

St. Gaspar's Letters

1901 - 1950

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1901

February 17, 1829

Luigi Baldi

Meldola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Luigi

With pleasure did I receive one of your letters to which I am now sending a reply. The idea of the parochial care of souls is, for us, not possible and that is why, while praising you for your holy plans concerning the good work of the parish priest assigned to S. Andrea, I point out that this cannot be done by us. Quite willingly would I present the petition of the people of Meldola for the longed-for foundation, but, the following points must be kept in mind:

1. It is most desirable that the petition be drawn up by the clergy and the people in authority in that area.

2. A list of the names of contributors should be made in such a way that when the money is in time forthcoming, it would be possible to set up, for example, an annuity.

3. The income from the Lenten and Advent preaching, done from a platform, should be taken into account; furthermore, it is understood, that there should be a church made available along with a suitable locale.

4. Investigate whether there is any other source of income.

Once all of this has been executed, then we will have a basis on which to make an eventual decision.

In reference to the presentation of this petition, one might also check to see whether it would be better to use some other means, with regard to the Institute, and that I myself, rather should appear there to give it its initial push. Venerable Luigi, in the meantime, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, February 17, 1829

I thank you for the copper castings of St. Xavier. However, I did not intend to inconvenience you.

1902

February 23, 1829

Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

I have received your letter in which you state in detail what you felt you should write to his Eminence Cristaldi... Oh, *utinam!*¹ ... Prayers.

I would like you to explain to me what that reference alludes to when you say: "*si ignoras te,*

¹ Would that ...

o pulcherrima inter mulieres, egredere".² I understand the rest; but the first part, no, relating to the divine shepherdess.

In regard to the deceased Pontiff, I point out two things. First, that *prophetavit nesciens*:³ "there is no spirit there". I am speaking of myself.⁴ Second, that deep-down he favored us, by granting a canon to the House at Frosinone, insisting on releasing that place; item, in the Brief of Spoleto, etc. I hope that he is saved; he did have great gifts. Our sins have stood in the way of the most beautiful inspirations. The world is in a great crisis!

With regard to the credential letters, I am awaiting a sample copy. I would like to have the heading with blank spaces and in general terms so that they can be used by everyone. What reason would there ever be for putting my name there? There is no glory to God in that. It would be an outward show that does not meet with my approval.

I am aware of the painting. It appears too complicated to me. *Sapientioribus autem me remitto*.⁵ Still, one should think a bit more about depicting the Eternal Father and the Holy Spirit, even following the practice of the Church which adapts itself to us, since that is already included in seeing Jesus etc. That way, the painting will not be so complicated.

You are truly accomplishing marvels there, and for that you will be exalted on earth and later in heaven. Pray for me that I may know how to prepare myself for the eternal years, and consider me constantly as

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, February 23, 1829

1903

February 24, 1829

Fr. Vincenzo Poeta

Soanne

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Archpriest

I am very much edified by your letters addressed to Father Pietro de Victoriis who is doing the Lenten preaching in our Mission House in the Marca; afterwards, he will be in residence here. Therefore, voluntarily and as a preference to any other good work, as well as to give you confirmation and to increase the fruits of the recent Missions, I assure you of the Retreat to be given in that area under your care. However, it will be necessary to begin it on Thursday, immediately following Ash Wednesday, since the Missionary will then proceed from S. Maria in Soanne to Monte Cerignone, and thereafter to take up further good work elsewhere. The schedule for Lent is full. This is all that I was able to arrange.

So, you will have to send a couple of good and safe mounts here in Rimini for the last night of Carnival time so that the trip can be made on Ash Wednesday itself. The Missionary, along with

² If you do not know yourself, o most beautiful among women, depart.

³ The unknowing one prophesied.

⁴ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Struggle Involving the Institute In 1825.

⁵ I submit to those who are wiser.

the brother-in-service, will be able to have dinner at Mr. Gambetti's house in Mercatino. Thus, it will be sufficient that you, in my name, should inform him of this, for I am quite well-acquainted with his generous heart. It is also a very good idea that there be two Missionaries coming there, otherwise only one man would not be able to handle all the confessions.

Furthermore, if we are to accomplish a good work, it is necessary to do the best we can. This means that, in that case, the Retreat could be shortened, but it would not change things that much. In that event, you will have to send three mounts. You take care of the entrance ceremonies; you will not be responsible for the departure. I imagine that the lodging will be the usual one. You are acquainted with our methods. Pray for me, and have others do so too, as I ask you to inform me immediately if there is any variation in plans. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rimini, February 24, 1829

P. S. I do not have the convenience of having mounts come here. I advise you of this so that you do not attribute it to a lack of ...

1904

February 26, 1829

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Caimillo

Please remove the outer covering from the package that you are receiving addressed to you. You will discover that the package is to go to the pastor in Fiuminata, diocese of Camerino. I shall be writing to him through the mail. I ask you to forward it safely. In a hurry, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, February 26, 1829

1905

March 2, 1829

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

A thousand, thousand thanks for the printed materials which you were kind enough to send to Rome. Oh what a treasure those booklets are to me. What a great stimulus the devotion to the Divine Blood is in activating zeal for the divine glory! If you can, try to introduce in Fabriano the preaching of the great month in preparation for the feast of the price of our redemption. If the bishop approves, it, as I hope he will, I am planning the arrival and departure of one of our Missionaries along with a brother-in-service, in keeping with our regulations. The room and board is to be covered by the alms that we collected at the end of the preaching, and along with that the cost

for the wax used. I am hopeful that God will bless this heavenly intention. I have selected a Missionary because I intend to be able to handle any urgent need that may come up so that this very salutary preaching can be done. *Ita fiet.*⁶ You, who bear the name of a saint who was so devoted to the Divine Blood - St. Camillus - must be the definite promoter of this work, overcoming any and all obstacles that Lucifer might offer: "*Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter sanguinem Agni*".⁷

As for our accounts, it seems to me that we are even.

With regard to the Seven Offerings which are presently being printed, I am leaving them all with you so that you can distribute them, wherever possible, for public and private recitation, and especially anywhere that we have conducted our Missions. In that way, you are working together with us in making permanent the holy fruits of the divine word.

I have heard about Monsignor Piervisani whom I would like to see continue his pastoral work, for he has been endowed with an extraordinary gift from God. When the occasion arises, you might recommend me to his prayers. In another letter of mine, I will be able to tell you when I will be setting out on my trip. Pray a lot for me, a miserable creature, and with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap

House in Rimini, March 2, 1829

1906

March 4, 1829

Fr. Vincenzo Poeta

Soanne

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Archpriest

Here are the two Missionaries and the Brother. May God bless, as I hope he will, this new visitation so as to produce great fruits for the faithful. On the second Sunday, in the morning, the holy Retreat there will be concluded and after the main meal, the holy Retreat in Monte Cerignone will begin. I hope that you will be content. Thank you for the two baked hams that you were kind enough to send to this Mission House. Oh how many obligations we have to you! *Dominus retribuet pro me.*⁸ I have already made all the arrangements together with the most reverend bishop. On the morning of next Sunday, the sermon on Purgatory will be given and will conclude with our usual reminders. I think it would be a good idea for you to inform the Vicar Rubertini of the arrival of the Missionaries, so that a different arrangement with the bishop does not occur. Pray for me and have others do so too. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, March 4, 1829

⁶ So may it be.

⁷ They conquered the dragon through the blood of the Lamb.

⁸ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

1907

March 7, 1829
Fr. Innocenzo Betti
Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Dear Canon in the Lord

1) I have received two of your letters, which I am now answering. I have heard about the Mission in Mola,⁹ and you have done well to write of it to Merlini and to the Bishop of Gaeta in reference to the brief delay.

2) Send all of Fr. Domenico Silvestri's baggage that he has there to him while he is in Mola and Castellone. Also, write him a couple of lines in my name: that from now on he will be dependent on Merlini, President of the Province of Marittima and Campagna, with whom the aforementioned Fr. Domenico will be associated. The same holds good for Marcello. The following are in Mola: Liparelli, Silvestri, Galli, Fr. Giovanni Batt'a Pedini (new man). C. Betti can assist in the begging for the poor in place of Marcello, and with great fruit.

3) I have understood about the papers that you sent me for Silvestri. *Laus Deo*¹⁰ that one can see something.

4) I am sorry to hear about the poor health of Aloysi, which I hope is showing improvement.

5) With regard to the credential letters: be simple, brief, adapted for everyone's use, finally, complimentary for the Institute.

6) *Utinam*¹¹ that the Lord would select Cristaldi or, to express it better, that he would manifest his choice of Cristaldi in the present Conclave.

7) I thank you for your erudition with regard to the term and usage of: *bidello - servus antecessorum*.¹²

8) In Rimini, Cristaldi's 12 Masses have already been fulfilled, *pro hoc anno*,¹³ and exactly so. You are correct in asking: "does one not offer prayer". Benevento is in the warmth of southern Italy, but around here Canon del Bufalo is in the cold: snow, etc. Therefore, pray etc.

