have loved the beauty of your house, etc.

<sup>17</sup> As from itself.

Galasso. I recognize the urgency for putting pressure on him, and I hope that with your dexterity, you will bring the matter to a peaceful settlement.

Have you as yet made even a small extract of that Life concerning which I wrote you?

With regard to the soul in question, this is what God inspires me to say. Have you ever seen a man who gives up application to serious matters and then loses himself in childish occupations? Well, that is how the devil operates: he tries to take us away from important things in order to occupy us with trivialities that he puts there in their place. With cleverness, he exaggerates them so much so that the soul gets all excited, just like certain plants which are robust and have a firm rooting, cause you to hear a rumbling noise whenever the branches are shaken by the wind. So what if the soul should hear the whistling of the north wind, *quid mirum?*<sup>18</sup> Let us cover up our ears with the cloak of obedience and let us sail directly for the harbor. The soul, too, has its seasons; and in the passing from one to the other, there are bound to be disturbances.

Let Jesus be our love, may his grace ever abound in our hearts. Pray for me, who am truly needful of prayers, so that as I approach the eternal years, I may know how to preach to myself. *Hoc est enim omnis homo.*<sup>19</sup> Consider me as, etc.

Affectionately yours in J.C.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House at Rimini, September 21, 1828

I have answered your letter as soon as I finished reading it, etc.

One more thing. Msgr. Mattei, Archbishop of Camerino, would like to have a prospectus of the Institute; I find him now even more well-disposed toward it. So, I am enjoining upon you the task of making this summary and sending the packet to the Treasurer, so that he can deliver it to Msgr. Mattei, who is in Rome at the present time; and, if he has left, be sure to tell him to forward it. Please do me this favor.

Arrange the new chapel in such a way that there will be no one sleeping above it, etc.

Be sure that the one who has the room and board provided for by the Pope sends a proper recognition of gratitude, etc. Tell me, have you made arrangements with them in regard to temporalities as you did with the others, etc.?

1811

September 22, 1828

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>20</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I assure you that I have not failed to write to the Archbishop of Camerino in behalf of the cleric Pontoni. I mentioned only this one person to you, since he is the older one, not involving others, and thus for you to be aware of the steps taken by the former. Indeed, it is only right that, in order to relieve you of so much inconvenience, I would like to

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<sup>18</sup> What wonder.

<sup>19</sup> For this is every man.

<sup>20</sup> Christ loved us and washed in his blood.

have a general rescript drawn up in favor of the Institute, that is, assigning it as his title. If, in time, he would choose to leave it (something that will probably not occur) he would do as the Regulars do, namely, first make other provisions. The Holy Father could, for the sake of his peace of mind, lay down this condition and everyone would be perfectly happy to accept it. In my opinion, this is the correct procedure and one that fulfills all the canonical requisites and also will increase the number of workers in the Lord's Church.

You suggested to me that every bishop should write in about this. I have been obedient and have followed your directions which even though, on the one hand, they are plausible and generally speaking very, very wise, on the other hand, they require, *in facto esse*,<sup>21</sup> more details in handling and a longer period of time. If you will stop to consider what God is inspiring me to say to you, you will perhaps come to a decision of what is more expedient for us. That decision might well have already been made with regard to Senesi who is *in eadem nave*<sup>22</sup> and for whom I am equally concerned, as God knows.

The most reverend Archbishop Mastai can testify that for quite some time now we have been in correspondence on this subject, but, up to now have come to no conclusion. I even remarked to the archbishop that he should occupy the young man in some other field outside of the Institute in order to afford him a patrimonial title, thereby noting that the young man would be at ease and he himself would be content in seeing him become a productive person in accordance with the expectations of the Church. What else could I, in my nothingness, do than just pray?

Finally, it is sufficient for me not to have any remorse concerning the omission of those means that could be employed, means which I do not overlook, and then to carry out the idea offered to me by a holy man of contemplative life who said: pray, suffer and be silent. God will take care of it.

So, once again I sent another letter to Monsignor Mastai and I have urged him to prepare a paper for the Holy Father in favor of Senesi. I shall await the results. If I were to have it get to you, you could see that it reached the desk of the Holy Father. My obligations to your most reverend excellency are infinite, and, while asking you for many and incessant prayers, I have the honor, most venerable Monsignor, of renewing myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, September 22, 1828

P.S. Have the Holy Father realize that, nowadays, with our provisions being quite scant,<sup>23</sup> the only thing we can do is keep up with the system adopted which is one that is influential in the formation and sanctification of the clergy. Still, it is God who disposes things in our day in his own inscrutable ways, so that no hearing is given to certain equitable and reasonable suggestions. At least, that is how things have gone. Let us pray *ut in lumine suo videamus lumen*.<sup>24</sup> I, myself, in the recent meeting spoke of this idea with the Holy Father and he agreed with me. Then, some other person went in and he sought to change his mind. I do not know why etc.

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<sup>21</sup> To be in fact.

<sup>22</sup> On the same ship.

<sup>23</sup> This word is underlined three times.

<sup>24</sup> In order that in his light we may see light.

1812

September 25, 1828  
Mr. Camillo Possenti

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Camillo

Oh how pleased I was to see your handwriting again and to get news of your health which I note has been improving. Praise be to the Lord, *a quo omne bonum*.<sup>25</sup> Have no doubts that your holy desires will have the results spoken of by the Prophet: "*Qui replet in bonis desiderium tuum*". "*Desiderium pauperum exaudivit Dominus*".<sup>26</sup> God, indeed, inspires desires for so many things, but not their execution, just as for S. Filippo, who wanted so much to go to the Indies, but his Indies turned out to be Rome.

Of course I am overjoyed with your new public activities for which, it is true, you encounter many thorns, but nevertheless you are promoting even more so the greater glory of God. Proportionate means to attain that end are provided by God, as well as for the occupations that he entrusts to you. Let us, therefore, be trusting in his mercy.

At your earliest convenience, please send to me here two reams of stationery. Furthermore, I would like you to have as many copies of the enclosed leaflet as can be made for around thirty paoli. Half of them, however, I would like to have in an open form, the other half to be enclosed in booklet form.

Please send me the bill so that I can see that the money will then be remitted to you from Rome. I would like to have the printed matter sent to me here in Rimini at the soonest possible moment. When are we going to establish a Mission House in Fabriano? Oh how I would like to see that happen because of the love that I have for that city. Pray a lot for me and, in Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, September 25, 1828

P. S. Tell me ... is it true that the bishop of Nocera is leaving his bishopric?

In the reminders, etc., etc. have them state "reprinted by the Missionaries of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ".

1813

September 26, 1828  
Baldassarre Rogaj  
Mayor of Vaccareccia

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Baldassarre

I am sorry to inconvenience you with this letter of mine, advising you to please return to Rome the case in which the painting of St. Xavier arrived there. If Canon Savj in Poggio Mirteto has

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<sup>25</sup> From whom is every good thing.

<sup>26</sup> Who fills up your desire with good things. ... The Lord hears the desire of the poor.

it, then please inform him to do so, for it is absolutely needed. I have written to him about other matters. Pray for me, who, with esteem, remains as

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rimini, September 26, 1828

1814

September 26, 1828

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dear Father Giovannelli

I have been invited to do some good in Romagna. I see the effect of your prayers, for the glory of God is triumphant inasmuch as his help is so great in the apostolic ministry.

Here in Rimini we have inaugurated a House of Missions and Retreats. We have also established a Boarding School for our young students of Theology who are preparing themselves for the future of the Church. I hope that the community will be able to afford some assistance also to the Missions of the Propaganda. Support all of this with many prayers and, in as far as possible, bolster our Society which I would love so very, very much to set up in Ascoli for every sort of good, Retreats for the Ordinands, etc., etc. At the same time I am consoled by all the good work that your Congregation is doing there. I pray that God will always continue to strengthen it. God has presently called you to be its Superior, and this office will fortify even more so the Pious Works of our recent Missions. I simply cannot tell you how deeply I love that city. I recommend it to God: that is the best thing that I can do for it.

Even more consoling is the news of the Adoration and Perpetual Cult of the Divine Blood. Oh, how many blessings upon you! Try to extend this benefit also to other cities or Dioceses. By doing so, we can hope for a speedier liberation from our present chastisements.

I, a miserable one, shall not fail to pray for the person you mentioned in your letter; but; *ego sum vir videns paupertatem meam*.<sup>27</sup> This thought comes to me: in order to dissuade the men from going to the theaters, would it not be possible to use the tactics of S. Philip in his Oratories as well as other means that have not as yet been tried there. May God give you his holy inspirations.

I will also pray for the Bishop to be selected for Teramo. I hope that he will re-open the Oratory and renew its good work.

Give my regards to Msgr. Cappelletti and anyone else you think of. I kiss your hand and I am  
*Suo infimo in Xto servo*<sup>28</sup>

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

P. S. When you have a chance, give my best wishes to the Bishop of Penne, to whom you must recommend our Pious Works, etc.

Rimini, September 26, 1828

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<sup>27</sup> I am a man seeing my poverty.

<sup>28</sup> To his lowest servant in Christ.

1815

Sept 29, 1828  
Fr. Ferdinando Angelici  
Matelica

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Ferdinando

God knows how much I have wanted to have you in our Society from the time when I first had the good fortune to meet you. However, circumstances have called you into another direction and, not being able to dedicate yourself to our Institute, surely you will be able to do even a more extensive good work in Matelica and, indeed, for the pious organizations set, up by our Missions, taking charge of them along with the excellent Canon Tarulli, to whom you will give my distinct regards. Later, God will fulfill that *replet in bonis desiderium tuum etc.*<sup>29</sup>

In the meantime, promote widely in Matelica the devotion to Xavier, and your parochial ministrations will be richly blessed by the Lord through the intercession of our saint. Therefore, why do you not work it out with some printer, for example the one in Fabriano, to bring out as a devotional book the one that you have prepared to the glory of the Divine Blood, a devotion that must always afford the greatest delight to your heart? Once you are installed as the pastor in Matelica, I will be able to certify you by document as an aggregator and thus, with the public recitation of the chaplet, that citation will be realized that "*ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*".<sup>30</sup> Let us remain in the sweetest hearts of Jesus and Mary, and, with all my love and esteem, together with greetings to all who remember me, I shall always remain as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, September 29, 1828

1816

September 30, 1828  
Alessandro Gambetti  
Mercatino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Alessandro

Monsignor Begni has been kind enough to allow collections in each of his dioceses. With the desire, however, of quickly setting aside that inconvenience, I am hopeful that God will provide funds for the Institute which we have sought to activate for his glory. I am counting upon your charity to provide hospitality for our Brother. With esteem and respect, I have the honor of renewing myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

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<sup>29</sup> Your desire is fulfilled in good things, etc.

<sup>30</sup> They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

Mis. Ap.  
House in Rimini, September 30, 1828

1817

September - October, 1828  
Fr. Innocenzo Saverio Betti  
Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

Here I am sending you a reply to another of your always most appreciated letters.

With pleasure do I learn of the repairs being made to the place. God is wonderful! In the meantime, the new section of the Convent will give you the opportunity to distribute the furnishings of the Institute *meliori modo, etc.*<sup>31</sup> I am particularly consoled with the details concerning the chapel, which I would never consider making smaller. In time, you will acquire other locales and the good work will be accomplished in the best way possible: the Mission House, - Retreats, - and the House of Studies. ...

It will be difficult for me to come again to Benevento. When a plant has reached maturity and has been well cultivated, it has only to produce fruit. It does not require as much as is necessary for tender shoots. If, however, you have some sort of prophecy to make, be sure to let me know. If it pleases God for me to come there, I am prepared. Meanwhile, Romagna is keeping me so busy that I can hardly keep my head above water.

Welcome warmly the Visitor sent there by me because of his age. We will await the time that you designate. You are perfectly correct on the point: each one has his own little niche, and the Visitation *ad maiores natu*<sup>32</sup> in the Institute, etc. I repeat, delay making any decision now.<sup>33</sup>

When shall I return to Rome? For the time being, I am not able. God wants me here in Romagna.

I understand everything about the Pellegrini legacy. That is why *sapientiam antiquorum exquiret sapiens... Cani sunt sensus hominis in quibus subest scientia Dei.*<sup>34</sup>

The teacher of the little uneducated ones<sup>35</sup> has drawn up, or I should say, has already sent the very best letters. Already in the mails is the one to the Delegate and the one to the gonfalonier. Say, isn't Sig. Salvatore Mosti the gonfalonier any longer? I discovered this from the new title mentioned to me by the Marquis Pacca.

Prepare yourself to give the Retreat there called for by the Rule. Pray and have others pray for me.

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<sup>31</sup> In a better way.

<sup>32</sup> To the elders.