9) With regard to the charge for room and board, for both in the future House of Studies, I would say 45 Roman Sc. Is that all right? What do you say? Between what you and I suggest there would be a variation of only three *Sc.*, the difference between 45 and 48 *Sc.* It is necessary to make adjustments ...

10) As for the number of resident students, seven: a full complement. Unless you are promoted to higher things, you will be the President of the House and the House of Studies. For the Missionaries, seven rooms: a full complement. We must now think about and begin working for a beautiful location for the Retreats. In the estimate that has been made, they do not include the rooms for the Brothers; this is understandable. The rules for the House of Studies are being copied already. I am not expecting to send you any young men at all. From now on you will recruit them by yourself, fit students and from outside the diocese. It will be better, since the rooms are few in

⁹ Cf. Geographical Data: Mola and Castellone.

¹⁰ Praise to God.

¹¹ Would that ...

¹² Bidello [messenger] - servant of forerunners.

¹³ For this year.

number and do not allow for expansion. We do not have money for traveling expenses. At most, I will send you only one. Likewise, I will be sending the Brother replacement of Marcello. Let me know if you want two of them, since the House of Studies will soon be operating. Please give me a detailed answer to all of this.

After Easter, a man from Romagna will be coming there as a Missionary, for he has already renounced his canonry. Gonnelli will return, etc.: that is the reason why, if it is agreed to open the House of Studies in September, that I cannot delay the sending of our men. I also have a pastor from the Marche who has renounced his position and is joining us. So, that makes seven Missionaries, just as here in Rimini..

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Betti | 3) Gonnelli | 5) Rosati |
| 2) Liparelli | 4) Aloysi | 6) and 7) <u>the two new ones</u> |

The locale for the Missionaries is habitable, and already I have mentally conceived the 1st room, where I used to be, the 2nd is yours, the 3rd the one where Gonnelli was, the 4th where Fr. Vitale was, the 5th the small one where Bartolomeo was, the 6th where Silvestri used to be at first, when I was there. The 7th, the chapel, which in my opinion can be made into living quarters. For the chapel, *pro interim*, the room that is near the entryway. With only one young man coming, at most, he can be lodged in the guest room with a sofa, at best. Here, joined together, are your ideas and mine. In the meantime, the new wing will have dried. I don't think that it could do so before September.

11) Whatever are you saying about the burdens heaped upon me? In myself, I feel the *ama nesciri*;¹⁴ in you, the very same thing, *cum hoc addito: tibi regere et gubernare*.¹⁵

12) You will receive a book on St. Joseph which can be used for the Community meditations. Let us make his month fervently. Devotion to him is very well promoted there.

Spiritual sentiments for Easter ...

Good night, it is late. *Orate*.¹⁶

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

Rimini, March 7, 1829¹⁷

1908

March 16, 1829
Mr. Luigi Fuschi
Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Luigi

Enclosed is the listing of the Masses. If you have others to send, you could do me a great favor, and I will be ever most obliged to you. The offerings for the enclosed notification, you can

¹⁴ Love to be ignored.

¹⁵ With this is to be added: for you to rule and govern.

¹⁶ Pray.

¹⁷ This letter, sent from Rimini, is to be assigned to the last part of February or the first days of March, 1829. In fact, the postal markings from Naples give the date March 7, 1829, from which one must subtract, as usual, six to eight for the delivery time from Rimini to Naples.

settle with Father Merlini, and you will together come to an agreement.

Pray a lot for me, and, with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, March 16¹⁸

1909

March 19, 1829

Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Dear Canon

Not for this occasion alone does one decide to send Missionaries, but one does it almost at any time. Oh! how great is the need for Workers! Unexpectedly yesterday, his Eminence Cristaldi had his secretary write to me to send two Missionaries to Sabina. I have complied with that, and I hope that all will go well. *Rogate*, therefore, *Dominum messis ut mittat operarios in messem suam*.¹⁹ Let us pray now that the new Missionary will not be unstable. For that reason, I have written to Merlini that Silvestri, the new man and Marcello should be kept together, etc.

Prayers.²⁰

According to the rumors, I wonder whether the Lord is calling Cristaldi to the Papacy. In all things, may the lovable will of God, the only center of peace, be done.

Explain those words of yours, with reference to the new Missionary: "whether you do not realize that some members are too meticulous". I scarcely understand such an expression. However, if you consider Merlini meticulous, then point it out to him with all apostolic (and laudable) freedom.

The news concerning Galasso's house, which in time could expand the foundation there, is for me the greatest delight, realizing how useful that will be, *servatis servandus. Laus Deo*.²¹

I have not received the papers dealing with the association, which were to be sent to me through Fr. Domenico. Nor, as of now, have I received a copy of the Prospectus of the Society.

Point out to the Curia that the Dimissorials for Galasso's priesthood are not to be issued until I have said: he is prepared in the field of Moral Theology. *Ora pro me, etc.*²² Otherwise, let them recall him first; in our group, no one is to be ordained except *iuxta dicta, etc.*²³ I must be concerned alone with what pertains to the Institute.

G. C. d. B.

¹⁸ The year is 1829, as is evident from the data of the response, annotated by Fuschi: "March 30, 1829".

¹⁹ Ask the Lord of the vineyard to send workers into his vineyard.

²⁰ The new Missionary, mentioned here and in the letter (n. 1911) of March 23, is Fr. Nicola Maiorano, from Benevento. (cfr. biographical notes). This pious priest, sent by Betti, after having participated in the Mission of Mola and Castellone together with Silvestri, entered the Institute and achieved the greatest success.

²¹ Observing what needs to be observed. Praise to God.

²² Pray for me, etc.

²³ According to the saying, etc.

(Rimini, March 19, 1829)²⁴

1910

March 20, 1829
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

If Canon Tarulli forwards to you a package from an aggregation, see to it, please, that you get it to me immediately. Likewise, I ask you to provide me with a ream of stationery as soon as possible, letting me know the cost, so that I can quickly send you the remittance. Pray for me who, though in a hurry, remain and will constantly be, my dear Camillo,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, March 20, 1829

1911

March 23, 1829
Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Dear Canon

Here I am sending an answer to your letter. What you tell me about the new Missionary is all very good.

With regard to the collection, realize in the first place that it is to be restricted to the final offerings at the end of the Mission. Furthermore, that in the Kingdom, one never engages in making appeals ...; collections are very common in the Epistles of St. Paul. The deceased Albertini favored this final collection, which (as he used to say) also serve to bring the work of the Lord to the attention of the people. The method of avoiding embarrassing situations depends on the person who is announcing the collection. As for our Institute, moreover, it is not proper to seek compensation for the services rendered, as I suspect Brandimarte did, with all good intentions, in that area (when you were not there) ... It would not take much for the Director of the Missions to say ... "I realize that because of your lack of money, you can give just some small offering, etc. etc."... but God is pleased with your good will and with all the work of remodeling, so that every little bit of help gathered from various individuals, *ut constat ex facto*,²⁵ adds up to a significant amount.

Add to that that there are so many expenses that do not even show up on the books. It is sufficient that they be known by me alone because of the status of the Institute. Likewise, if, from the income of a Lenten series, one is able to defray his traveling expenses and his sustenance, that is

²⁴ This letter, as well as the others of this same period, bear on the outside the postal markings of Rimini (the station of departure) and those of Naples (the station of transit), with the date of the latter being March 19, 1829. One, therefore, can determine, according to the usual calculations, that it was written around the 11th to the 13th of March.

²⁵ As is evident from the fact.

sufficient. I add, further, that the poor people are excluded from these regulations. Other exceptions are to be made where it appears the better thing to do.

When God provides us with as much as is needed, be sure that also the resident students, with whom we are also concerned, will be admitted *gratis* and even the boarding expenses will be remitted in poor areas. ... You are acquainted with the policies. But, *adhuc modicum*.²⁶ Since so much of the sacred patrimony has been unjustly (speaking in general) taken away, it is only just that in the meanwhile the people contribute something etc. etc. and that they realize that the Society was born in poverty. We will be continuing the course of the history of the Church from its first beginnings until now. Point out, too, that the Missionaries hand over everything to the Superior, all in keeping with the Rule. Then, too, remember that the Houses need printed materials. Still; *adhuc modicum, et ob merita Pretiosissimi Sanguinis D.N.J.X., omnia in ordine erunt composita*.²⁷ But you may say: "it would be better etc." However, for a while, let us just keep on going as before. How else are you going to complete the work of restoration?²⁸

Within a short time you will see a Circular dealing with gifts. Observe, however, that it has always been the custom of the Church to place votive tablets around the Sacred Images, etc., and that is why changing them into chalices, *per modum habitus*,²⁹ is not to my liking, *petita venia a gravissimo viro Innocentio Betti, cuius laus resonat etc. etc.*³⁰

With respect to the Retreat called for by the Rule, I have a real scruple in dropping the book containing meditations for the month of the Divine Blood. It is such that I would be in anguish even to the point of death. At the time of Retreat, our Community must renew its fervor concerning *hoc Mysterium Fidei*.³¹ Likewise, the maxims must occupy us during the morning periods, and in ten days of Retreat, we should delve into them more deeply.³² Rather (not making a rule in this regard) why not use them also *in reliquis anni temporibus? Patientiam, etiam circa hoc, habe cum antiquo tuo famulo scribente*³³ ... The book for the month has so little unction! Well, then, why do you not compose another?

I have heard about the two Companions from there who are out on a Mission. *Utinam*³⁴ it turns out successfully. I esteem them: but, who is directing them? *Tuae autem vigilantiae id omne*.³⁵

I noted furthermore that you are *undequaue circumdatus, etc. etc. et variis distentus curis*,

²⁶ For now a little bit.

²⁷ Till now not much, and because of the merits of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, everything will be arranged in order.

²⁸ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Collections, Question Of.

²⁹ After the manner of a habit.

³⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Gifts Offered by the Faithful. [A favor was sought from a very important man, Innocenti Betti, whose praise resounds.]

³¹ This mystery of faith.

³² During the Retreat called for by the Rule, it was prescribed to have the Meditations in common, read aloud, and held at night. For this exercise they were to use "the book of the Month of June, dedicated to the adoration of the Divine Blood". (*Metodo per gli Esercizi Spirituali prescritti dalla Regola per le nostre Communita*", revised by the Founder in September of 1835; the passage referred to here is found on f. 9 "*Orario per il dopo pranzo*").

³³ In the remaining seasons of the year. Have patience, and even this with care, when writing about your old servant.

³⁴ Would that.

³⁵ But it is all for your vigilance.

*etc.*³⁶ Yet, one might read some day that *aegra valetudine multa fecit, dixit, scripsit, etc.*³⁷ It is fitting at this time, *pro viribus*,³⁸ to take up all the work, serving the Institute in the first place. Later, take on more, moment by moment, with great enthusiasm, because the time that goes by shall no longer return and our diligence will call down upon us those blessings which we yearn for. We must (using due application) believe without waiting to see, and not declare: *nisi videro etc. etc.*³⁹ I feel like I am paralyzed and stiffness is overcoming me, etc. You understand. Therefore, "*quia in pauca fuisti fidelis, super multa te constituam*".⁴⁰

So, let us embrace the Institute *corde magno et animo volenti*.⁴¹ That could well be what the Lord wills: we shall always be irrevocably God's, and consecrated to God. But you might say: are we doing any praying? I answer: we are doing as much as we can, as well as we can and whatever we can, though always imperfectly and not with that earnestness that we should. Prayers, therefore, for that intention.

With respect to the rest that pertains to me, it is all right for you to amuse yourself with imaginative ideas and notions of all sorts of possibilities, for this will reveal the greatness of the soul made in the image of God. *Ad posse*⁴² *ad esse non tenet illatio*.⁴³ Now listen. I have taken up the devotion to St. Joseph. and from this devotion will come that internal, hidden, most private, occult life which will be for me the grace that the Saint will implore for me. Therefore, wish me a release from my difficulties, not indeed from those that you imagine, because I am certain of being freed of them, but from other lesser ones that could happen to me. Also, that I could remain as an ordinary member at S. Felice, relieved of the government of the Society, which I would gladly see vested in you, because (and I speak truthfully) you are in no little way at all fit for governing, which for me is . . . you supply the word that I cannot think of at the moment.

In reference to Galasso, there is nothing against his good behavior and honesty. There is simply his frenzy to be ordained. I have informed him of our policies. He has gone to the Carlotti in Cammerino, and now no longer has nor will he have in the future any place with us. *Exivit de forti dulcedo*.⁴⁴ Tell his father to call him back home; thank him for all that he has done; anything else will be handled by Card. Bussi. The only thing left for me to do now is pray for him.⁴⁵

With regard to the sending of our men by mail coach, you say: send them for such and such a time... but, please, tell me everything precisely and decisively. It means that they shall remain there as a threesome, *donec etc.*⁴⁶ Think about it so that there will be no conflict; also, that I do not make

³⁶ Surrounded on all sides, etc., etc. and weighted down with so many cares.

³⁷ This alludes to what is read about St. Gregory the Great in the Office for his feast day (March 12): *admirabilia sunt quae dixit, fecit, scripsit, decrevit, praesertim infirma saepe et aegra valetudine.* (Cfr. II Nocturne, III lesson.) [he did, spoke, wrote much about his ill health, etc.]

³⁸ In accord with one's strength.

³⁹ Unless I shall see, etc.

⁴⁰ Because you were faithful in a few things, I will set you over many.

⁴¹ With a big heart and a willing spirit.

⁴² This is as it is found in the original: but it is evidently a slip of the pen. The Latin axiom says: *a posse ad esse non tenet illatio*.

⁴³ The inference from potentiality to actuality does not hold.

⁴⁴ Sweetness went out from the strong.

⁴⁵ Cf. Additional Biographical Data.

⁴⁶ Until, etc.

plans in one way and then follow through in another. I shall be obedient to whatever you tell me, realizing that, since you are there *in faciem loci*⁴⁷ you can better decide than I can. Let us, therefore, come to an agreement as to the precise day for the arrival of our men in Benevento. Do you think that all of them should arrive by autumn?

All right, so be it. But the word autumn is so general; please indicate: for such and such a day... Likewise, let me know whether I should send a resident Student, since I no longer have been sending any. At the same time, I will be sending a Brother. You continue recruiting the other resident students. Let us establish the cost of the room and board with a precise decision. At present, the rules for the House of Studies are being copied. You shall be President of the House and also of the House of Studies, and not otherwise, since you have a special talent with young people.

Now, to the last paragraph, which pertains to your own person: such a praiseworthy member of the Institute. I do not know what basis there is *quoad primam partem*,⁴⁸ of your being a burden etc. I refuse, therefore, to give an answer to that. You are as much a burden as feathers are for anything that flies .. enough of that...

*Quoad secundam partem, circa votum... adhuc modicum.*⁴⁹ These are matters that are to be stabilized at the time of Retreat. *Interim orationi instandum.*⁵⁰ Rather, since it is P'a C'i, a triduum of thanksgiving to Xavier. *Id potes vovere.*⁵¹

One more word. Perhaps, I shall have to go out on the Missions beyond Gaeta. Are you willing to go along? We shall discuss it a bit more and then we will divide the work, after Gaeta ... Send an answer. If you are in favor of doing this, then start making plans for being away from your place there.

Pray, my beloved, for me; kissing your truly apostolic hands and feet. I am and shall unshakeably be

*Suo infimo in X'to Servo,*⁵²

⁵³ G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini (*ubi tot ac tanta Deus operatur*⁵⁴) March 23, 1829

Prophecy

*Can. Betti vocabitur ad maxima onera.*⁵⁵

Before I die, I shall see him with a miter on his head and a pastoral staff in his hand. *Orate.*⁵⁶

⁴⁷ After the fashion of the place.

⁴⁸ As to the first part.

⁴⁹ As to the second part, concerning the vow ... so far not much.

⁵⁰ Meanwhile insist on prayer.

⁵¹ You are able to promise it.

⁵² To his lowest servant in Christ.

⁵³ At the end of this letter (a thing more unique than rare) the Saint, giving in to his caprice for joking, which is evident in the entire writing, drew a type of freize which goes from the last number of the date, continues with many curves and curious flourishes, and occupies the entire lower area of that sheet, encircling on the one side his own signature and on the other the name of Betti written, as usual, at the bottom.

⁵⁴ When God performs so many and such feats.

⁵⁵ Canon Betti will be called to the greatest burdens.

⁵⁶ Pray.

1912

March 25, 1829
Fr. Luigi Giannini
S. Agata

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

In reply to your letter, I now confirm what I said to you in my previous letter, that is, that you are to send two mounts here for next Friday evening so that on Saturday, vary early in the morning, the trip to your area can be made. The Missionaries who are presently in Monte Cerignone will go on to Macerata Feltria. Please advise Gambetti that if the trip is made through Mercatino, he should provide hospitality in his house for the Missionary, or else to select some other place. Pray for me: with esteem and respect, I remain unchangeably

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, March 25, 1829

1913

March 25, 1829
Luigi Baldi
Meldola

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

It has been two or three days since you sent me the enclosed matter which I am now returning to you so that you will know the exact time that you sent it, and likewise that you know whether what you sent has in any way been delayed. The Mass, which was accompanied by an offering of three *paoli*, has already been celebrated.

Let me know to which St. Francis Xavier, that is to say, to which image, is the red *corsetto* (I think that is the term) to be assigned: namely, to the one that we transport on our Missions, or to the one that is exposed in the church where the votive offerings are. Indeed, these adornments could be attached to the one carried on the Missions, but always in keeping with whatever the desires of the devout faithful might be etc. Check this with the woman making the offering. It is already understood that this will be converted into a gift of value such as a silver heart, or something similar. I like to have exactness and it is for this reason that I await your precise response. I am convinced that this package, which has now arrived, is the one that was thought to have been lost. Let us remain in the sweet hearts of Jesus and Mary and, with all of my esteem and affection, I remain invariably

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, March 25, 1829

P. S. I celebrated the Mass at the altar of the most blessed Sacrament. I believe that this was a good thing to do, since in the letter no precise altar was indicated etc.