<sup>33</sup> Here the Saint had added the words "to Can. Aloysi", but then he crossed them out; or, they were crossed out by others (perhaps even Betti himself?): particularly since the ink is different. From the "*Libro dei Congr. Benevento*", one notices that in 1828 the annual Visitation called for by the Rule did not take place in the House. The Saint had considered naming Fr. Pasquale Aloysi as the Visitor (cfr. Lett. 216, Sept. 16, 1828); but from Betti's observations, he did not entrust this charge to him.

<sup>34</sup> The wise man will seek out the wisdom of the ancients. ... grey are the senses of man in which exists the knowledge of God.

<sup>35</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Brothers of Christian Schools.

I have received another one of your letters which I will answer immediately. How truly insignificant is my offering of six *Sc.*! But... if you send me a reasonable number of Masses, *a commodo et ubique*,<sup>36</sup> I will celebrate them to help with the construction work. I repeat, however, that God is wonderful in his works. Let us trust in his love. I hope that you have received in the mails the above-mentioned six *Sc.*

I spoke of the sack around the neck *per modum dicendi*.<sup>37</sup> Your ideas are worthy of a Cedar!<sup>38</sup> Except for C. Betti, I consider the Companions somewhat unprepared for the Monasteries: especially Aloysi, even given all the regulations, *vivae vocis oraculo*,<sup>39</sup> for any appointment as Extraordinary Confessor.

So, let us pray that *cito videamus splendorem domus Dei*.<sup>40</sup>

I am delaying in sending the fifth Missionary

Despite the fact that I keep him moving on the Missions, I find C. Fontana quite plump. He has discarded his "*te capacita*", etc.<sup>41</sup>

We come now to someone we know.

*Si oculus tuus simplex fuerit, totum corpus lucidem erit. Oculus (nempe mens) simplex est, ex eo quod nihil de saecularibus cogitamus; ergo totum corpus (id est sensus externi) lucidum est...* His adde: *pepigi foedus, (in directio mentis circa exteriora) cum oculis meis, ut ne cogitarem etc.* His adde:<sup>42</sup> the casting of one's glances is, let us say, somewhat material, and is something that is more mechanical than voluntary. A glance that is purposeful is something else, etc. Here is my conclusion: let that person be most secure and most certain that there is nothing in all this to worry about. It is a torment, a suffering that is testing him, and nothing more. If he does not disdain it, he will become entangled. Therefore, let him not fret, and let him not make it a matter for self-accusation. Above all, let him not even confess it. Have confidence in spiritual direction: thus the devil will be conquered. Blind obedience, removing all subtleties, and victory is attained. I make myself clear. There is nothing but merit in battling back and in suffering.

To me it seems that this soul in question is like a choice plant, which, as it rises upwards, a farmer places himself in its branches that are quite firm and seeks to amuse himself while there. Let us make the application: the devil places himself among the branches, and makes an effort to bend them. But (in the spiritual application) he does not succeed in breaking them. That the branch should bend, that is, that the soul should receive a jolt from the enemy, *quid ex hoc?*<sup>43</sup> He suffers but does not become agitated; suffering arises from his not wanting those very branches to be torn away.

But someone might say: I myself am the cause of it all, etc... I answer, it is a contradiction to assert: I am the cause... and at the same time to say: I do not want to offend God. It is rather an

<sup>36</sup> At your convenience and anywhere.

<sup>37</sup> In a manner of speaking.

<sup>38</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Betti [Cedar of Lebanon]

<sup>39</sup> The prophecy of the living voice.

<sup>40</sup> Quickly let us see the splendor of God's house.

<sup>41</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Fontana [Obesity].

<sup>42</sup> If your eye is sound, the whole body will be filled with light. The eye (namely the mind) is sound, from the fact that we think nothing about worldly things; therefore the whole body (that is, the external senses) is full of light. ... To this is add: I have made a covenant (in the direction of the mind concerning external matters) with my eyes that I would not think, etc.. To this add: the casting ...

<sup>43</sup> What of this?

apprehension or fear of evil, but one that does not really exist. The will has nothing to do with this apprehension... Do you understand me? The imagination *est abstracta et illecta*,<sup>44</sup> it argues and reasons, but not as a human act, but rather as an *actus hominis*.<sup>45</sup> I wonder if I am making myself clear and if you understand what I mean... Meditate on this text: *incurvaverunt animam meam..., laqueum paraverum*<sup>46</sup> ... Indeed! If the soul crushes itself, it opens itself up to anxiety, and verifies the words that say: *trepidaverunt timore ubi non erat timor... Omnia munda mundis, etc.*<sup>47</sup>

Furthermore, it might be a good thing for that particular soul to pray for another director. The one he has is a weak reed, is blind, lame, deaf ... a sick physician cannot heal: he sends a substitute. I suggest to him the Servant of God, Valentini, or Merlini, who is also expert *in asceterio virtutum*.<sup>48</sup>

You tell me to write to you; but, first of all, what shall I write? second: where will I get the time and ability? still further: my arm is growing weaker, and is not up to all the urgent needs. The only remedy would be to retire to Giano, to set aside the direction of the Society and everything else; and then, while praying, try to find out what God's will is for me. Meanwhile, *desiderium pauperum exaudiet Dominus*.<sup>49</sup> Albertini is the one who wanted me to direct the Institute.

With regard to the Life, I mentioned a summary of those things that stand out as worthy of imitation in the life of Xavier, but arranged alphabetically according to the virtues.

Write the History when God gives you the inspiration to do so, and write to whomever you wish for the materials.

*Gratias tibi ago*<sup>50</sup> for the sketch you sent to Msgr. Mattei; I am sure that you modified it, for I know that you want to do your duty properly.

In reference to the resident student, you said "that the Pope was supporting him". Through the same agency (through which you got this information) I would let it be known that he is satisfied and grateful. Is that clear? In regard to his fee for room and board, since he has received a rather generous allowance, will he give the whole amount to the Society? I do not think so, no sir.

To Rome! ... No, it will not come about like that. The prediction already has been realized *aliter*.<sup>51</sup> Some day I will tell you by word of mouth; so, I say rather ... to the grave, to the grave, to the grave.

Finally, pray a lot and have others too pray for me who am most needful, for my soul as well as for many other things. I kiss your thaumaturgic hands and your apostolic feet, and I remain

*Suo infimo in X'to Servo*<sup>52</sup>

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

Rimini, September-October, 1828<sup>53</sup>

<sup>44</sup> They are abstract and not read.

<sup>45</sup> An act of man.

<sup>46</sup> They bent my soul ... a prepared trap.

<sup>47</sup> They trembled with fear where there was no fear ... everything is pure to those who are pure.

<sup>48</sup> In the self discipline of virtues.

<sup>49</sup> The Lord has heard the desire of the poor.

<sup>50</sup> I give you thanks.

<sup>51</sup> Otherwise.

<sup>52</sup> To his lowest servant in Christ.

<sup>53</sup> From the postal markings, one notices that this letter was sent from *Rimini* in the year 1828. The remainder is

P. S. Burn my letters.

1818

October 3, 1828  
Fr. Francesco Paradisi  
Montalto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

With pleasure did I see once again your handwriting and to my consolation I note your holy and praiseworthy dispositions. Therefore, come immediately to Rimini where I shall be awaiting you here in our Mission and Retreat House. Write to me using the prompt mail service and let me know when you will be here so that we can prepare a room for you. This House is for you. Without going into further details, we can discuss more when we see each other in person. Thus, you can first visit the Holy House in Loreto and from there, by coach, you can come directly to Rimini.

The item that you related in reference to me is non-existent. I kiss your hands; pray for me who, wholeheartedly and with esteem, remains as

Your humble, devoted and affectionate servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Miss. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, October 3, 1828

1819

October 7, 1828  
Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris  
Piperno

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>54</sup>

Very reverend Mother

I am late in sending a reply to your letter due to the occupations of the ministry. However, God supplies for each of our deficiencies and does not fail to give comfort to the souls that seek him.

I am aware of the tasks that you have in your position, but they are for you a mine to gain merits, for example, of patience, of charity, of denial of one's own will, of desiring so many good things. Indeed, at the same time, the desire for making a pleasing offering to the Lord, for detachment from everything, for governing oneself with the golden ring of the will of God. So, I congratulate you for all of these meritorious acts and you yourself, in God, can be consoled because doing his will shall always be the source of refreshment for you. Just as a soldier is acknowledged by

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illegible. From the context, however, it is evident that it was written after the following letter of September 16 (in fact the proposal expressed there of entrusting the Visitation to Canon Aloysi is discarded because of the observations made by Betti; cfr. Lett 216, Sept. 16); and also, after the other letter of September 21 (as a matter of fact the offering made by the Saint of six *Scudi* and the expression "sack around the neck", contained therein are reported and clarified again here; cfr. Lett 217, Sept. 21). On the other hand, it is certainly prior to the one written in the middle of October (because in that letter the Saint complements his initial offering with four more *Scudi* added to the ones mentioned here; cfr. Lett. 219, Oct. 18). This letter, therefore, must be assigned either to the end of September or the first part of October of 1828.

<sup>54</sup> Christ loved us and washed in his blood.

the valor he shows in times of testing, so too the trials, in which God places you, are the mystical crucible in which the gold of holy divine love is purified.

Do you, perhaps, wonder whether you truly love the position which God has given to you? Allow the situation to take its course; do not look for any sort of justification for it. In general, one should say: one must not yearn for anything, nor ask for anything, nor refuse anything in these matters other than what God sends; and that is that. Also, since the position may be a cross for your spirit, carry that cross with joy and with full acceptance, always cheerful, always at peace, always with a holy indifference in God. Pray only that he be glorified in accordance with his divine good pleasure.

You speak to me about your mother ... and here you seem to say ... I am turning away from community matters; God is calling me to exercise the office of consoler in times of affliction, especially in reference to your mother. Have courage, be comforting, have a good outlook and, above all, let us move forward on the path to sanctity. In that way, one becomes evermore aware of this valley of tears in which we exist and we long for that beloved fatherland in heaven without ever losing sight of the will of God. You can imagine Jesus walking in front of you in every situation, bearing his cross; or, with a chalice in hand, he has you swallow from it drop by drop. He asks: "*Calicem quem dedit mihi Pater, non vis ut bibam illud?*"<sup>55</sup>

So, let us say the same. Are you being called to perform an act of charity? Well, say: It is God who is offering me this opportunity for enriching my crown with a new jewel. The writings of St. Francis de Sales, in those sections applicable to religious women, are very apt for your spirit. Read them, take delight in them and in them you will find the relief you seek.

Thank you for the prayers that you offer in my behalf and I ask you even to multiply them since I am so direly in need of them. In fact, try to get as many others, as possible, to do the same. You are aware of the burdens that I have and how strongly I must be armed with love for God.

The changes that your soul experiences can be likened to the seasons of the year: now it is winter, now spring, then summer and autumn. They are all necessary for the cultivation of the soul. May this reference be sufficient for your soul.

As for obedience in reference to fasting, do as follows. In the course of a week, on one day, no fasting, on another, yes. Try to keep me informed as to your health and your strength. Explain to me what your fasting consists in and be very clear about that. After experiencing those days free of fasting during the week, write to me and suspend all fasting; meanwhile, pray for me. I point out that I would have gone into particulars only if God would wish otherwise. For me, life in community is everything, that is, to observe a certain external method, not too imposing, rather, along that line. Enough, I will say a prayer. God is wondrous in his works.

You cannot have a fixed set-up for prayer, considering your position, but the one assigned by your rule is primary. Beyond that, you should follow the principles expressed by de Sales. Let me know which method you find applicable. As for any other acts of mortification, except for those called for by your rule, none. When you have time, spend it with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. You will enjoy the fruits. I conclude: seek perfection through community life, interior life and a burning love for Jesus. Often adore the Divine Blood and may this devotion be your favorite. Likewise, remember that we are presently observing the Fridays in honor of St. Xavier.

Let us pray for the two Mission Houses of Terracina and Sonnino. Monsignor Albertini and

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<sup>55</sup> Do you not wish me to drink the chalice which the Father has given me?

Monsignor Manassi will look after them. Is it true that your bishop is not returning there? I do not know what is happening in that diocese. We seem always faced with changes, now by renunciation, at other times by one thing or another. If his renunciation is a fact, pray that God will provide a man who will not only initiate good work but also continue the good work that has been done. Prayers. The souls there are very dear to my heart because the ministry has made them so. God's permission, considering all the events involved, for some reason or other has been hidden from us; I simply do not know ... it appears to me that our Institute, ought to be once again occupied in that diocese. Prayers.

In God, I love our Institute and I am ready to relinquish it if God no longer wants it. I direct it because that is what my holy Albertini charged me to do. Perhaps my demerits are the reason for the difficulties that have occurred. It is flourishing everywhere, good work is being done, and the membership is increasing. We already have three Houses of Study for young men. Pray etc. and in particular for an important Mission which I shall shortly begin. *Gratia Dei nobiscum*.<sup>56</sup> In Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini (where you send your reply) October 7, 1828

Burn my letters.