1914

March 27, 1829
Fr. Erasmo Pompa
Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Erasmo

Oh how delighted I was to see your most appreciated handwriting again and to get precise information about your health which I wish will prosper to the glory of God and the welfare of souls. I profess to you my deepest sense of obligation and I pray that you will read the feelings that lie even more profoundly in my heart which I would have liked to express in this letter of mine.

With pleasure did I learn of the fruitful results of the holy Missions for which I would have liked to be present in person, not indeed with the thought that my presence would have made them more fruitful, for "*ego sum vir videns paupertatem meam*,"⁵⁷ but to demonstrate to the people there, who are so very dear to me, the sincere affection that I nourish for them. However, God will accept my poor desires: "*Desiderium enim pauperum exaudivit Dominus*".⁵⁸ Within a short time I shall be getting back to Rome and, who knows, maybe the Lord will grant us the delight of seeing each other again there. Prayers. Whenever the need arises, all you have to do is address your letters to Father Giovanni Merlini, the President in the Province of Campagna. Finally, pray, dear Father Erasmo, for me, a miserable one, and have as many others as you can get do the same. May the Lord grant us, one day, a blessed reunion in Paradise. Amen. In the meantime, I remain constantly

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁵⁹

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, March 27, 1829

1915

March 27, 1829
Fr. Nicola Majorano⁶⁰
Gaeta

Si raccomandandi al Sig. D. Erasmo Pompa

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Esteemed Fr. Nicola

I have been informed already by the most worthy Canon Betti of your vocation to the Society, and by prompt mail delivery I remember having indicated to him my sincere pleasure in learning of your decision to dedicate yourself to the apostolic ministry of the Holy Missions. I now reassert this same thing directly to you, begging you to offer many prayers for holy perseverance. The devil will not cease harassing your vocation. Confide, however, in the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, and you will achieve through it a glorious victory: "*ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguine*

⁵⁷ I am a man viewing my poverty.

⁵⁸ The Lord has heard the desire of the poor.

⁵⁹ To his lowest servant in Christ.

⁶⁰ Cf. biographical section.

Agni".⁶¹ Let Most Holy Mary be our guide, our leader in so holy a career; and also the great Xavier, our exemplar! What a fortune for us to use the short time that we have here in this present pilgrimage for winning souls! What need there is for the apostolate! Meditate often on the words: "*si quis ministraverit, honorificabit eum Pater meus*".⁶² After the current Mission, you will get your assignments from Fr. Merlini, President of the Province of Marittima and Campagna; and, you will rely on his commands, acknowledging in obedience the will of God.

May the Lord fill us with his Holy Spirit. Asking you for the charity of your prayers, I am and will constantly be in the adorable hearts of Jesus and Mary

*Suo infimo in Xto servo*⁶³

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House of Missions and Retreats in Rimini March 27, 1829

1916

March 28, 1829

Alessandro Gambetti

Mercatino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Alessandro

On the occasion when a confrere of mine will be on his way to S. Agata to conduct a Retreat, may he profit by your charity in providing him with religious hospitality for which you will receive great merit from the Lord. Your sincere demonstrations of charity have given me the courage to offer this inconvenience to you. Please give my greeting to the archpriest and pray and have others do so too for me who remains now and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, March 28, 1829

1917

March 28, 1829

Fr. Antonio Sarto

Mola di Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Father Antonio

With extreme joy and consolation of spirit did I learn of the great fruit resulting from the holy Mission. Praise be to the Lord from whom we receive every good gift. It is so necessary to provide often these visits of mercy for they forcefully revive the objectives relative to the glory of the Lord whom we serve.

I thank you for your charity in occupying yourself in the good management of things, and

⁶¹ The conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

⁶² If anyone ministers to others, my Father will honor him.

⁶³ To his lowest servant in Christ.

may the Lord fill you with his sweet blessings. Let us now pray that the fruits will be lasting and permanent and let us seek the patronage of our dear Mother Mary most holy. Do not fail to offer a prayer or so for me and get as many others as you can to do the same, for I am greatly in need of them. Finally, while preserving the desire to see you again in person, I have the honor and pleasure of renewing myself with the fullness of esteem and respect as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, March 28, 1829

P.S. On my behalf, extend best wishes to the most reverend bishop when you have the opportunity, and recommend me to his prayers.

1918

April 12, 1829

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

Here I am sending a reply to your letter. Let us pray, indeed, that God will soon restore our Institute there, since the devil will not cease doing all he can to impede our good work. Poor people, so very dear to me ... oh how needful I see them to be! God, however, who is a witness to my desires, will accept the offering of my aspirations! If Monsignor Grati would have written to have the Retreat ... I would have considered sending the workers whom I have assigned both for the Kingdom, for Sabina as well as for other places. But that is how things are ... sometimes even good people have their vision veiled. I think, perhaps, that this might be a chastisement from God which he is giving to the population there for having brought on so many, many acts of disturbance to our Society which belongs to the Lord. We pardon the intentions of all; so, we must await the order of providence. I conclude ... prayer that the Lord will look upon them with pity.

With regard to the dispensations, they are to be observed substantially; indeed, you are doing all that you can to hold to the observance of the rule in keeping with the directions of that community. You are endowed with those illuminations (for that is what I would call them) that are conducive to rendering you tranquil in those things that otherwise might produce confusion. I hope that I have made myself clear. So, be very, very tranquil, for I know how much you revere the rule and I do not overlook how diligent you are in whatever is dependent on you. Let us praise God for this greater illumination which he deigns to give, for everything is a gift from him. You need not write and give me further details on this matter. Whatever you may have the desire to accomplish, the time will come when the Lord will see to making the way clear so that it can be carried out. In the meantime, pray that your observance of the rule will grow in perfection.

Following the advice of the Venerable Berchmans, I would say this concerning the fasts ... "my penance is living in community". At most, during the Marian month, I would allow something to be done on Wednesdays and in the month of June on Fridays, or any other day that you would care to select. I use the expression "something to be done" since this will depend on the status of your health as well as other circumstances arising from living in community.

Every creature has his own natural activity, but this does not stand in the way of the practice

of virtue which, as a matter of fact, is even more vigorous when the nature is more energetic. For if, at times, one may be lacking in a balance of spirit, that will not prevent one from progressing onward since virtue is not acquired in the space of one day. When one is moving forward, at times the foot may slip but then one quickly sets it again in order to proceed on the way. God sees that we are earnest in loving him and serving him faithfully. So if on occasion one might note some defect, one is not to become upset, but rather to say, in the words of St. Catherine of Genoa: "These are the weeds growing in my garden" and then, with humility, start out anew on the way.

You mentioned the feelings of discouragement that occur occasionally. To this I say in reply that plants are shaken by contrary winds but their roots are firmly set, that is to say, well-founded! So get rid of those fears, for I would like to see your soul resting firmly and confidently in God on those occasions.

Finally, the variations that are experienced in the soul remind us of the variations of the mystical seasons to which we are subject ... it is not always wintertime, nor is it always summer; they are all necessary for all is in service to God.

Promote evermore the devotion to the Divine Blood through which we will always be provided with the strength to combat Lucifer.

May the grace of Jesus Christ always abound in our hearts. Amen. In Jesus Christ crucified, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, April 12, 1829

Do not leave off receiving communion, in keeping with the usual directions.

1919

April 1, 1829

Fr. Beniamino Romani
Pievetorina⁶⁴

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Esteemed Father Beniamino

Thank you for the list of Masses which I wanted so much. With regard to the corresponding stipends, all I need from you is a note, as soon as possible. I also thank God very much for the assistance he has given you in your preaching. We also are hopeful of great fruit in souls.

To anyone who has written to me about your vocation I have simply responded that it has never been confirmed with prodigies. I do not have any doubts that your cooperation will have to be equally energetic and decisive.

The mail is leaving. You will hear more from Merlini.

Consider me, with esteem and respect, as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

⁶⁴ In April of 1829, Fr. Beniamino Romani was located at Pievetorina where he was President of the Boarding School and taught Sacred Theology to the young men.

Rimini, April 19, 1829

1920

April 23, 1829
Fr. Antonio Coccia
S. Cristina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Curate

I inconvenience you with this letter of mine in order to come to an agreement as to the time of the holy Mission which I have learned about from the most reverend bishop of Fuligno.⁶⁵ So, please address your letter to me, using the prompt mail-delivery to Rimini, so that all can be properly arranged, since we have nearby our Mission House in Pievetorina and the time can be set for our evangelical workers. Let me know whether you would want to have two or three Missionaries, along with a Brother, as I reserve for myself the right to send you another letter after receiving your answer to this one. Most esteemed curate, pray for me, and, with the fullness of esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, April 23, 1829

1921

April 23, 1829
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

What do you say to my delay? *Habe me excusatum*.⁶⁶ I have lacked the time, but not the will and the desire that the most loving God grants to me for this most useful exchange of letters which the Lord wishes between us.

It is true that I have been somewhat worn down, but in a way that still allowed me to handle the ministry which is so very dear to me. Now, however, I am feeling a bit stronger and I am happy with the state of health which I have. However, in this area, each time that I think about leaving, new requests, new concerns arise, etc., etc.. May God be blessed in all things. Still, speaking in a general way, we shall see what the month of May will provide, and, looking at the present situation, my leaving could occur either before the middle of the month or around the 20th, but I cannot say precisely at this moment. I am hoping to have time, before setting out on my trip, to write, but all this is dependent on letters that I receive. But, just why am I loading you down with this disturbance? Already, the many other inconveniences that I am always causing you are not in the least small ones, though they are lightened by your bountiful charity. ... In regard to the 1.20 *scudi* that you mentioned to me, I do not know what to say. I, too, have forgotten and I just do not know how to clarify the matter.

⁶⁵ Msgr. Stanislao Lucchesi.

⁶⁶ Hold me excused.

I have received the ream of stationery, and I remember that I wrote to you in reference to your reimbursement.

The package which you have received is an aggregation of a new Confraternity, erected *sub titulo augustissimo Sanguinis Domini Nostri Jesu Christi*.⁶⁷ Using the prompt mail-delivery, please write to me the name of the town and diocese where this new aggregation is set up. A mistake made in Rome is the cause for all of this confusion, so to speak, since someone inadvertently made an error on one of the pages, and, instead of sending one of them to Canon Tarulli in Matelica, they sent him a different one. So I am awaiting, thanks to your kindness, an exact indication so that I can quickly straighten out the situation.

Furthermore, should there be some money left over in your possession, you could use it for the printing of the seven Offerings which I will then take with me on my trip.

Unwillingly do I now cease writing because just remembering you is such a source of consolation for me. May God, one day, brings us together in his blessed kingdom; in the meantime, with esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rimini (for forwarding) April 23, 1829

P. S. I am writing this letter from Macerata Feltria.

1922

April 24, 1825

Donino Giannotti

Monte Copialo

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

In reply to your letter I say to you that I do not know who is the cardinal of the Sacra Consulta. Whether he is also the same as the Secretary of State I am not able to say since I do not have the least knowledge concerning this. However, I do know that Monsignor Begni will be going to Rome; so, on that occasion, he might be able to speak in behalf of what you have kindly mentioned to me. At any rate, either there will not be a change made or, if it does happen, your merits will be taken into consideration.

I shall be in Rome within a short time; but it will not be that soon, since I must take care of concerns in our Mission House in the Marca and later the one in Umbria. Only God knows whether I would be of any assistance for your needs, and you can be sure that in matters that are of such a special nature, I simply do not have the means of being helpful to you. Pray for me, and, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Macerata Feltria, April 24, 1829

⁶⁷ Under the most august title of the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1923

April 25, 1829
Luigi Baldi
Meldoia

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

In reply to your letter, I must say that I have already converted the gift offered by the peasant woman into an object of value which is to be placed before the image of Xavier which is carried about on our Missions.

With regard to the observance of the month of the Divine Blood, when you have the opportunity, all you have to do is to contact Rimini and I will see that you will receive the booklet for the month dedicated to the adoration of the Divine Blood.

I, too, will try to find an opportunity for getting this done, and I hope that it could be carried out when our Missionaries are on their way through Faenza for the purpose of conducting a Mission. We are not able to conduct the Retreat in preparation for the feast of St. Xavier in December since at that time, we ourselves are all engaged in making our own spiritual Retreat. It would be necessary, therefore, to have your celebration on the octave day, and in that way, everything could be worked out. However, according to our rules, we must first have the invitation from the Vicar General whenever he wishes to send it. Our preaching is to be done only from a platform and also from that platform, the discourse given on the day of celebration, but not in the style of a panegyric.

As for the selection of the member to come, I shall not be able at this time to promise you anyone in particular, for that will depend on the circumstances at that time. I am not able to disturb Father Elzeario,⁶⁸ very busy at this time in conducting Missions; except by using sonnets composed in a holy fashion, sonnets which could be more easily compiled by others.

At the present time, De Victoriis must do fruitful work in Umbria; later on, he will return. Our ministry covers a multitude of activities and we try to share the work in the best way possible. If things are not managed according to the request of the Holy Father and if it is not backed by legitimate authority, I do not know what sort of success might be achieved. Canon Buda might be able to direct this work. We can do nothing more than to pray that, in all things, the will of God be done.

I am writing this letter from Macerata Feltria; however, you are to send your response to Rimini.

I have understood everything that you stated to me concerning the Mass, as well as everything else covered in your letter. Most esteemed Luigi, pray and have others pray for who, with esteem and respect, remains and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

April 25, 1829

1924

April 25, 1829

⁶⁸ Father Elzeario Senesi.

Luigi Fuchi
Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

I am late in sending you a reply to your very dear letter because during these days I have been extremely busy. So, here is my opinion. I am not able to do anything directly in promoting something that regards the Institute, except by being somewhat helpful with my own poor prayers and offering one or the other suggestion which I subject to your own consideration. Thus, as I see it, there are two means that are available for achieving your purposes. First, and most effective, is the help of his Eminence della Somaglia. Perhaps you can arrange to have a deputation sent or even you yourself have a meeting with him. God works wonders! The second is to send a deputation directly to the Holy Father, and by bringing to his attention the good work being done by our Society, you can urge him to favor setting up a foundation in Norma. Finally, there is a third means and that is that you would get in contact with Monsignor Polidori who, as a cardinal, is able to approach the present Pontiff,⁶⁹ at the time of Cardinal Mattei, he took a notable part in the synod; he is likewise a close

friend with Monsignor Maciotti. More than this I cannot say. I repeat, I am not able to act directly. So, let us pray that God *est omnia in omnibus*.⁷⁰ Continue to conduct the oratory zealously, while keeping me lovingly in your prayers. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, april 25, 1829

1925

April 25, 1829

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli dell'Oratorio
Ascoli

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Vincenzo

I am late in sending an answer to your very dear letter because of the demands of the ministry. But God who looks deeply into my heart knows how I continuously keep your most worthy person before my mind: *memoriam tui faciens in orationibus meis, etc.*,⁷¹ certain as I am of the ample compensation which I receive through your charity. However, do not cease multiplying your prayers to the Lord, so that I shall be saved: that is everything for man: "*quod aeternum non est, nihil est.*"⁷²

With pleasure I learn of the progress in good work made by that city that is so dear to me. I give thanks to the Lord for the zeal that he stimulates ever more and more in your spirit to work for

⁶⁹ Pius VIII was elected on March 31, 1829.

⁷⁰ He is all in all.

⁷¹ Making remembrance of you in my prayers, etc.

⁷² What is not eternal, is nothing.

the divine glory. The Confraternity of the Clergy is most interesting; nothing will be lost when our days come to an end here below. I have no doubts that the Retreat will have brought about great benefit to souls: *et hoc sit nobis ad solatium*.⁷³ On the 3rd of May and on the 14th of September, it is customary to make a visit of the Crosses that are erected; for this pious exercise, make an effort to instill the spirit of St. Phillip as he made his journeys to the Shrines of Rome, and have no doubt that the Bishop, to whom you will offer my best wishes, will be most content and satisfied.

Please, do not allow the practice of the Month to be done in half-way measures. Otherwise, take care of it yourself: God will bless you richly for it. I shall recommend this most important matter to the Lord, that he clear the way for you, so to speak, to succeed in this effort.

Our Chiodi is turning out very well.

Greetings to Fr. Vincenzo Belenghi, and always be mindful of me.

Consider me

*Suo infimo in Xto servo*⁷⁴

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, April 25, 1829

1926

April 28, 1829
Fr. Luigi Olivetti
Trebio

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Archpriest

I inconvenience you with this letter of mine in order to learn from you whether on the feast of the most Holy Trinity a discourse on the Immaculate Mother is to be given. In that case, the Missionary could anticipate the noon meal here so as to be there on time and likewise to be back here by evening to the Mission House along with the brother-in-service who will accompany him. Under your care there is a certain Caprilli who was in training with us to become a brother-in-service, but was found to be inapt, although a person of good life. Please, I ask you to inform him that when he has the chance to be here in Rimini, there is a small package which has been addressed to him. Pray for me, and, with esteem and respect, consider me to be in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, April 28, 1829

1927

May 1, 1823
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

⁷³ And let this be a consolation for me.

⁷⁴ To his lowest servant in Christ.

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

With pleasure did I receive your letter. In reply, I ask you to please send to me here the package of the new Confraternity erected in S. Maria della Terra in Torricella del Montefeltre. If I could have it before departing from Rimini, I would be most grateful, otherwise, we will have to be patient. It is for this reason that, in keeping with all good procedures, I ask that it be addressed in a general way to the Superior of the Missionaries, here in S. Chiara in Rimini.

With regard to the money matter, I refer you to my other letter.

In general, and viewing the situation as it exists at present, I should be on my way through Fabriano around the 10th or 11th of this current month of May, but this means only *in circa*.⁷⁵

Besides Bartolomeo, I shall have accompanying me only Father Biagio Valentini who is assigned to preach the month of the most Precious Blood in Rome. I realize that I will be inconveniencing you in no small way. Pray for me a lot and, in Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, May 1, 1829

1928

May 1, 1829

Fr. Antonio Coccia

S. Cristina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Curate

Here I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter. As you noted, the Mission will be deferred until after the harvest season. Would it be feasible to begin it on the feast day of the Assumption of the most holy Mary? I would be pleased to know this so as to make a note of this in my book of reminders. Along with a lay-brother, there will be two Missionaries who will be there, and the Missionaries will live as though they were in a monastery. The expenses involved will include the mounts which will be provided by your parishioners. So, it would be a good idea if you would advise me as to whether you would prefer Missionaries from S. Felice in Giano or from Pievetorina in the diocese of Camerino where we also have a Mission House. The choice is up to you.