1820

October 8, 1828

Msgr. Ottavio Zolio

Bishop of Rimini

Rimini

Venerable Monsignor<sup>57</sup>

The change in my present shift of Missions has impeded me from being able to see you again and to extend to you in person my best wishes. In the meantime, the excellent Father Biagio Valentini will be coming there to settle the status of things with respect to the new foundation. Thus, nothing will be overlooked that pertains to the pursuit of the greater glory of God. It is so true that the works of the Lord are the fruit of tears, of patience and, at the same time, of Christian fortitude. However, he who has begun the work will bring it to completion: "*Qui coepit opus ipse perficiet, consolidabitque*".<sup>58</sup>

Most illustrious and reverend Lordship, while kissing your hands, I have the honor to profess once again my esteem, respect and veneration for you, as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

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<sup>56</sup> The grace of God be with us.

<sup>57</sup> The letter does not bear a date. The bishop of Rimini replied on October 8, 1828. A copy of the bishop's reply is found on the fourth siding of St. Gaspar's letter

<sup>58</sup> He who began the work will complete and will confirm it.

1821

October 11, 1828  
Alessandro Cambetti  
Mercatino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Alessandro

If I do not have the opportunity of returning to you your box with the reliquary for the relic of the most holy Cross, it will be necessary for you to get it. I have examined the document of authenticity as well as the reliquary, and I find that they are duly canonical. It is very true that the relic is a notable one, but it is also proper that the document of authenticity should say that from several small pieces, extracted from authentic places, the relic of the holy Cross was formed by the one in charge. Please have the religious whom you mentioned to me check over the certification concerning which you probably did not give any further thought, so that, in addition, there would be no opposition to providing him with a small portion, but one that is more important than the usual ones.

Furthermore, you might find out whether the Father Provincial of the Jesuits allow that relic to be given to the aforementioned priest, *respiciendo personam*,<sup>59</sup> or indeed, *respiciendo Ecclesiam in qua ipse erat Rector*.<sup>60</sup> You will probably discover that this is something that will not be too difficult to examine. But, if you should not succeed in discovering at all the background that we would like to have in this situation, then, if you think it is a good idea, we can discuss it again together. Bishops, during their visitations, are accustomed to take note of relics and to see whether the seals must be renewed. At times they discover inauthentic ones or those that have not been sealed, and therefore, since they do not have an authentic basis, they have them thrown into the sacarium or whatever other place they judge to be proper. This is done because *Ecclesia judicat de externis*<sup>61</sup> along with everything else is recalled from the study of sacred theology.

Finally, I take this opportunity also (while assuring you again of the authenticity of this relic) of stating once again that, with esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, October 11, 1828

P. S. Up to now, I have not found anyone to whom to entrust the box.

1822

October 18, 1828  
Fr. Innocenzo Saverio Betti  
Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

My dearest Canon

I am sending a quick reply to your very dear letter of the 1st of the current month. First of all,

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<sup>59</sup> Respecting the person.

<sup>60</sup> Respecting the Church in which he was the Rector.

<sup>61</sup> The Church passes judgment on externals.

so as not to forget it, *hoc anno tantum*,<sup>62</sup> in all of our Houses, a Triduum to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be observed in preparation for the feast of all Saints, with due solemnity. In this Triduum, one of the Missionaries shall apply *gratis* a Mass for the Poor Souls in Purgatory so that they will soon go to heaven where they will pray for us. Our own private intention is to pray for the glory of the Institute, for its Workers, for the Most Rev, Treasurer, etc., etc., and for me, most needful of prayers.

Our Society began with most Holy Mary: the most blessed Mary must drive away all demons who torment to organization. Still, the mystical plant is growing and setting its roots deeply. If the Institute were directed by a holy soul in our midst, all would go better. Let us go forward. You will say, however: what! is there some kind of new tribulation? I answer in the negative; but, mindful of your warning as well as your pompous rascality (Fontana would call it: an act of bravado), namely, "...there is not enough praying", God has enlightened me to undertake this good work. *Satis de hoc*.<sup>63</sup>

I am very pleased that you have sent the prospectus of the Institute to Bishop Mattei. I hope that you corrected, altered and toned it down from my grandiose expressions of the 1600s. Would to God that the Most Rev. Treasurer could have read it, in spite of his being so busy. Oh, how I would have been delighted if it could have refreshed his memory. The devil, I believe, is giving him a hard time in order to discourage him. He is, however, a man of God, and God is with him *peculiariter modo*.<sup>64</sup> What you wrote to Msgr. Cristaldi is very good. God has gifted you in a special way along those lines. Keep right on going ahead.

Fontana is out on a Mission. He will read your letter (which is close to being a masterpiece) within a few days. Three cheers for C. Betti for the information given to Msgr. Mattei on the Communities.<sup>65</sup> At the present time, the idea that I have always had *de eximia viri Dei sanctitate*<sup>66</sup> is growing stronger ... *Satis*... *Satis*<sup>67</sup>... to Rome ... to Rome ... Let both of us old men have a laugh. When we see each other again, you will find me quite aged, indeed, not a little.

The sentiment that you express in the title of your letter, that is, in the heading, is most appropriate. I only use Latin when writing to Dignataries, something which rarely, most rarely occurs, since I love to be *inter vivos, mortuis*<sup>68</sup> ... do you see? Whatever you may have to say, say it, for it is always an act of charity. Now you can have a good laugh about it, along with your tobacco.

A warning: I am told that you go around with your head hanging too low: up with your head! Otherwise, your highly esteemed person will suffer. Do your glasses fit all right? Let this be our period of vacation.

Every time that Bartolomeo sees your handwriting, he immediately says: "and doesn't he say anything about me?" This time he was very happy, while wearing a topcoat that is falling to pieces...

You finally end your letter with a line that is not worthy of a Cedar. *Satis* ... *satis* ... to Rome ... good night ... I know all. ... I do not want any dedications ... and C. Betti was moving in leaps and bounds heading for Rome, his eye- brows raised etc.

Write often to Cencio, so that he has a laugh once in a while. He has turned into a

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<sup>62</sup> In this year only.

<sup>63</sup> Enough of this.

<sup>64</sup> In a special manner.

<sup>65</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Prejudices Against our Communities.

<sup>66</sup> About the exceptional sanctity of the man of God.

<sup>67</sup> Enough ... Enough.

<sup>68</sup> Among the living, for the dead.

melancholic statue. You probably have already learned of the death of Giunti and Bartolomeo's mother. Recommend them both to God in your long, morning prayers (as you pretend to have gotten up late and show discomforts, etc. etc.) *Novimus et qui te. Satis. Satis.*<sup>69</sup> This kind of letter, once a year, and that is more than enough.

Are you speaking to me about an apartment? *Vita Communis.*<sup>70</sup> A room prepared for the lowest servant is for me. Furthermore, I shall never come to Benevento again. God does not wish it. So, do not at all have the room specially painted for me. I am sorry that they have one prepared at Giano.

What excites my spirit is that you speak to me about a House of Studies. *Laus Deo.*<sup>71</sup> Now I am breathing better...<sup>72</sup> But my dwelling place, I repeat, will not be there. I have been there almost four times... *Satis, satis...*

One more thing. I would appreciate it, in my name, you would send a prospectus of the Society to the Bishop of Veroli, to Msgr. Mastai, Archbishop of Spoleto, to Cardinal Galeffi, to the Bishop of Gaeta. In one word, wherever we have a Mission House: not excluding the Bishop of Rimini, to whom I have mentioned a lot vocally. He has written a very nice letter so that the House would receive an endowment; but up to now, *absque fructu.*<sup>73</sup> Do you approve? I would think so. I have noticed in the Letters of St. Xavier that he used to do this. You can be sure that I would never get around to writing it. If God inspires you to do so, please do this. Likewise, send the prospectus to anyone else you think should have it, both inside and outside of Rome. I am convinced that God will bless you. The Bishop of Terracina has resigned his position, from what I have been told. Therefore, we can hold off in this instance. He is in Rome, Secretary of the Vicariate and Coadjutor to a Canonry in S. Maria Maggiore. If you should want to send him a copy, it could always do some good. A Hail Mary, and it is decided.

Remind Silvestri about the Lenten series at Vallecorsa. He will go to Gaeta where he will introduce himself to the Most Reverend Bishop, having first fortified himself with a letter from Fr. Merlini. Let us agree on this.

Let us pray for the new Bishop of Terracina. Completely at your convenience, I would like you to apply a Mass according to my intention, *titulo eximiae suae charitatis.*<sup>74</sup> You will then send notice of it to me.

I would like the new chapel dedicated to Xavier. Can it be done? You will receive by mail four *Scudi*, the completion of the 10 *Scudi* that I was inspired to offer in memory of the ten years that Xavier labored in the Indies, to be used for the remodeling etc. Such a small thing<sup>75</sup> *nemini dixeris*

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<sup>69</sup> We know and who are. Enough. ... Enough.

<sup>70</sup> The common life.

<sup>71</sup> Praise to God.

<sup>72</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Benevento [House of Studies]

<sup>73</sup> Without fruit.

<sup>74</sup> Under the title of your outstanding love.

<sup>75</sup> *piccola sola* (sic). The meaning of this phrase is evident, but what is really signified by the word "*sola*" in this context is more difficult to say. One might consider it a *lapsus calami* [slip of the pen] for "*cosa*", and then all would be clear. But it is more probable to consider the word as "*suola*" which was familiarly pronounced "*sola*", in order to indicate, jokingly, that the offering of four additional *Scudi* to his precious donation was the same as having a sole added to a shoe.

*etc. Ora pro me etc.*<sup>76</sup>

*G. C. d. B.*

Rimini, October 18, 1828<sup>77</sup>

1823

October 19, 1828

Baldassarre Rogaj

Mayor of Vaccareccia

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed sir

Here I am sending a reply to one of your very kind letters. I have no doubts about your efforts concerning the box etc.

With regard to the wooden statuette, I am not able yet to tell you anything more.

I have forgotten which St. John's relic you would like to have, since there are so many saints having that same name. After the period of vacations, I will take care of this. I shall see that you get an image of the most holy Mary that can be located in the place that you mentioned to me. Do not cease to pray and have others pray for me. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

(for forwarding) Rimini, October 19, 1828

1824

October 19, 1828

Fr. Francisco Paradisi

Montalto

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Canon

More than once have we discussed your situation. So, I believe that it would be superfluous to rehash it again. You have acted correctly in selecting Father Giovannelli and I was pleased to hear from him the unraveling of the doubts that you have had which have also been treated by ascetical writers. You yourself must realize that they are baseless and only presented as a delay tactic to your vocation. I ask, who can ever stand in the way of vocations? If you were to undertake work elsewhere, your bishop would be right in being upset. But, since this is a matter of advancing to a higher state of perfection, which calls for detachment from everything, who can impede it? Even

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<sup>76</sup> You shall tell no one, etc. Pray for me.

<sup>77</sup> According to the postal marking, this letter, sent from *Rimini*, passed through Naples on *October 18, 1828*. One therefore can determine that it was written around the 10th of October. It has already been noted, in fact, that by looking at those letters that are supplied with a handwritten date by the Saint, one will observe that between that date and the one found on the postal marking of Naples, there is a run of six to eight days. At the beginning of the letter the Saint says that with this letter he is answering quickly one that Betti had sent dated the 1st of October. The dates are in agreement since from Benevento to Rimini the mailing would take about ten days or so (eight from Naples to Rimini; a couple, more or less, from Benevento to Naples).

your bishop, when he became a religious, experienced the same circumstances. But, *quid inde?*<sup>78</sup> God wanted him to be a religious and he united himself to God with the holy vows. I can do nothing more than pray for you. Continue to follow the spiritual direction of the praiseworthy Father Giovannelli. Then, when you wish, please come. All you have to do, when the time draws near for your coming, is to drop me a line or so.

If the climate of Rimini does not suit you, since charity is the fundamental basis for our Institute, all decisions are made according to the need.

We are no longer admitting auxiliary Missionaries, since at the present time the Society is well-staffed internally and also is increasing its numbers by our young students preparing themselves for the expectations of the Church. If the reverend Canon wishes to be aggregated to the Divine Blood, send name and family name to me and he will be obeyed. While continuing to be a Canon, he will be able to conduct only a very few Missions. In that case, he would, in his zeal, work in that area along with another priest, promoting the glory of God. Finally, do not fail to pray for me, a miserable one, and have others do so too. Let us see each other often in the Divine Heart where, dear Canon, with my complete respect, I leave you as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, October 19, 1828

1825

October 20, 1828

Fr. Domenico Colombari

Mercatino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed archpriest

Here are the formulas for the blessing of the water of St. Xavier. I ask you to make a copy and then send back to me the printed form since I do not have another until I manage to get them reprinted. Give my greetings to Alessandro who has probably received his relic through the kind assistance of Baffoni. With the fullness of respect and gratitude, most esteemed archpriest, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, October 20, 1828

P. S. From the copy that you make, please see that a copy is made also for Father Leone Mancini who is also interested in it. I know that you would like to have relics of St. Xavier. We shall see about this in November.

1826

October 26, 1828

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

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<sup>78</sup> What then?

## Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

Here I am sending a reply to your letter. Your excessive fears about eternal salvation are veritable illusions. Why would we wish to do harm to God who loves us so much? Does not the suffering that we endure in being fearful of displeasing the Lord, arise from our desire to love him and to possess him? With meritorious obedience, you are not to think at all about your past life. For the benefit of your soul, it will be sufficient to repeat often: "*Miserere mei Domine*".<sup>79</sup> With acts of humility and of confidence in God, while remembering his works and our inferiority, we should conclude by saying: "May my wretchedness, O Lord, be the footstool of your throne of mercy". Does Jesus present crosses to us?... We should embrace them with eagerness. These are his gifts, and we should say: "Lord, we thank you for keeping us on the path to Paradise".

With respect to the fasting, I approve of it in accordance with the first rule, but carry it out with the gracefulness of a follower of de Sales. In the morning, you could have what is usually taken during a time of fasting, for the noon meal whatever is offered by the community, and in the evening, again what the community provides. Take as much as is sufficient for a meal whatever food it may be. Be careful about the quantity. When asked about this matter of the first rule, always speak with the desire of having it restored. However, if you notice that it would not at all irritate others, when you say clearly, that you would like to live according to this first rule, while allowing freedom to the other nuns to observe or not observe this fasting, do so publicly for in that way the saying of the apostle will hold: "*Qui non manducat manducantem non spernat*".<sup>80</sup> I hope that I have made myself clear. The Lord, with his holy illuminations, will coordinate the observations made in our letters. All of this, indeed, is conditioned by the regulation: as long as God affords you the strength. To weaken our strength is not permissible for that would render us incapable of being of service to our community. Therefore, prudence and discretion are the scales for performing any good work. Whenever you do not understand what I am saying, please ask questions. I, indeed, feel a great desire that all communities should flourish in observing their rules, and, it seems to me that God also wishes that; rather, he certainly wishes that.

In saying to you that when you have the time you should spend it in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, I did not mean to say that should be done during time set aside for repose, nor those times that are not opportune for meditation because of the relationship that the soul has with the body. I hope I have made myself clear. Furthermore, even in not having time, everything else that is done is a prayer when all is done for God. It will be sufficient for you to receive absolution each Friday, to be evermore recollect of the Divine Blood on that day, otherwise on some other day. I mean to say every eight days.

I understand what you tell me about Monsignor Frezza. So, pray wholeheartedly for the new selection. God gives me a particular concern for the people there because of the remembrance I have of my saintly Albertini. Let us pray that God will provide those people with another St. Charles, without belittling those who, up to now, have governed this flock. The two foundations that have been taken away from us are very dear to my heart only because of the good work done there. Certainly, if the Institute were not to glorify God, I would love it no longer. I see what great work it

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<sup>79</sup> Have mercy on me, O Lord.

<sup>80</sup> He who does not eat should not spurn the one who does.

is doing everywhere. Pray, *sine intermissione*,<sup>81</sup> for it and for me.

The motive that you adduce for becoming a Capuchin nun in Albano is not so unreasonable. But if God wills that you be of service there in restoring community life, would this not be, respectively, an even greater good work? At any rate, in regard to this question, we can continue to pray until the new year.

As for the canary, now that it has died, so be it. You will see that God will have you realize that he does not lack the means for having you hear the songs of the birds which certainly invite us to love God.

I conclude this letter of mine by urging you to pray a great deal for me, for our Institute, for the Holy Father and for our holy Church. May the wounds of Jesus Christ be our sweet home, for therein I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. d. B.*

M. A.

House in Rimini, October 26, 1828

1827

October 1828

Fr Innocenzo Betti

Benevento

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Very dear Canon

I have read the paragraph from the Most Rev. Treasurer and it says everything. I did not like very much the one from Archbishop di Mattei.<sup>82</sup> You would do a lot of good by sending a response to him. It is not a good idea to apply only the fines for the support of religious purposes, etc. a collection could be taken up at all the Lenten series, or perhaps have something provided by the pious places, etc. *Satis*.<sup>83</sup> See that Mons. Mattei realizes our concerns, having set up already a House of Studies in Pievetorina to everyone's satisfaction.

I have no doubt at all concerning your prudence in communicating to our members those things that are unpleasant, *quoad humanum*,<sup>84</sup> but very welcome, *quoad spiritum*.<sup>85</sup>

You have done very well in speaking clearly to both Bishops and archbishops, or anyone else. *Verbum Dei non est alligatum*.<sup>86</sup>

With respect to changing spiritual directors, the answer is no. That is not God's will. affection alters nothing. *Deus omnis in omnibus*.<sup>87</sup>

Let us now take up your questions.

1) About salvation...If it is necessary for direction, it hinders the least; otherwise, externally

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<sup>81</sup> Without intermission.

<sup>82</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Di Mattei.

<sup>83</sup> Enough.

<sup>84</sup> As to what is human.

<sup>85</sup> As to what is spirit.

<sup>86</sup> The Word of God is not bound.

<sup>87</sup> God is all in all things.

and immediately; externally and immediately, outside the tribunal, when it occurs, alongside the Salesian instruction, which indeed rules from prudence,

2) About the desire of the soul, even though he speaks with a person, etc. It must not be completely calculated. Like nothing. It is in the lower appetite, not in a human act, and even if it were, there is nothing from disorder.

3) The soul will demand greatness in action and vigor. These useless things generate torpor and fright, so that it is verified": they tremble with fear where there is no fear. Let him direct his intention to God and let him walk before God in simplicity of heart.<sup>88</sup>

With regard to the six *Sc.*, I have understood very well that you were very happy to receive them. But do you not understand that I laugh at times at the one I love more than myself! At least you have received the six *Sc.*, and how about the other four *Sc.*? Send me word.

Let me know also whether the watch has been sent or not, keeping between us where it came from. Item, with respect to the letters, etc.

Train Giggia in the spirit of mortification.<sup>89</sup>

A word: *expedit*<sup>90</sup> that we inaugurate a House of Studies there! I cannot tell you how productive it is here. The other day there was a visit to the hospital ... Oh... Oh... *gloria Domini super nos. Haec saltem sint nobis ad solatium.*<sup>91</sup> I have a lot to tell you, but *tempus*<sup>92</sup> ...

In the Retreat there called for by the rule, I would say that you should conduct the meditations and everything. At most, have Silvestri conduct only the meditations, if you think it is all right. The rest etc.

[Rimini, October 1828]<sup>93</sup>

1828

October 31, 1828

Fr. Innocenzo Saverio Betti

Roma per Benevento<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> 1) *Circa salutem.. Si opus est ad directionem, minime officit; secus, extrinsece et mediate; extrinsece et immediate, extra tribunal, quando occurrit, iuxta salesianam aeducationem, quae quidem a prudentia regitur.*

2) *Circa desiderium animae, etiamsi non loquatur cum persona, etc. Poenitus non computandum. Tamquam nihilum. Est in appetitu inferiori, non in actu humano, et elicito; et etiamsi esset, nihil est de inordinatis.*

3) *Anima exigit magnitudo in agendo et vigor. Haec inutilia torporem generant et terrorem, ita ut verificetur: trepidaverunt timore ubi non erat timor. Dirigat intentionem Deo et ambulet coram Deo in simplicitate cordis.*

<sup>89</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Del Bufalo, Luigia.

<sup>90</sup> It is expedient.

<sup>91</sup> The glory of the Lord is over us. Let these things at least be a consolation for us.

<sup>92</sup> Time.

<sup>93</sup> This letter lacks an address and postal markings. Written on a half-sheet, perhaps it was included in a letter sent to some other Community member. However, it is certainly from the year 1828, and in all probability from the month of October, since the themes touched upon here recur in letters of that month. One can determine with certainty that it was written after Letter n. 219, assigned to October 10th, *circa*, since in it the Saint announces to Betti his sending four more *scudi* to be added to his first offering for the restoration work at Benevento. Here, he asks him whether he had received them or not.

<sup>94</sup> In the manuscript of this letter one notices in the left-hand margin some annotations put there by Betti. Some of them are simply brief notes giving a resume of the different paragraphs of the letter. Others, however, contain personal

## Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

If up to now I have neglected mentioning to you that I would like the inner chapel dedicated to the great Xavier, I am asking you to do so here and now.

I proceed to reply to one of your letters. I have received the inventory of the deceased Carboneri. In the archives there, it will be necessary to leave only a notification of the death and all other matters pertinent to the deceased. Moreover, mention is to be made of the painting of Xavier left to the house there. As for the rest, indicate that Canon del Bufalo has executed the will of the deceased, and that the Masses in the church there have been said in satisfaction.<sup>95</sup> What is left is to be sent to Rome, to Rome, to Rome, just as you said that you have done. With respect to the trunk that is still there, do as follows: try to get the mail-carrier to deliver it before the bad weather sets in. The transportation will be at my expense, for that is only right. I shall await from you the notice of the refund that is to be made, which I then shall add to your deposit in Rome of ten *Sc.* to be used for the repairs being made on the church there. You will then have to figure out a way of getting the money to your place.

With regard to the Retreat called for by the Rule, you take the conferences, *sub omni respectu*,<sup>96</sup> and have Silvestri handle only the meditations, unless, *in faciem loci*,<sup>97</sup> you find some reason for doing everything yourself.

Weighed down as I am by the affairs of the Institute, I must place upon you an inconvenience. I would like you to make a summary or an epitome<sup>98</sup> of all the Circulars dealing with the Visitations required by the Rule, beginning, if I am not mistaken, from 1825 through the entire year of 1827, classifying them under the following headings:

- 1) Clarifications of the rules
- 2) Spiritual matters
- 3) Temporal matters
- 4) Questions of praxis

Adhere to this classification, or another similar to it and more methodical. Hang on to the originals until this Circular can be distributed to all the Houses, at which time notice will be given to remove from the archives all the aforementioned Circulars, leaving there this one single report of which I speak, thus avoiding confusion of ideas. This document, joined to the rules *sub omni specie boni*,<sup>99</sup> will point out the exact purposes of the Institute. The description of the Pious Works is already taken care of; the rule; this document of which I speak:... *satis ergo, etc.*<sup>100</sup> With this new encouragement, I hope that all of our men will carry out everything that has not been done up to

reactions of his. Since these latter alone are of interest to the reader, we shall reproduce them here in the footnotes in their proper places, leaving the former out since they add nothing new. These must have been used, without doubt, in preparing an answer to the Saint's letter.

<sup>95</sup> Here Betti's note is: "A notification has been made concerning the estate, the painting, etc. of Carboneri".

<sup>96</sup> Under every respect.

<sup>97</sup> After the fashion of the place.

<sup>98</sup> Betti's note: "I shall make a summary of the Circulars, but not before St. Francis". With respect to the aforementioned "Summary of the Circulars" or the epitome; see the note following later: "Resume", Lett. n. 233, February 14, 1829.

<sup>99</sup> Under every appearance of good.

<sup>100</sup> Therefore, enough, etc.

now.

You will be the Chronicler, etc. etc.

St. Francis Xavier would like one more thing from you: and what is that? *Respondeo cum distinctione. Et primo sit.*<sup>101</sup> He would like you to gather together the sayings of the Saint into notebook form, classifying them virtue by virtue, and at the end, those applicable especially to the Priest. The blessings of God on you will be manifold. You may say to me: where are these sayings to be found? I answer: in his letters, which, if you do not have a copy of them there since they were recently printed in Ascoli, I can send you a copy. Furthermore, in a much shorter form, they are found in the 10 Fridays reprinted in Teramo. In case you do not have a copy, you can write to get one from Canon Palma. Finally, in his biography. Do this without getting excited. In case I am to send you the letters, let me know what means I should use. (I have read that you have connections in Ascoli: *satis ergo.*)<sup>102</sup>

With regard to the information about the Institute at Rimini, it seems to me that vocally I gave a sufficiently clear idea of it to Bishop Zolio, who wrote also to the Holy Father for the endowment. Up to now, *nil.*<sup>103</sup> As for the rest, *tuis precibus et orationibus.*<sup>104</sup>

Furthermore, I am giving you the task of gathering into document-form the miracles that have occurred with the use of Holy Water blessed with the Relic of S. Xavier. Let us share our burdens, for I am not unaware of yours; but God *dat media proportionata, etc., etc., etc.*<sup>105</sup>

The Bishop of Nocera is in Rome and it is rumored that he will be at the head of the Imperial Missionaries. However, I do not know the whole story.