In addition there is the matter of room and board which is to be frugal, and nothing more. Having now discussed the date, in time we can continue to correspond with each other. Consequently, I await your kind reply. If you prefer to have the Mission in September, you are still the boss. Feel free to make any decision. In the meantime, venerable curate, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

⁷⁵ In the neighborhood.

Rimini, May 1, 1829

1929

May 3, 1829
Mrs. Eleonora Rozzi
Campli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious lady

Here I am sending a reply to your very esteemed letter on this 3rd of May, the feast of the Holy Cross, the mystical ladder to heaven, the cathedral of truth, the tree of life, under whose shadow we are to find rest in the peacefulness of the just. Oh what a great book for us is the Cross! It is a summarization of the apologetics of our faith, a practical knowledge for our moral life, and the most tender lessons of love that the Lord has shown. From this book, every soul is encouraged to promote evermore the most important devotion to the Divine Blood, which I highly recommend to your zeal and charity, so that it will become known wherever possible.

At the present time, I have noticed how the Lord is blessing the pious practice of the perpetual adoration of the Divine Blood. Twelve churches, in diverse locations successively observe this devotion each month. One, for example, would select January, another February etc. etc. and, in this way, bring to reality this very great work. One or the other printer might be selected to reproduce copies of the booklet of the Divine Blood.

In addition to what I am suggesting here, you should also not cease stimulating people to practice devotion to St. Xavier, for this devotion is becoming more and more prodigious. What a great saint, a great advocate we have in Xavier!

Likewise, what a marvelous consolation it is for us to observe this month dedicated to Mary! The years keep passing by and we keep drawing nearer to most blessed eternity! Pray a lot for me that I may reach it myself, so that while preaching to others, I will not fail to preach to myself. It is also very necessary to offer many prayers for a foundation of ours to be set up in the city of Naples. Up to now it has only been a hope, but one that seems founded on good dispositions. We shall await the results.

The need for the reform is extreme. I hope that the conducting of a Mission in Campli will soon return. It is so urgent for this visitation of the Lord to be repeated often. Take care of yourself, and, with esteem and respect, I remain unchangeably

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, May 3, 1829

P.S. I shall soon be back in Rome.

1930

May 6, 1829
Luigi Fuschi
Norma

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

In reply to your letter, I wish to thank you for your concern with regard to Masses, and, when you have some available, to indicate that by letter to me in Rome where I expect to be before the end of May.

With regard to a foundation there, try to direct things in accordance with what I said in a previous letter of mine, and you can be sure that, as far as I am concerned, I shall welcome this warmly, but only secondarily, that is to say, after the proper procedures have been taken care of, since I am not able to do anything more than this. Pray to God that he grant me the possibility of carrying out what I truly would like to see done in favor of the people there who are so very dear to me. In the meantime, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, May 8, 1829

1931

May 8, 1829

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

A couple of lines in a hurry to inform you of some good signs that are appearing for the re-opening of our locale in Sonnino. So, offer prayers, and do not fail to urge as many people as you know to do the same for this intention. Send your reply to Rome where I expect to be before the end of this present month. Pray and have others pray for so many projects underway for the glory of God. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, May 8, 1829

1932

May 9, 1829

Fr. Giovanni Merlini

Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Esteemed Fr. Giovanni

I am returning the letter from the Bishop of Gaeta, not knowing whether you may want to keep it. When I get to Rome, I will be able to give you more precise information with regard to Gaeta. As far as I am concerned, you can be sure that by the grace of God I would like not only to run but to fly in order to support your hopes. You must believe that it is painful for me to appear perhaps hard-to-reach, so to speak, in these deliberations. But that is not true. Many times I have not even been given the chance to do the things that I would like to do. My desire would be to exist as a simple member, without troubles, without directing, without temporalities to fuss with, etc.; and then, etc. etc. The will of God is everything for us. Assure Monsignor of those principles that guide

my life.

Besides, Gaeta could be taken care of without me, for there is nothing that I am good for except *gloriarmi in infirmitatibus meis*.⁷⁶ We are only channels or aqueducts. God *est omnia omnibus*.⁷⁷

Someone might offer this objection: you must acknowledge the gifts of God; but, these are given to the Society and for the Society, not excluding our own personal and faithful cooperation in its pursuit of the good. So, draw your own conclusion in such a way that *pateat cor meum*.⁷⁸

Experience, however, has shown that, in a given place, when they imagined that the Mission would not turn out to be successful, for example, if I did not appear, nevertheless, a great fruit ensued. Such an observation merits repetition⁷⁹ so that God will be praised in all things. Likewise, one might come to know that God *facit mirabilia magna solus*;⁸⁰ in addition, the minds of men will be relieved of apprehensions, and thus, with greater solicitude, make the good available to souls. Fr. Giovanni, you may conclude from all this, perhaps, that I am deeply founded in humility. I answer that I would love to be so. However, humility is the confession of truth. *Ego sum vir videns paupertatem meam*.^{81 82}

I shall be leaving within a few days. I will visit Pievetorina and Giano. Send your letters to Rome. For now *donec, etc.*,⁸³ keep me posted on the most particular urgent matters, paying attention at the present time to the economy which is not to be extended beyond our usual budget. Let us trust in God who *facit mirabilia magna solus*.⁸⁴

As for your request for 80 *Sc* write *ad melius*⁸⁵ to his Eminence Cristaldi, etc. Pray for me.

After Itri; quickly on to Albano, etc.
(Rimini, May 9, 1829)⁸⁶

1933

May 11, 1829

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Just as I was preparing my departure for Rome, I received one of your most appreciated

⁷⁶ You shall glory in my infirmities.

⁷⁷ [God] is all in all.

⁷⁸ My heart is open.

⁷⁹ In the manuscript at this point, a half-line is cancelled by the writer himself (illegible).

⁸⁰ He alone performs great works.

⁸¹ I am a man seeing my poverty.

⁸² There follows a line that is completely crossed out, it seems, by the writer himself (illegible).

⁸³ Until, etc.

⁸⁴ He alone performs great wonders.

⁸⁵ For the better.

⁸⁶ In the original, one reads the following annotation, written in a strange handwriting (not of Merlini): "From the House of Missions at Rimini - May 1829. Canon del Bufalo gives instructions for the Mission at Gaeta, etc. The postal markings offer however: "Rimini" and "May 9".

letters. I understand everything that you tell me with reference to the Retreat. The two carriages which are to be sent at the designated time, you will please send to Frosinone where I shall see that Missionary, along with the Brother, will be ready, and I am hopeful that the good work will be done. I shall be sending a new and very capable member who, with the grace of God will carry out the holy ministry with copious fruits. Extend my best regards to the most reverend bishop and keep me in your prayers. With the fullness of esteem and respect, I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁸⁷

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, May 11, 1829

1934

March-May 1829

Fr. Vincenzo Poeta

Soanne

Dear Archpriest⁸⁸

Enclosed are two copies of the month dedicated to the mysteries of the Divine Blood. One is for your church and the other for the church of S. Andrea, since the pastor in Cermitosa already has one of these booklets. It seems to me that you are to have the practice of this devotion in the month of December and in the other parish, I would say, it should be in another month of the year, safeguarding the month of June for Cermitosa. Advise the pastors that the booklets should be kept in the parishes who, in turn, will successively fill out the 12 months of the year with this devotion. In this way, the perpetual cult of the Divine Blood will be had. I am awaiting from Rome the open leaflets that are being printed and I will send them to you immediately. I have sent a copy of the booklet for the month to the pastor in Majolo. Inform him and arrange everything with him in keeping with everything mentioned above. Asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

1935

June 4, 1829

Luigi Graziani

Cotignola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

One of your letters has been forwarded to Rome and I thank you wholeheartedly for the consoling news concerning the holy Missions. With zeal, make every effort to sustain the religious practices so that the fruits will remain stable and enduring. From time to time, it would be helpful to

⁸⁷ To his lowest servant in Christ.

⁸⁸ This copy does not bear a date, but the letter is certainly after the ones written to the same person on February 24th and March 2nd, 1829. The letter was written when St. Gaspar was outside of Rome; hence, it was probably from Rimini where he remained until May of 1829. Thus we assign the date as March - May 1829.

arrange for a shift of Retreats, while the Missions should be held every three, or at most, every five years. I shall not fail to keep up my poor prayers for this very important intention. As soon as I get back to Romagna, I shall write to you. Please keep me in your prayers, and consider me to be, as I hereby sign myself

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 4, 1829

1936

June 4, 1829

Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Luigi

Here I am in Rome. I, too, notice that a foundation there, with the present status of the treasury, as I hear, is not to be hoped for. It would be necessary for it to be set up by the help of pious persons and also to see whether anything would be available from pious places. Sufficient for now is "prayers". As de Sales says, God will bring the times to maturity.