The reason for having selected you to send the prospectus of the Institute is precisely because, without overdoing compliments, God has given you the gift of drawing up the document of the pertinent rules, and that is something which is most urgent now. Furthermore, your handwriting is clear and intelligible, free of spelling mistakes. What kind of humility would it be to present an imperfect picture of the Society by having someone else do it? *Unusquisque secundum mensuram, etc.*<sup>106</sup> We know very well that everything comes from God: and we ourselves are nothing at all. For this reason, therefore, let me express myself well, I will not consign this work to anyone else. Nevertheless, if for other reasons you consider that the matter will not go well, I bow my head in silence.<sup>107</sup>

During the Retreat called for by the Rule, you will say a prayer for something that I will mention later on. At the present time, I am getting older and I move quite, quite slowly.

Consequently, from the remarks that precede, you understand the reason why I mentioned the Chronicles to you, to be done without anguish. I have already noticed that you did not as yet begin

<sup>101</sup> I answer with a distinction. And first let it be.

<sup>102</sup> Betti notes: "The sayings of the Saint. I shall send for the letters, the 10 Fridays from Teramo, but *cum tempore*". With regard to the translation of the Letters of St. Francis Xavier, made by Fr. Francesco Amici, cfr. Vol. I, Lett. n. 119, June 22, 1831, footnote; concerning the pamphlet of the 10 Fridays in honor of that Saint, cfr. l.c., Lett. n. 112, November 11, 1823, footnote (+).

<sup>103</sup> Nothing.

<sup>104</sup> For your petitions and prayers.

<sup>105</sup> He gives proportionate means, etc.

<sup>106</sup> Each one according to measure, etc.

<sup>107</sup> Betti's note: "It will be agreeable to copy the presentations, but to send them from Benevento ..." For further information on this "Prospectus of the Institute", cfr. footnote on Lett. 233, Feb. 14, 1829 and Lett. 219, Oct. 18, 1828.

them; but, you really do a lot, and I do mean a lot, of work.

I shall pray for you as long as you are alive: ... yes sir! . . . but *post mortem*:<sup>108</sup> ... no sir, because *ego praeibo!*<sup>109</sup> ... Oh God! what thoughts these are for me! Pray insistently for me to Almighty God.<sup>110</sup>

Bartolomeo greets you. I read him the lines concerning the "meat rolls" that we will cook, God willing, as soon as we are able to see each other again: he really laughed at that.. He asks for your daily prayers wrapped in the cloak of your mortifications. Are you convinced? ... there is not enough praying . . . and you are right . . . how can one manage?

Thank you for the Mass: what a beautiful gift that is!

Please, I do not want to hear what you interpret in regard to that saying: To Rome!<sup>111</sup> When I spoke it, it was only for the sake of putting the statement of Albertini on record; but that saying can be interpreted in so many different ways! I am near to death.<sup>112</sup> Pray God to keep me from meddling. All I do is confuse people and get confused myself. You know me well and you have had first-hand experience with me.

Just a word *in communicatione spiritus*<sup>113</sup> ... God is beckoning me to a life of isolation. Oh, what a desire he is giving me for it! And would you like to know something else? At present I am afraid for having been called to this. I have no basis for it, except that that is the way it is. It is the devil who is at work. *Ama nesciri et pro nihilo reputari.*<sup>114</sup> Pray that God will impress every spiritual consideration more deeply upon me. This attitude of "*ama nesciri*" he has impressed upon me in his mercy. I urge you to pray ... it appears to me that the time of Bologna will soon come true,<sup>115</sup> I am at peace with the position that God has arranged for me, but very, very much in need of reform.

I have not understood too well the paragraph dealing with the matters and letters of Falzacappa.

Is it true that you people do not take turns there in the confessional? It seems incredible, but those seem to be the rumors. The examination is for you to make.<sup>116</sup> *Ora pro me: ego pro te semper orabo. Sum tuus etc. etc.*<sup>117</sup>

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

Rimini, October 31, 1828

<sup>108</sup> After death.

<sup>109</sup> I shall go before.

<sup>110</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Betti [Gaspar's thought on death]

<sup>111</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Betti [Gaspar to Rome]

<sup>112</sup> Betti reacts quite spiritedly to this thought and notes in the margin: "But what is this near death etc." In a line farther down, again with the same opposition, he protests: "Do not get confused etc. I have not laid a hand on you". And still farther on, where the Saint speaks of the "*ama nesciri*", he notes, with reference to the prophecy of Albertini: (A R. (= Rome): what doubt (!)").

<sup>113</sup> In the communication of the spirit.

<sup>114</sup> Love to be ignored and to be considered as nothing.

<sup>115</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Prediction of his death.

<sup>116</sup> Here Fr. Innocenzo explodes with: "Skipping turns? He is mistaken! I am not the kind of person to allow that to happen".

<sup>117</sup> Pray for me. I pray for you always. I am yours, etc.

Today was the day of recollection, and what a day!<sup>118</sup>

1829

October, 31 1828

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

Benevento

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

Your letters are never a bother for me but rather a real consolation given by God who has united us so wondrously in his Divine Heart. With pleasure did I learn of the deep impression made upon your spirit by the life of St. Vincent Ferreri, and I give thanks to God that, through the example of the saints, he urges us to enrich our souls with merits in order to gain blessed eternity.

Therefore, I go along with your making a vow, but to do so in the following terms, determined by the grace that you are imploring: "I make this vow etc. etc. of celebrating or having someone else celebrate a Mass, *ubique*,<sup>119</sup> in suffrage for the holy souls in Purgatory who were most devoted to St. Vincent Ferreri, on a day during the Novena, on the feastday, or during the saint's octave, so as to director. In this way, it will also always have the merit of obedience, and at any time at all, h obtain the favor etc. I intend this vow to be perpetual, but this perpetuity is dependent on my *pro tempore*<sup>120</sup> spiritual e will be able to relieve me of the vow when he wishes or to change it as he judges best. Thus, it is the spirit of religion that holds me to the vow, it is obedience that will govern it". I hope that I have made myself clear. Now, go ahead and make the vow, with the blessing of God.<sup>121</sup>

One more thing. Some time ago, I charged you to make a compendium, at your convenience, of a certain life. I do not know whether you have forgotten about this. It is understood that it be done without the pressures of time. Again, another remark. When making your vow, you should have burning in front of the relic of the saint, if possible, two candles of one-half pound each. Several times during that same morning, on the day spent in retreat, you should offer prayers. Also, keep me in your prayers since I have so much to think about in preparing myself for eternity.

Keep in mind the Lenten series to be preached in Vallecorsa, where, with the merits of obedience, you will do great work. While recommending to you the observance of the rule, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rimini, October 31, 1828

1830

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<sup>118</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Betti [Gaspar's letters]

<sup>119</sup> Wherever.

<sup>120</sup> For the time being.

<sup>121</sup> On the third siding of the letter, we can read the vow made by Silvestri, following the tenor of St. Gaspar's suggestions. It is written by Silvestri himself and is dated November 10, 1828: "in order to implore from St. Vincent the grace of preaching fluently so as to be totally capable of exercising the holy ministry to the advantage of souls redeemed by the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ".

November 3, 1828  
Fr. Pietro De Victoriis  
Macerata Feltria  
(fragment )

You will do me a favor by writing to the most reverend bishop, that I am not always the available one to go out on the Missions, for my participation is only relative. Therefore, that is why I stated clearly that decisively he is not to count on my being there. It is a rare occasion when I can give my absolute word. This would be ever so much more possible during wintertime than in the other seasons of the year. In autumn, particularly as an example, there are so many preparations to be made in our Houses of Study etc.<sup>122</sup>

1831

November 3, 1828  
Msgr. Bellisario Cristalci  
Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>123</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

I did not send a reply to your recent very kind letter, written to me as you were leaving Rome at the beginning of this past month. Supposing that you were making the rounds of your Abbacy, I did not want to add new problems for you. Now, before treating of those things that are pertinent to the matters still pending, which I will get into a bit later, I would like to have news concerning your health which I sincerely recommend that you take care of.

Also, I beg you to present the enclosed matter to His Holiness. Since it is a matter pertaining to the Kingdom of Naples, it would be better procedure to have a rescript from the Holy Father for the validity of the act, and, if I am not mistaken, the Briefs are subject to the inspection of the government. You will recall that, in behalf of the nuns in Ariano with reference to the common life, a similar necessary rescript was obtained, through your assistance, and it bore simply the signature of our Holy Father. Take care of this for me, please, and after I have received it, I must write many things to the bishop that will be relevant to the good work that is to be done in the new church of St. Xavier,<sup>124</sup> who is, so to speak, our missionary before God. I am trusting in your devotedness to our saint, a true delight to many hearts.

I see two things as urgent, not to be forgotten in this letter of mine. The first, if it is possible, just as your most reverend excellency has done on a previous occasion, is to obtain a reimbursement for this very poor House of ours, where we are 18 in number, from the tolls imposed with the introduction of our properties. The second refers to my humble opinion with respect to your question

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<sup>122</sup> This fragment of a letter of St. Gaspar to Fr. Pietro de Victoriis is cited in a letter which the latter wrote to Msgr. Antonio Begni, bishop of Montefeltro, November 3, 1828 from Macerata Feltria where he was preaching a Mission, in order to request approval for the organization of St. Francis Xavier. In a previous letter, October 28, 1828, (cf r. XVI, 387), de Victoriis says to the bishop: "I learned that you are displeased because Canon del Bufalo did not come in person to conduct the holy Mission...". In the letter of November 3, however, de Victoriis communicates to the bishop what St. Gaspar wrote to him during those days.

<sup>123</sup> Christ loved us and washes us in his blood.

<sup>124</sup> See the following letter.

*utrum*<sup>125</sup> you should request a subsidy for our building project in Benevento or one for the House in Rimini. What my desire would be in this regard, you can already read in my heart, in view of the fact that every one of our establishments are very, very dear to me. And, so to speak, I identify myself with each one.

However, I would say that for Benevento the Cardinal could make the request, writing either to his Eminence Pacca or his Eminence Pedicini. For Rimini, you could submit the request which would not fail to include the concerns also of the most reverend bishop Zollio in favor of the endowment. I add, indeed, a temporary subsidy. If God grants you further inspirations, and I have not doubt that he will, you make the decision as you judge best *in Domino*.<sup>126</sup>

Yesterday, or rather I should say on the feast of all Saints, I offered holy Mass for you, to whom I owe so very much. May this gift be pleasing to you, according to your own heart. May what follows be kept *in sigillo naturale*.<sup>127</sup> There is a person who has written to me (I cannot name that person) that, perhaps, thought is being given to my removal from the assiduous life of the ministry. I hope that this is not at all true. So, you, who are in Rome, please strongly oppose any suggestion along that line, since I am desirous (as long as it always pleases God) of dying in this holy Society which I would like to see prosper even with the shedding of my own blood. May this observation be sufficient, with the customary reserve, to your charity. More, in the next ordinary mail-delivery. Excuse me if I have gone on too long. While kissing your hands and anxiously awaiting your response, with the fullness of esteem, respect and very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, November 3, 1828

## 1832

1828

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Father<sup>128</sup>

The bishop of Ariano in the Kingdom of Naples has shown the greatest delight in seeing erected in his city a sacred church dedicated to the great apostle of the Indies, St. Francis Xavier. As a complement to his wishes and in order to increase in the faithful the devotion to this glorious apostle, now humbly petitions your Holiness to deign to grant this favor in the usual form used by the Church: a plenary indulgence to be gained on December 3rd, the day on which the saint's feastday occurs; likewise, a plenary indulgence to be gained on March 12, the day of St. Francis Xavier's canonization; and finally, a partial indulgence of one hundred days whenever the faithful make a visit at any time to that sacred church; that etc.

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<sup>125</sup> Whether.

<sup>126</sup> In the Lord.

<sup>127</sup> Under a natural seal.

<sup>128</sup> This petition has no date. It was placed among the letters of St. Gaspar to Cristaldi in 1828, and specifically after the letter of September 3, 1828. On the fourth page, there is a note by Merlini which says: "1828". On June 13, 1828, St. Gaspar expressed to Fr. Rafaelle Rosati his "consolation in learning of the completion of the church of St. Xavier in Ariano", just as is referred to here in this petition. We have located it here in this position because in the letter to Cristaldi, dated November 3rd, mention is made of the new church of Xavier in Ariano etc.

In behalf of the bishop of Ariano, in the Kingdom of Naples

1833

November 3, 1828  
Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi  
Lenola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Canon

With the greatest consolation did I see once again your handwriting, and with equal pleasure to learn the favorable news of your health. I wish that it will continue to prosper even more for the glory of God and for an increase of your merits toward a most blessed eternity. From your letter, I also noted the special efforts made by the excellent archpriest, to whom you will give my regards in particular, as soon as you get back there. In my name, extend to him my most vivid feelings of gratitude for the list of Masses that he was kind enough to send to me. I also express my gratitude to you, as I note that you participated in that good work of which we are speaking.