The delivery of letters does not allow me at present to be in time to write to the archpriest, as you well note. Still, St. Francis Xavier, our most beloved saint, has probably done all that he could. As long as his name is made known through our devotion, you are not to be worried. For in that, too, God is given glory. The idea that you suggest in having the devotion carried out in the presence of the most blessed Sacrament during the octave of Corpus Christi is an excellent one, and I hope that God will bless this effort. Finally, do not cease urging constantly the doing of good works, to the scorn of Lucifer. Pray and have others pray for me who, with esteem and respect, remains

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 4, 1829

1937

June 5, 1829

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

For the glorious septenary which you have arranged, which is a thing that brings me consolation, I would like you to send a brief note of invitation to Canon Luigi Gonnelli, a Missionary of ours who has to be here in Rome for a short time yet to take care of some business, so that he can supply his help for this very good work. However, it will be necessary to inform him of this quickly. Do not forget about gathering the memoranda on our very dear Albertini which I would

like to have as soon as possible. I have contacted the bishop of Faenza⁸⁹ who is take charge or the printing of this little work. I am interested in having this printed, *quasi aliud agens*,⁹⁰ since it will offer an idea of what our Society is all about. More when we see each other in person at our next meeting. Pray a lot for me, and, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem, respect and a very special affection

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

June 5, 1829

I have heard that the new bishop of Terni⁹¹ will be consecrated by his Eminence Falzacappa. In Terni, there is a relic of the most Precious Blood; the place and income is that of the Jesuit Collegio; perhaps some plan could be worked out for our Institute. Try, *ex se*,⁹² to see whether etc.

You would be doing a great favor for Senesi, a cousin of Father Biagio Valentini, if you could find a position for him in some ecclesiastical court or some secretariat.

1938

June 6, 1829

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I begin this letter of mine by giving you the most rousing thanks for the many kindnesses shown to me as I passed through that city there which is so very dear to me. I have received the reams of stationery. Let me know whether you collected the corresponding amount of money through the mail.

With regard to the meditations, before the are printed, I would like to have your honest opinion. Furthermore, let me know whether you have located some prospects for sharing the expenses. Then, we will come to a decision. Perhaps it might be a good idea to prepare some printed invitations. Likewise, I would like to have on the frontispiece the following addition: "This edition is promoted under the auspices of the Missionaries of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ".

Finally, do not cease praying and have others pray for me. While extending my best wishes to all in your house, I am and will constantly be, with esteem, respect and a very special affection,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. de Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 6, 1829

1939

⁸⁹ Msgr. Nicola Tanari.

⁹⁰ As if doing something else.

⁹¹ Mgrs. Nicola Mazzoni, consecrated in Rome on June 7, 1829.

⁹² Of itself.

June 6, 1829
 Msgr. Gaetano Bonanni
 Bishop of Norcia
 Norcia

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁹³

Venerable Monsignor

I am late in sending a reply to your most esteemed letter because of the many occupations facing me in these days.

Thank you for your efforts in obtaining the notable income from the property, *et Dominus retribuet pro me.*⁹⁴ And, what about the 30 *scudi* from the heir? With full enthusiasm I shall occupy myself in finding a priest for the Congregation of the Filippini Fathers, and in time, we will come to a decision. Assist me with your prayers.

Venerable Monsignor, do not cease praying and have others pray a lot for me and for our Institute which is providing so much good for souls. With zeal, let us promote the devotion to the Divine Blood and to the sweetest hearts of Jesus and Mary. As I kiss your hands, venerable Monsignor, I remain and will constantly be, with esteem, respect and a very special affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 6, 1820

1940

June 8, 1829
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very Reverend Mother

Here I am in Rome sending a reply to your most appreciated letter. I am sorry that you suffered so much because of the rumor that was spread around that I had died.⁹⁵ God has made use of that incident to unite you even more to his Divine Heart. Let us adore his sovereign dispositions. In the meantime, be at peace once again and return to your soul that tranquility and calm which I desire for you.

Let us pray that the meeting with Monsignor Grati will be effective and conclusive, as I hope it will be. I shall pave the way as best I can and to the extent that things will be dependent on me. Still, I am completely trusting in prayers which is what I request of you in your charity, as strongly as I can.

Praise be to God for the propagation or the observance of the great month. This devotion is the one that will produce victory. Be consoled that God has blessed your apostolic work in this regard.

The desire that you nourish with respect to the consideration of our being nothing is

⁹³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁹⁴ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

⁹⁵ A similar rumor was spread about in 1830 (cfr. The letters between June and August).

something truly granted to you by God, and I pray that he will increase that sentiment in you so that, by means of this, you will merit, through your love for him, evermore new merciful blessings. With regard to your relationship to your sister-members, here are three reminders:

1. Respect in them the gifts God has bestowed on them; but note, too, that God allows some gifts to be shared; in this way, likewise, we are made humble.

2. It is not proper to do violence to the intellect in such a way as to cause it to become confused. For example, if I, in trying to show humility, were to say that someone is very learned when that person is actually ignorant, that would be a violation to the mind; and God does not wish to have this sort of thing. Indeed, he wishes us to recognize correctly the gifts that he has given out of love, and also that imperfections arise of our own doing.

3. We are to give thanks to God for choosing us to serve him in some way; at the same time, we say: "If God were not to help me, what could I do?"

Finally, it is not in the thoughts that you have been having, the cause only of your suffering that the wrong lies ... I say nothing more. Ask yourself: do I see something out of the ordinary? Say to yourself: it is something out of the ordinary, but I shall be understanding toward my sisters and I shall try to exercise charity through prayer, and, if I can manage to succeed, I shall try to return things to good order. I shall not say anything just for the sake of talking; no one is obliging me to speak: up and say, for example, that this is the rule concerning talking when, for example, it is the time for silence. I shall only be understanding, etc., etc., etc..

Furthermore, these battles are not just idle occupations, but an exercise in virtue. Everything, indeed, should be done peacefully, setting rid of all excitation. I note that your imagination is quite agitated, but your heart is quite steady. Give thanks to God and keep moving forward. A pilot steers his ship, but he has no power to prevent the battering of contrary winds; all he can do is defend himself. Make the proper application of this lesson. ... Only in Paradise we will no longer have oppositions; here, however, we must suffer.

With respect to those powerful sermons, handle yourself as I have already counseled you. God allows those things in order to strengthen the mystical walls of the cloister of your soul, so that it will belong only to God. Continue, indeed, receiving Holy Communion as usual; you need not consult anyone else; keep serving God without anxiety and rest comfortably in the arms of the Father who has loved us from all eternity.

I add that I note that you are undergoing this torment to your faith, that is, that you have the idea, for example, that something is blameworthy in you. But you can be still about those things; they are only small storms, not shipwrecks. The latter give cause for regret, but not the former, even though we may not want them. Death to the spirit would continue to become a reality evermore, for what is there here below to stop it? *Vanitas vanitatum et afflictio spiritus*.⁹⁶ We must remain in the hearts of Jesus and Mary. May our adoration for the inestimable price of our salvation be tender. In Jesus Christ crucified, while asking you for your prayers for my soul and for our Institute etc., I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 8, 1829

⁹⁶ Vanities of vanities and affliction of spirit.

1941

June 12, 1829
 Msgr. Antonio Begni
 Bishop of Montefeltro
 Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁹⁷

Venerable Monsignor

Enclosed is the petition⁹⁸ written in my own handwriting and, after recommending myself to God, putting down the contents which you can observe. For a successful result, I am trusting first in God and then in your prayers and cooperation. Immense will be the merits that your most reverend excellency will increase toward heaven and we will look upon you as a father, a protector, a most valuable mediator in behalf of the holy society of God which is so uniquely close to my heart and for which I would be willing even to give my very life. Monsignor, do not be reluctant to face any and every difficulty and energetically plead for this cause, one that is entirely worthy of a holy bishop and completely proportionate to the fullness of desires in your heart! Finally, most venerable Monsignor, pray for me, a miserable one, and with profound acknowledgment and particular esteem, I say once again that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

June 12, 1329

1942

June 12, 1829
 Pope Pius VIII
 Most blessed Father⁹⁹

From the time when Monsignor Marchetti, Archbishop of Ancira, was situated in charge as the Vicar Apostolic and Administrator, there was erected in the monastery formerly belonging to the nuns of S. Chiara, a Mission and Retreat House under the direction of the Missionaries of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. But the highly respected Archbishop of Ancira was able to assign to them only a part of the aforementioned monastery, since the other part of the entire property had been sold to Mr. Guiccioli.

Now, most blessed Father, the release of that part of the locale that was sold is most urgent, both for the removal of the people occupying it so as to free the area for those who come to make a retreat as well as to afford room for young priests who are preparing themselves for our Institute and for service to the Church. There is, indeed, a necessity for providing more rooms to accommodate retreatants.

Therefore, the petitioning Missionaries have recourse to the clemency of your Holiness to be

⁹⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁹⁸ Cfr. the following letter.