Begging you to continue to offer prayers at the throne of divine clemency, very reverend Canon, with esteem and respect, I am pleased to say again that I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, November 3, 1828

1834

November 5, 1828  
Fr. Pietro Butti  
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

I cannot tell you how greatly consoled I was to see your handwriting once again, and even more so to learn of your holy plans for an oratory to our beloved Saint Xavier. See that its construction is done well, is spacious and capable of allowing great work to be done there just as is the case at the Caravita in Rome. Indeed, the entire project. Who knows, with the passage of time, the construction of a Mission and Retreat House along with a House of studies might be joined to it. Prayers. God is wondrous in his works. My idea, submitted to your consideration, would be to find a builder who, under your charge, would direct the construction work and would agree to a salary.

That is what I did in Rome for a small church, or I should say that is what a Pious Union, of which I am a member, did. The means for accomplishing this would come from making an application for a collection to be taken up during Lent in the entire diocese of Alatri, as well as anywhere else where you have connections and are known. In addition, a donation from the Curia, if that is applicable; the gathering of some funds from the membership; and, finally, some income deriving from the obligation of Masses that could be freely distributed.

I do not think that I will have success, believe me, in getting financial help in Rome. I point out, too, the many responsibilities in which I find myself; still, joining with Fr. Biagio, etc., etc., I offer my donation of ten *scudi*. Let me know when you want them and where I should send them.

*Patet cor meum.*<sup>129</sup> Please excuse me if my response is not correspondent to your and my desires. In the meantime, see to the activation of an oratory, wherever you can, so that the number of members will increase.

Then, too, in Alatri, observance of the great month of the Divine Blood must be introduced, and, if the month of June is not convenient, select another. Also, in this regard, a thought that comes from God: the Lord wishes to have perpetual adoration of the Divine Blood. Therefore, it would be necessary for the various areas to divide the months of the year, while making use of the book with which you are acquainted. This could also be done privately by the devotees. Oh what a wonderful work! Furthermore, if you were able to get around a hundred Masses which could be offered *ubique*,<sup>130</sup> even in private chapels, we would take care of distributing them, while relinquishing the offerings as an assistance there. But, prepare a listing for those who will offer them. You can be sure that God will bless this project. You will see marvelous things. I hope that you place your trust in our beloved St. Francis Xavier. Finally, you yourself should approach the Holy Father and you will obtain it. Prayers.

Return my distinct greetings to your most worthy brother. Here in Romagna, our Society, by the grace of God, is showing a very special development and in every region, to the glory of God, it is doing great work. Let us see each other often and always in the Divine Heart. Oh what a sweet asylum of peace that is! Therein, let us become more and more fervent, during the short time that still remains for us here in this valley of tears, in promoting the welfare of our souls and the souls of our neighbors, *et Dominus retribuet in benedictionibus dulcedinis.*<sup>131</sup> Most esteemed Canon, I kiss your hands and, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, November 5, 1828

1835

November 6, 1828

Luigi Baldi

Meldola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Your letter was most pleasing to me since it dealt with matters pertaining to the glory of God. My sojourn here in Romagna has been longer than I ever imagined it would be, due to the works of the ministry which have swamped me, as well as for setting in order our Mission and Retreat House and House of studies here in this city of Rimini. The way for having the Mission in Meldola, so very dear to me, has been opened up already by the most reverend vicar Abaziale, who recently obtained the verification for this good work. Indeed, is not the visitation by God in the earthquake another sign of encouragement to undertake that necessary reform as well as an explanation for the chastisements of the Lord? So, there is nothing more to be done except the actual fulfillment of that

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<sup>129</sup> My heart is open.

<sup>130</sup> Wherever.

<sup>131</sup> And the Lord will repay in sweet blessings.

good work.

Finally, since nothing will have to be prepared for the Missionaries except the frugal meals, their reception and their departure, the matter does not seem to be that difficult as, perhaps, has been represented by the intellectual apprehension of one or the other person. Thus, if in spite of all this, that worthy subject would write to me and would want me to write to Monsignor Clavelli, I would not refuse. However, in that event, it would be necessary for the Prior of the Hospital to contact me on the matter so that I would have a reason for writing to the Vatican Chapter and through it to Monsignor Clavelli.

Everything else is easily accomplished. You should continue to insist on this good work, for God will shower many blessings upon you. I, in the meanwhile, shall not cease offering many prayers for this intention. With esteem and respect, urging you to look after the pious organizations as well as that most important devotion to the Divine Blood, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, November 6, 1828

P. S. The decisive concern of the Vatican Chapter for the welfare of Meldola seems to me to be a usual thing. Still, in dealing with matters there, it is necessary to conduct oneself with due order, etc.

1836

November 6, 1828

Student Candido Sertori

Pieveterina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Candido

With pleasure did I read your letter and I give thanks to God that you had a safe trip and are happily settled. In your letter you correctly say that silence and solitude are, in a special way, influential for union with God. Indeed, though he speaks to our hearts in every place, still it cannot be denied that in solitude he draws even closer to our spirit. Your separation from relatives will be, at the present time, more sensitive, but the grace of God, like a heavenly fire, elevates our spirits toward higher things. Offer it to God as an acceptable sacrifice and always maintain gentle peace within your soul.

The most reverend bishop spoke to me about you and he was very deeply pleased by your holy resolution based on your love for the Institute. Father Beniamino, the president of that House of studies, will not fail to provide you with whatever assistance you may need for your welfare. Also, prayer will always facilitate your success in studies. For the sake of economy in buying stationery, I have already suggested to you that you can have it sent economically from Fabriano, writing, in my name, to Mr. Camillo Possenti, a man who resides in that city and one who is happy to offer his services for whatever is needed.

Everyone in this House sends you their greetings, as also does the Maestra of the orphans to whom I gave news of you as soon as I received your very kind letter. Let us always be united in a

holy union of he[arts and rec]ommend<sup>132</sup> each other reciprocally to the Lord so that, through his grace, just as we have been united respectively in the unity of the ministry, so also one day we may be united by him in his blessed kingdom toward which we advance each day. Your very dear aunt, the Maetra in charge of the orphans, has taken care of the tuition for your first period or trimester, and I have already sent word to Incelli, the economist of that House. Regards to all and, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, with all my esteem and affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, November 6, 1828

1837

November 9, 1828

Fr. Giovanni Francesco Dominici

Macerata Feltria

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>133</sup>

Very reverend Father Dominici

The mind of the benefactress will be carried out in adorning the image of the most holy Mary of our Missions. I am returning the cloth in which you wrapped it, along with my thanks. I praise God for the good work that is being done there and for the fervor of the clergy in promoting it evermore. Let us remain in the adorable Hearts of Jesus and Mary. I urge the practice of that important devotion to the Divine Blood, and, while returning my own greetings to all those mentioned in your letter, I repeat that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, November 9, 1828

P. S. If any letters arrive there for Father Pietro,<sup>134</sup> our Missionary etc., please forward them here etc.

1838

November 10, 1828

Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Luigi

Concerning the recent 100 Masses, you must have received some notification from Father Giovanni Merlini. Enclosed with this letter is the notification of the other remaining 30 Masses, a complement to the 100. You should send the corresponding offerings to Father Giovanni Merlini. If

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<sup>132</sup> Here, the page is torn.

<sup>133</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

<sup>134</sup> Fr. Pietro de Victoriis

you are able to provide me with other Masses to be celebrated *ubique*<sup>135</sup> and with a certain amount of convenience, you will be doing me a very big favor. My obligations to you are always increasing and, while recommending that you keep me in your prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, November 10, 1828

### 1839

November 12, 1828

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I was very pleased to receive your letter and I shall be awaiting the materials that you were kind enough to point out to me. For my own reasons of economy, please remind me of the cost for the printing there of 100 Chaplets.

With regret did I learn of the move to Rome of the excellent Monsignor Piervisani. Also, I learn that he is the Director of the non-Austrian Missions, or rather of a certain legation founded by the now-deceased Marchese Imperiali. I know nothing at all of whether other arrangements have been made along this line. A thought occurs to me and it is that I am forever weighing you down with the many inconveniences that I cause you with postal costs etc. etc. So, what shall I do for you? Pray? But I, already, do not fail to do that, certain as I am of the abundant compensation which I receive in return through your many kind acts. Venerable Camillo, pray for me, and, with esteem and respect, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, November 12, 1828

P. S. When I can return, I shall try to make a stop in Fabriano, but I will stay with the Capuchins. I would like to know just where they are located. If I am in time, please send me three reams of stationery. Does the printer there have any Chaplets on hand for sale? With respect to the printing costs, please retain whatever you need.

### 1840

November 14, 1828

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>136</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Up to now I have not had a single line from you and because of that I am in pain. I do not

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<sup>135</sup> Wherever.

<sup>136</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

cease praying that the Lord will grant you every blessing that my heart is capable of desiring for You.

The enclosed matter is for Father Sala, something that You asked me to take care of before you left Rome during this past month. I have not sealed it so that your most reverend excellency could read it and check to see whether it has the desired terminology. After God, my trust is placed in you. Be assured, my Monsignor, that I simply do not know how I will be able to manage the many expenses that I have because of postage costs as well as those related to devotional materials, not to mention all the other things.

So, as God inspires You, please see what can be done to handle the situation. I am not asking you for help with respect to postal costs because in your last letter you made clear your inability, perhaps, to go any further. All I can do is adore the divine dispositions. I do not mention all the other things relative to the Institute that you are acquainted with.

Here, the Holy Father would be able to free the other part of the convent with its garden which Cavalier Guiccioli possesses. You know how helpful the garden would be for Retreats. I say nothing about the urgency of having a hospice in Rome where we could set up at least one Missionary to act in behalf of the Institute, etc. De Sales says that it is God who brings the times to maturity.

What I am interested in, in a special way, is to obtain the confirmation of my faculties for the entire year of 1829, if it pleases God to preserve my life. As far as I can remember, the Holy Father, after having checked them one time *only*, he has always, through your assistance, confirmed them vocally, without the least further difficulty. It should be enough that in the audience you should be so kind as to say simply: "Canon del Bufalo requests the confirmation of the apostolic faculties, granted for the ministry, for all of '29" I beg you to do this favor for me. The document that I have, granting me these faculties, I preserve with very particular care, since with the passing of time it has become worn. If I were to enclose it here, it would deteriorate even more.

During the novena in honor of St. Xavier, I shall make my own Retreat and I ask you to offer distinct and particular prayers for me. After that, I must move on to Faenza, if it pleases the Lord, for the clergy Retreat as well as for other concerns. Take good care of yourself, and, with esteem and respect, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rimini, November 14, 1828

1841

November 14, 1828

Fr. Mariano Colombari

Farneto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable archpriest

Even though I may not have had the pleasure of meeting you in person, nevertheless I must fulfill a task entrusted to me by Father Giovanni Battista Pedini, who has recently entered our Institute. He has left, here, a Lenten series granted to him by you from Vanalesti of the Company of Jesus, belonging, however, to the convent in Montefiore.

So, please let me know whether I am to give it to the aforementioned convent to whom it refers or to send it back to you, who, perhaps have been authorized by canonical faculties for its acquisition and remuneration. I shall be awaiting your kind response, and, in the event that you must have it, please let me know to whom I should mail it. Excuse me for the inconvenience that I cause and, with esteem and respect, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat Hovse in Rimini, November 14, 1828

1842

November 14, 1828

Fr. Francesco Paradisi

Montalto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I have been going over your letters, sentence by sentence, and now am sending you accordingly a response. I understand about the bishop's permission for the Retreat. When you come into our Society, it is not necessary to have a *discesso* which is given when one would be leaving to work in another diocese. As for entering an Institute, it is sufficient to have the regular documents for Mass and confessions, along with a testimony from the Curia, which you need not present to me since you are well known to me.

However, if possible, a testimonial from the Curia that issues the documents relating to Mass and confessions, would be very useful, even though not necessary for you. Do these things as a first step. Gradually the rest will be done and God will bless you.

As for your other dealings, take care of the things that are urgent; by letter, we will discuss this further. First come into God's house, then, as a fair amount of time passes by, which we can industriously work to shorten, the final move will be that of entering the Institute. If you are not attracted to Rimini and would prefer to be in Pievetorina, write and let me know. Likewise, S. Felice in Giano is available, or anywhere else that you, in general, would like to be. However, I say to you that God would want you here in Rimini, and not elsewhere. If you were to agree with this, I would make this appointment out of recognition for your most worthy person, but not as a usual procedure. I shall be awaiting your prompt reply to all of this.

With regard to Canon Fortuna, tell him that we no longer issue certificates for Missionaries *in subsidium*,<sup>137</sup> but only those that authorize one to enrol people in the Divine Blood organizations, that is, they are given to aggregators. Perhaps, in my previous letter, I did not make myself sufficiently clear and hence I await further clarification from you. In the meantime, stir up his enthusiasm and encourage him.

Have no doubt, seminarians are being prepared as replacements in the dioceses, otherwise every Institute would be worn out, *quod absit*.<sup>138</sup> Affection for one's parents exists in every child, but is a vocation to be delayed because of that? *Caro et sanguis non revelavit tibi ... nesciebatis in his,*

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<sup>137</sup> For support.

<sup>138</sup> May it be absent.

*quae Patris mei sunt, oportet me esse*".<sup>139</sup> Read Liguori's work' entitled "*Selva predicabile*". The parents, indeed, have paid out money for the child's education, but that is *de jure naturae*.<sup>140</sup> A daughter is educated, takes her dowry and departs. Is she obliged to reimburse them for her education? I say nothing in reference to seculars. Only the priest has these melancholic thoughts in his head! and that is why, speaking in a general way, so many priests do not reach great levels of perfection! This is a great mistake. *Si mei non fuerint dominati etc.*<sup>141</sup> The priest is meant for the Church. For him, the Church is his mother in a twofold way; and, a Catholic parent takes joy in such occasions, realizing that *omnia a Deo et propter Deum etc.*<sup>142</sup>

Consider the examples given to us by the saints. God wishes to have generous souls, and every sacrifice is deemed as nothing in comparison to what is merited. Vocations come from God, and if God calls, one must respond. Here in Romagna, I still have quite a few matters to take care of in the ministry. I am making every effort to do so to the best of my ability. You should be alert and do not allow too much time to go by, since of apostolic men we read: "*aquae multae non potuerunt extinguere charitatem*".<sup>143</sup>

During the approaching Novena in honor of St. Xavier, we will all be entering into our holy Retreat. Please remember all of us often in your prayers. Here, we do not have rooms uninterruptedly available. There are some in Giano. So, I would be able to provide you with two rooms, though not side by side. In one, you would keep your possessions, in the other your bed. *Ora pro me. Ego pro te semper orabo.*<sup>144</sup> With esteem, respect and affection, most revered Canon, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, November 14, 1828

1843

November 15, 1828

Fr. Innocenzo Saverio Betti

Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

My dearest Canon

*Deo gratias*<sup>145</sup> for the Triduum. The notice of it sent to the Most Rev. Treasurer is excellent, so that even he is becoming more and more enthused. The 12 Masses are a beautiful gift presented to Most Holy Mary who never allows herself to be outdone in this holy rivalry. *Intelligenti pauca.*<sup>146</sup>

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<sup>139</sup> Flesh and blood have not revealed this to you. ... You were ignorant of what pertains to my father, it behooved me to be ...

<sup>140</sup> By the law of nature.

<sup>141</sup> If my friends were not dominating things, etc..

<sup>142</sup> All things from God and for God, etc.

<sup>143</sup> Many waters were unable to extinguish love.

<sup>144</sup> Pray for me. I always pray for you.

<sup>145</sup> Thanks to God.

<sup>146</sup> A few times for the one who understands.

I notice now that Canon Betti is a bit more active. During the past summer, you appeared exhausted, not so much in morale as in your physical appearance. Now, things will go better, when the chariot is drawn by a lion, by an eagle, by an ox, by a man. *Similitudo etc.*<sup>147</sup>

The fact is that it would be most advantageous to have, in your own handwriting, copies of the prospectus of the Institute and then send them to every Bishop where we have Mission Houses, including the one here at Rimini. Also, let what is written be well-thought out at the foot of the Crucifix, clear, succulent, concise, expressive, simple, exuding with the love of God. It may appear that this undertaking is a small operation, but I am hopeful, nevertheless, that it will produce great good.

Do not fail to send a copy also to anyone else that you can, in Rome; to anyone, with whom you are acquainted, such as, Card. Pedicini, Pacca, etc. The means to be used in introducing the folders in the name of the Institute, or in general of the Missionaries, will be the respective Missionaries themselves. When that is done, *post factum*,<sup>148</sup> a notice of it should be sent to the Most Rev. Treasurer. Also, send a copy to Card. Franzoni through Fr. Eugenio, my uncle. We shall never lose out. To Card. Odescalchi, through Gonnelli, still in Rome; to Santelli, so that he can see to its circulation; to Cadolini who is in Rome, through Santelli; and to the Archbishop of Ravenna, in Rome. You can have Silvestri help you in making the copies, for he too has a good handwriting. To his Eminence Galeffi, through Merlini. Send that prospectus also to Lais. *Dominus erit tecum*<sup>149</sup> ... Always function in the name of the Institute. It is decided etc. at times, certain markings on the envelopes is of help, *quasi aliud agens*.<sup>150</sup> God wishes us to use certain human means, too.

Letters do not take on any more worth just because they come from me. Furthermore, God will give and does give some enlightenment because of the office. In the saying of Albertini, "I must not ignore my first thoughts".

You will learn from Merlini how we have importuned the Treasurer with regard to the patrimony. Surely, it would call for a Rescript to be drawn up, that is, to be ordained under the title of the Institute. Pray and insist and reason; and plead even more "*multiplicatis intercessoribus*".<sup>151</sup>

I would like you, on your own, during the Retreat called for by the Rule, to gather together and make a list of the more salient points of conferences for the Most Rev. Treasurer, as though you knew absolutely nothing about the other listings extant. The old Missionaries have given us the example. Insist there on the use of the cassock for the Clergy... a Retreat every year. God wants you to speak up; do so.

(Rimini, November 15, 1828)<sup>152</sup>

I recommend the association of the apostles, *iuxta regulam*, etc.<sup>153</sup> It is active here, etc.

1844

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<sup>147</sup> Likeness, etc.

<sup>148</sup> After the fact.

<sup>149</sup> The Lord will be with you.

<sup>150</sup> As if doing something else.

<sup>151</sup> With multiplication of intercessors.

<sup>152</sup> Checking the postal marking, this letter was sent from Rimini and passed through Naples on November 15, 1828. One can determine that it was written around the 7-9 of November.

<sup>153</sup> According to the rule.

November 15, 1828  
Fr. Domenico Colombari  
Mercatino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Archpriest

A letter has already been sent to Rome for the relic of St. Xavier. Father Biagio will take care of getting the Chaplets. I am very pleased with the good work being done there; what a motive that is for consolation to your spirit!

Give my best regards to Alessandro Gambetti. Please send the enclosed carefully. With esteem and respect, dear archpriest, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, November 15, 1828

1845

November 16, 1828  
Fr. Giovanni Merlini  
Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Giovanni

You have probably sent to Fuschi the notification of the Masses which were enclosed to you. I have sent him the remaining ones. You will have to collect the 15 scudi which I have already disbursed for your account, sending to my house a receipt etc.

Note: "In May of 1828, a certain Anna Segatori, widow of the deceased Carlo Mandolesi from Campagnano, died in the hospital of S. Giovanni. In her last will, she left to the House of Albano eighty *scudi*, money which is to be used in offering suffrages for her soul with read and sung Masses, offices and anything else of my choice. I said, to the House of Albano, but this remains as something for your own good judgment. Realize, however, that the money cannot be asked for except when the rent payments for the land and houses come in. So, a few more years are still available, and it is a sure thing since the renters have included in the contract the duty of giving 10 *scudi* each year to the Missionaries of the most Precious Blood. Therefore, you can arrange for suffrages to be offered in some way for the aforementioned soul".

That is what Fr. Andrea Butirroni wrote to me. I have reproduced here his paragraph so that I can better handle it at the first period of collection, and we will thus have an understanding. However, you, also, can be involved, seek out information, etc. since I would like to set up an annuity with those 80 *scudi*, increasing it to 100, as I will explain at a later time. Keep this matter to yourself.

In the meantime, Ways of the Cross, the customary rosary, the communions of the young, all in behalf of the lady who made the will. Discover from Butirroni who the renter is who is responsible for the payments, his name, his location, since we will have to keep after him etc. You will find out also whether Father Andrea is or is not making the collection.

There was also a legacy from Spain of 50 *scudi*, concerning which Pellegrini provided the information. You should write to him in Giano, check with him and work on it from there. I have no

precise knowledge concerning this matter. Indeed, you may find another approach by contacting the Nuncio who is in Spain. Clarify this situation. The Treasurer will be able to supply you with the forms etc. etc. Pray for me etc.

*G. C. d. B.*

The legacy must have been made by some Spanish woman. Her last will should be there. also, the archpriest might know something etc.

Likewise, examine the rights of our church etc.

1846

November 17, 1828

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

Since we last saw each other in Rome, I have been occupied for almost five months in fulfilling the various commitments of the ministry assigned to me in Sabina by Monsignor Cristaldi. Then, too, there was our foundation in Romagna which I never thought I would achieve with any firm footing, as is needed in a particular way in this province, and it has required me to stay on to do some good work. Still, I was hoping to be able to complete this work in such a way that I could be back there in October. However, I can see that the situations will not allow me to abandon this effort when the work, shall I say, is only half done. There are 18 of us here in community.

The bishop has written for the endowment. However, *adhuc circa temporalia sumus ut eramus*.<sup>154</sup> We know that the works of God are brought forth in thorns. Yet, I cannot express to you the spiritual consolations that we experience through this good work. Let us give thanks to the almighty *a quo omne bonum*.<sup>155</sup> One thing still pains me and that is the removal, from the members of the Archconfraternity, of the octave and the seven day devotion of the Divine Blood after the month. This was obtained by Albertini, and I would like to see it kept intact. I feel confident that, with your industrious efforts, you will find a way of having this segment of good work revived. Also, I humbly pray to Jesus, our Beloved, that the cult to the Divine Blood will not be diminished in the least degree.

Let us move on now to another matter. Monsignor Marchetti has written to me about certain small booklets sent to you with regard to a sick lady concerning whom he has given me a few details. I would like to have some instructions from you with respect to this matter so that we can have an understanding. Have you completed your dealings with the most reverend Treasurer? Do not cease insisting and pursuing the matter. In my miserable condition, I can only pray, and God knows with what effectiveness I have recommended this to the aforementioned prelate. So, let us not fail to continue doing this good work, diffusing it further, extending it everywhere to the glory of God. God himself will be our ample reward.

Since you are located in Rome, and because of the news that I hear of the restriction of locales and sacred communities (assuming that this is not just a rumor), I beg you to keep an eye

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<sup>154</sup> Till now we are, as it were, concerning temporalities.

<sup>155</sup> From whom is every good.

open for a place that could serve as a hospice for us. Also, it would free you from a great deal of expense. I feel the distinct necessity of establishing one of our men in Rome to handle matters. So, as forcefully as I can, I call upon your charity. Even the Treasurer is deeply concerned about this and recognizes the urgency for it. An asylum of habitation will not be denied Father Andrea Butirroni if he would wish to take advantage of it. I would be pleased with the church of the Scarpellini, now that God has called to himself the good Father Giuseppe Spada. See what you can do about this and speak of it to a certain Focardi who, I understand, is one of the leaders in the Confraternity. We shall discuss the agreements and be able to work things out. By letter, we can supply for whatever may be needed. I do not write letters without purpose, but when things call for letter-correspondence, we must not delay that.

Finally, I learn that consideration is being given to the choice of the new bishop of Terracina, where we have a House that has been closed, along with the one in Sonnino. I will not go into details. I have already offered to God the sacrifice of this occurrence. No other institute has been admitted there, nor do I know whether any will be found. At any rate, Sermoneta has remained an open house and an ample locale for Retreats. When the new bishop has been selected, you will pay him a visit for me and I, too, shall write to him when, whoever it will be, is revealed. I point out that our times are altogether critical. So, let us pray and let us suffer. In everything, may the ever sweet, lovable, gentlest will of God be done.

One more thing. At the earliest possible opportunity, would you sell, at a reasonable price, the seven images of the most holy Sorrowful Mary? Let me know, and also indicate the cost involved, as I reserve the right to give you later a response. Let us remain in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Most venerable Monsignor, give my regards, in a very special way, to his Eminence Falzacappa and, with complete affection and esteem, I always remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant and loving brother

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, November 17, 1828

P. S. Keep on reminding Lovatti etc. Presently, we Missionaries are awaiting our holy Retreat. Pray for me. Next, I will be going to Faenza for a Retreat to the clergy. Prayers. However, keep sending your letters here to Rimini. If we get some consoling news, please communicate that to me.

1847

November 19, 1828  
Fr. Tommaso Meloni  
S. Felice di Giano

Hail to the Precious Blood of J. C.

Esteemed Fr. Tommaso

You shall receive post-free 30 *paoli* as the offerings for your 20 Masses, concerning which I would like you, please, to send me notification as soon as you have completed them.

I thank you for all your good suggestions. I can only assure you that any mistakes that I may have made were involuntary. The Lord must have permitted those things to happen for his most inscrutable purposes. What we should remind each other of is that *per multas tribulationes oportet*

*non intrare in regnum Dei.*<sup>156</sup>

The sad affair that you wrote to me about will be taken care of soon. Give it the support of your prayers. However, remain tranquil in that House where God wants you to stay. Do as much good as is proportionate to your strength, and remember that the very thought of leaving the Society is senseless. Whether healthy or infirm, whether possessing vigorous strength or not, the Institute is our all.

Pray to Jesus for me during the up-coming Retreat that our rule calls for, and may the Spirit of the Lord be communicated to us in such a way that our souls will aspire only to the love of him. I express my gratitude to him for the good achieved in Val S. Angelo, which God has blessed. Let us remain in the pleasant mansion of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and consider me invariably as

Yours most affectionately in J.C.

*G. C. d. B.*

M. A.

Rimini, November 19, 1828

P. S. In all your dealings, proceed with simplicity, and do not waste time on those thoughts that could disturb your peace of mind. You are sensible enough to know how to control yourself. I hope that you do not take this observation amiss, for it arises from the deep affection that I have always had for you, still have and always will have, and for whom I desire all those wonderful blessings that I would like for myself from God.

1848

November 22, 1828

Fr. Innocenzo Saverio Betti

Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

Upon the recurrence of the day of death of the deceased Carboneri, I would like a funeral service conducted there. Observing discretion in the expenses, according to your judgment, you will then send me a report of all as I await the notification according to the rule together with a voucher of receipt. Let me know the person to whom I should send the money that is going to be needed, especially since you say that the mail-delivery has not been regular. Let us understand each other.

*Laus Deo*<sup>157</sup> because of the chapel dedicated to Xavier.

At your convenience, I would also like a copy of the information found in the archives there dealing with the affairs of the deceased Carboneri.

I have heard about the Retreat, and all seems well. Here, Fr. Biagio will conduct ours.

There is no urgency of time with regard to the abstract of the Circulars. Item, with respect to Xavier's maxims: *ne tibi ultra vires opus imponam.*<sup>158</sup>

What a great day of recollection I have! Do I have one so that I can apply myself more to business matters? Is it all right? I should say not. We shall do it differently in the future.

After the Retreat called for by the rule, I shall proceed to Faenza to take care of the Clergy,

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<sup>156</sup> It behooves not to enter the kingdom of God through many tribulations.

<sup>157</sup> Praise to God.

<sup>158</sup> Lest I should impose a burden on you beyond your strength.

etc. Keep sending your letter to: Rimini. Prayers, loads and loads of them.

I have learned (as Fr. Giobbi used to say) about the petition for a subsidy in Rome. *Utinam*.<sup>159</sup> The Bishop here has written to the Pope for the endowment. *Nihil hucusque*,<sup>160</sup> and he has given no reply. Other rumors have it that someone who wanted to have it otherwise, etc... *tacete*,<sup>161</sup> said the Pope.. allow them to do... Many souls will be saved. So, let us allow the Lord to take over.

As for all the other matters, all goes well as you say. When will the House of Studies be opened? Here is what they are saying about the Bishop of Nocera. He is already in Rome. He is going to be the head of etc. etc.

On... on, etc... and on... To do what? With whom can one discourse? Let us think about doing good. God will take care of us. Terracina is going to be closed. Did anyone write me a single syllable? . . . No.<sup>162</sup>

I discovered what happened and I kissed the Cross. They esteem me and treat me as I deserve. This is my conclusion. Canon Betti must consider me a blockhead in the highest degree, and the others, even *in gradu remissiori*.<sup>163</sup> But all of this, as applied to the soul, is a great grace. Furthermore, if I stand in the way of the Community's progress, God sees what my heart has to say.

I am, however, remaining at the post in obedience to Albertini until they authoritatively remove me. Will that happen? I do not know. What is a fact is that God gives me an imperturbability and peace, as well as a deep affection for the Institute, which if I were able to improve matters by shedding my blood: here I am.

The rule is to be observed *ad amussim*. *Deo gratias*.<sup>164</sup>

In the morning you awoke at the sound of the alarm, but without physical discomforts? The last paragraph, *de longaeva vita*,<sup>165</sup> just does not hold true. I shall not see the glories of the Institute ... but you will see them. At this point, I ought to be a poet ...

*Monitum* for the Retreat

He crushed me in tribulations  
consider everything a joy etc.

With superabundant joy in every tribulation.

Through many tribulations etc. etc.

Blessed are those who mourn

You shall be made sorrowful.

Can you drink the chalice?

Tribulation and hardship etc.

Those who piously wish to live in Christ Jesus etc.

Who are these and whence have they come? ... from great tribulation<sup>166</sup>

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<sup>159</sup> Would that ...

<sup>160</sup> And nothing so far.

<sup>161</sup> Silent.

<sup>162</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Terracina [ Closing of House]

<sup>163</sup> In a more relaxed pace.

<sup>164</sup> Exactly. Thanks be to God.

<sup>165</sup> About a long life.

<sup>166</sup> *In tribulatione dilitasti mihi.*

*Satis. Orate.*<sup>167</sup>  
Rimini, November 22, 1828<sup>168</sup>

1849

November 21, 1828  
Fr. Domenico Silvestri  
Benevento<sup>169</sup>

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

My dearest in the Lord

May the grace and love of J.C. abound always in our hearts. Amen.

Before beginning my Holy Retreat, which I want to make as though it were the last of my life, I am sending a response to your letter.

I understand about the vow to St. Vincent Ferrer. In the thanksgiving of the Mass each morning, you will renew it in those exact terms, so as to make the prayer persevering. That is one of the conditions which, on our part, we must not overlook. We must abandon ourselves, without reservation, to the hands of God, whose most lovable will is for us a mystical bed of repose.<sup>170</sup> Miserable thing that I am, and indeed, most miserable to the ultimate degree, I shall not fail to pray for you, as I always do at present. I shall continue it with even greater concern "*ut Dominus repleat in bonis desiderium tuum*".<sup>171</sup>

In order to relieve you of every anguish, I say to you that, since we are the trunks of the Society, we should always be willing to be of service to maintain the holy fire of God's love, both in ourselves and in others. Do you see yourself as a *trocco*?<sup>172</sup> When it is dry (this is the purgative way), it is cut into pieces by blows of iron (this is the illuminative way...; the mystical iron of mortification roots us in virtue); finally, it is thrown into the fire to be consumed by the flames:

*Omne gaudium existimate etc.*  
*Superabundo gaudio in omni tribulatione.*  
*Per multas tribulationes etc. etc.*  
*Beati qui lugent*  
*Vos contristabimini.*  
*Potestis bibere calicem?*  
*Tribulatio et angustia etc.*  
*Qui pie volunt vivere in X. to J. etc.*  
*Qui sunt isti et unde venerunt?... ex magna tribulatione.*

<sup>167</sup> Enough. Let us pray.

<sup>168</sup> The postal markings for this letter indicate: Rimini (departure station); Nap (oli) 1828, 22 Nov. (passage of the mail through Naples). Hence, adhering to our usual calculations, one can assume that it was written around the 15th or 16th of November of 1828.

<sup>169</sup> On the fourth facing, alongside the address, D. Silvestri wrote: "Ascetical reminders".

<sup>170</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Silvestri, No. 7

<sup>171</sup> That the Lord fill your desire with good things.

<sup>172</sup> Trocco. This is the word found in the original copy. Could this possibly be a slip, which Gaspar frequently makes when he is writing in a hurry? One might say that "trocco" is written instead of "tronco". It is the word that he already used in the plural in the preceding sentence, in which he begins the simile that he resumes here and develops it. It is even more mysterious since the word "trocco" is not to be found in any dictionary, not even as an archaic word, nor does it belong, as far as one can ascertain, to the Roman dialectal jargon. However, it could have been something coined by Gaspar himself, perhaps because of its similarity to "ciocco": a tree-stump for burning; a log.

Blessed are we if the furnace of holy love mystically consumes us in such a manner that, dead to all others and everything else, we have nothing in view except God. At this point, the following thought occurs to me: "that you pray for me, *ne cum aliis praedicaverim, ipse reprobus efficiar*".<sup>173</sup>

Your devout promise, not at all considered as a vow, dealing with the Masses for the Souls in Purgatory,<sup>174</sup> is pleasing to God: "*sancta enim et salubris est cogitatio pro defunctis exorare*".<sup>175</sup> The intercessors in heaven are thereby multiplied. God probably gave you that inspiration in compensation for the many pious legacies that, at one time, were available. I do not think it right to use the notebook for these suffrages. Follow God's inspirations, directing your efforts now in one way, now in another.

I thank God for the good promoted by your very excellent uncle in Campoli, with respect to the great Xavier,<sup>176</sup> Willingly will I try to get the remains of a saint to be placed in the urn. It is not, however, the easiest thing to do. We shall see what God's will is.<sup>177</sup>

Pray a lot for me. Let us pray for good results in our Retreat. In Vallecorsa they are preaching daily. I kiss your hands. While waiting your reply, I remain with esteem, respect and attachment

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rimini, November 21, 1828

1850

November 29, 1828

Fr. Sante Righi

Domagnano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most. illustrious Father

Here I am sending a reply to your most esteemed letter. I give thanks to God for your good desires in promoting that most important devotion of the Divine Blood which will call down upon you special blessings from the most merciful God. The certification that I am enclosing for you has been drawn up by me in keeping with the things you mentioned in your letter. However, please note the following items.

1. In your church, which is now authorized with the necessary faculties, you can enrol anyone who chooses to come to you. You should point out to that person the recitation of the Glory be to the Father etc. seven times, that nothing obliges under the pain of sin, not even venial, and that on the day of enrolment it is customary for the person to receive communion. Finally, the certificates that are given to the persons enrolled are not essential, but, shall we say, just symbolical. I am enclosing some samples. When those certificates are awarded, the aggregating priest should append his signature. If I have not explained this sufficiently, please send your questions to me.

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<sup>173</sup> Lest after I have preached to others I myself should be disqualified.

<sup>174</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Silvestri, No. 8

<sup>175</sup> It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead.

<sup>176</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Silvestri, No. 9.

<sup>177</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Silvestri, Canon Giuseppe.

2. You are to keep two alphabetical registers for the sake of greater convenience. In one, you should list the male membership, in the other the female membership. List them as follows: name - surname - place of residence - diocese - day of enrolment - the month - the year. On the occasion of the death of a member, the soul is recommended to God and a cross is placed in front of the name of the enrolled in the register.

3. Once a year, in a package, you can forward here the listings of the enrollees so that those listings can be entered into the general archives in Rome. Should you prefer to be relieved of this burden of sending the notifications to Rome, in that case a Confraternity or a Pious Union, under the most august title of the Divine Blood, could be canonically erected there and subsequently aggregated to the Archconfraternity in Rome and you could set up your own archives there. In addition, you would enjoy other privileges which will be explained when the opportunity arises. As for the method of erecting a Confraternity, if you would desire to have greater clarification, all you have to do is drop me a line or so. However, in the meantime, with the certification that I am enclosing, you can continue to enrol people in the name of Rome, and the instructions given here will be adequate.

Make efforts to promote the public recitation of the Chaplet to the Divine Blood, a copy of which I am sending to you. I recommend forcefully this practice. Finally, there is the sanctified month during which the mysteries of the Divine Blood are adored. I shall send you a copy of that as soon as you can make the arrangements for promoting this practice and pious exercise.

5. No offering is to be asked from the enrollees so as to preserve the dignity of this pious institution. Rather, it is customary to have *battere la bussola* in the function of saying the Chaplet, or, it is taken care of privately by some pious person; and that is all.

6. The blessing for the uniforms would cover the capes worn by the men, when there is a Confraternity erected, and the same would be applicable for any female member who would be dedicated to this because of a grace received. In that case, a sturdy uniform consisting of a pendant, red *fittuccia*. The rosaries are those made of wood corresponding to the Chaplet that is recited, the sashes are customarily red and are worn in a similar fashion as those of the members of the St. Francis group. Nothing else is needed for the blessing except holy water and the *Te ergo quaesumus tuis famulis subveni etc., etc., etc.*<sup>178</sup> This is all that occurs to me that will be necessary for you to have in carrying out your praiseworthy desires.

7. Finally, by way of devotional practice, it is customary to distribute the hours for prayer, to be observed by the devotees with pure devotion. It is also of great interest to promote the perpetual cult of the Divine Blood by seeking to get 12 churches in the district to dedicate each month from January on, consecrating it to the Divine Blood.<sup>179</sup> So, ultimately, do not cease doing all the good you can for the welfare of souls, so as to rescue them from the occasions of sin. May the grace and love of Jesus Christ always abound in our hearts. Amen. Asking you to recommend me to God, I am, in Jesus Christ crucified

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

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<sup>178</sup> We beseech you, therefore, help your servants, etc.

<sup>179</sup> St. Gaspar placed here a small cross indicating attention to be given to the postscript.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, November 29, 1828

P. S. I am sending a copy of the month, useful for public recitation; through it, may people become fervent in our devotion.