⁹⁹ The petition is without a date, but certainly it is connected with this letter of June 12, 1829 written to Msgr. Antonio Begni. In fact, the petition was found among the letters to Begni. Cf. Also the following letter.

pleased to concur with this program that is one of piety and interest. The petitioners are quite aware of the present circumstances and, therefore, do not make bold to propose more than to grant faculties to the Treasurer General anything to provide to Mr. Guiccioli, who is ready to make the transfer, that total amount of credit from the Reverenda Camera Apostolica to the city of Rimini, given to it for use at the time of the earthquake. Thus, it is understood that the reverend bishop of Rimini will be supplied with the necessary amount to redeem the entire monastery of S. Chiara and its surroundings.

The petitioning Missionaries will never forget this most generous act of your Holiness and they will always recommend you to the most merciful God that he will give you a long life as well as every other good that relates to you. The need for the ministry both in the diocese of Rimini as well as the neighboring diocese of Montefeltre, without saying a word of other areas, your Holiness can learn from the holy pastors themselves whom God has given for the welfare of those dioceses. That is the reason why the petitioners are trusting that the Lord will give you that illumination by which our Society, which has begun this work of the clergy and the people, will continue to show rapid training progress; that etc.

In behalf of the Missionaries in Rimini

1943

June 14, 1829
Fr. Nicola Marazzani
Rimini

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁰⁰

Venerable Father pastor

I cannot sufficiently express to you my acknowledgment for so many favors and concerns that you show in encouraging and protecting our holy Institute which provides also for you a broad field of activity in which to exercise the particular zeal with which your soul is so well-endowed. What more can I do? I shall say with the prophet: "*Dominus retribuet in benedictionibus dulcedinis*".¹⁰¹ I have, indeed, already submitted the petition to the Holy Father to obtain what we are hoping for with regard to the release of our locale, suggesting to him the program that you, in your kindness, proposed to me. Offer prayers for a good outcome. I would have liked to have had the petition submitted directly by the Excellent Monsignor Zollio; but (just between us) he told me that he was very busily occupied with other matters, and that is how it turned out. So, now, offer prayers *quoniam Deus est adiutor fortis*.¹⁰² In accomplishing his works, he makes use of his creatures, *pro sua voluntate*.¹⁰³ Likewise, I am considering preparing another copy, just in case the other one may be lost. In the meantime, let us exercise holy patience.

Canon Contessi has probably been informed; but, a bit of time is still needed. I myself shall go to the nuns who are in charge of the orphans; and I will then be able to tell him everything. Give my particular greetings to him and assure him of my decided intent to carry out this commitment.

¹⁰⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹⁰¹ The Lord will repay you with sweet blessings.

¹⁰² Because God is a strong helper.

¹⁰³ For his own will.

Finally, I ask you to extend my best wishes to everyone and in particular to the most reverend Vicar, Canon Giovannelli and to Meroni. I recommend myself to your prayers and those of all the others. A very special greting to my dearest Father Paolo Venerucci. *Gratia Dei nobiscum.*¹⁰⁴ I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 14, 1829

1944

June 22, 1829

Giovanni Calvi

Sora

With pleasure did I see your handwriting again and I hope that God will richly bless the Retreat this year, hoping that the fruits will be copious and abundant. I shall not delay in getting to Frosinone. But in this matter, I am not able to give a precise date at this time. I hope that I will remember to send you word when I will be going there. In the meantime, do not cease praying for me who, with esteem and respect, am now and will constantly be

(there is no signature)

Rome, June 22, 1829

1945

June 28, 1829

Fr. Nicola Crescenzi

Veroli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁰⁵

Venerable Canon

With this letter, I most humbly ask you to inform the Marquis that I am most grateful to him for the beautiful arrangements he has made in preferring me as a tenant in his house and also that I am very obliged to the most reverend bishop for his assistance in setting up, for my advantage, a more restricted rental fee. However, realizing that the conditions of our times are such that they do not allow for changes in our methods of economizing, I have decided to remain where I am at present while peacefully enduring the inconvenience of making another entry, and without sustaining an increase in the rental fee of some 30 scudi more than I pay here.

So, let us rest on this decision, and, with the fullness of esteem and respect, I now renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

June 28, 1829

¹⁰⁴ The grace of God be with us.

¹⁰⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

1946

June 1829

Pope Pius VIII

Once his deportation had been brought to an end in the year 1814, the Supreme Pontiff Pius VII, of happy memory, occupied himself immediately in sending out evangelical preachers for the sanctification of souls and the reform of the people. Already beforehand he had erected the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in order to promote this sacred cult in compensation for the abuses made by sinners, particularly in our times; likewise, through it, to animate the faithful to offer up this inestimable price of our redemption to the divine eternal Father. In view of the fact that one of the purposes of the Archconfraternity was that of having our brother-priests dedicate themselves to the apostolic ministry of giving holy Missions and Retreats, that beloved Pontiff wished to make use of them for this project for God's greater glory, and through their services to promote also that most important devotion to the Divine Blood.

Eventually, he recognized that it was of the highest advantage to establish residences in the various provinces so as to facilitate assistance to the bishops in the holy ministry of God, and, at the same time, to afford a sacred haven in those localities for anyone who would wish to make a Retreat. In this manner, he intended to offer to God a work of compensation. After having been a witness of the devastation to the sanctuary, he in this way, wanted to call back many priests to detach themselves from everything and everyone, while urging them to take up the apostolate for the holy glory of God. He did not wish to have an Institute with vows since the society would be directed to the clergy and for the clergy. Likewise, it is not possible to estimate the advantage it has been for souls, despite the continuous attacks of the devil who is always prepared to cause confusion and tear down any sacred institution whatsoever.

Our first foundation was set up in S. Felice in Giano, a locale granted to us by pontifical rescript, as can be seen in the chancery of the Archdiocese of Spoleto.

That foundation was also supported by the now-deceased Pope Leo XII on the occasion of his Brief for the installation of the Jesuit Fathers in Spoleto.

After the foundation in S. Felice in Giano in Umbria, another was made in Pievetorina in the Archdiocese of Camerino, and, since the locale was available to the archdiocese, it was granted to our Institute, so that also in the Marche, the exercise of the ministry would be facilitated.

Then, too, Pope Pius VII also founded the House of S. Paolo in Albano, as can be seen in the acta of that chancery. He extended it further to include the provinces of Marittima and Campagna with the hope of spreading the work of our Society in the interests of religion and the training of souls.

His Eminence Cardinal Spinucci, upon having a place available in Benevento, with an apostolic faculty, likewise wanted to diffuse throughout that city the Institute for giving Missions and Retreats which is under the direction of the Missionaries of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. One cannot describe the concern shown also by the present Archbishop, his Eminence Bussi as he continues to support the establishment of a foundation such as this. As a sign of his special attachment, he has selected our *pro tempore*¹⁰⁶ superior there as a Synodal Examiner for his priests. This can be read in the recent compendious synod directed by this beloved Eminence Bussi.

¹⁰⁶ For the time being.

After the foundation in Benevento, the one in Rimini was set up. This was activated by the very distinctive zeal of Monsignor Marchetti, Archbishop of Ancira, and then followed through by the present bishop, Monsignor Zollo.

At the present time, negotiations are underway with other bishops for further foundations which will supply also for a lack of vocations to the solemn vows and will activate the local clergy to the apostolic life. One of these foundations is being considered now for Naples, and, there has been detailed interest expressed for the Isle of Malta. God is, indeed, stirring up interest in other places abroad.

Now, returning, more in detail, to the reign of Pope Leo XII, of holy memory, it was he who was very desirous of maintaining protection for our new Institute. He had already sent word to the now Cardinal Cristaldi but at that time the General Treasurer, that he should seek some locale in Rome to set up our Society there, and likewise, to arrange for the study of languages to be used in foreign missions, thus providing new support for the major concerns of his Pontificate. As a matter of fact, he sent one of our Missionaries to the island of Santa Maura, but this man was subsequently called by God to the eternal years, a victim of the sufferings encountered during that mission. He also had me write letters to the bishops within the State, to urge the clergy to take up the apostolic life, stressing the principle of not allowing indolence in so very, very many available men in comparison with the many, many needs of countless dioceses; and, finally, in this way to draw them together again in the Church of Jesus Christ.

Among others, his Eminence Frasoni can relate to you how, upon his return as Nuncio to Portugal, the Holy Father brought to his attention the possibility of extending the Institute abroad, pointing out the lack of personnel in so many of the houses of Regulars, and how, in the seminaries that are constantly producing new members for the clergy, it would be possible to extract with great fruitfulness individuals to be workers in the foreign missions. He had many other plans in his mind for the betterment of our Institute; however, death called him away from us at the time when our hopeful ideas were in the best phase of development, and prevented the execution of his plans. At the beginning of his pontificate, it cannot be denied, he had been misinformed about our Society; but once the diabolical plots were recognized, he was to the very end of his life an indomitable supporter. He was very pleased to see the increase in the Institute of the number of young priests who constituted this new greenhouse of ours, and he was accustomed to say: "Train the young men for the Institute and we will make greater progress than ever in making the basics more secure".

Thus, now it is urgent that the one to whom the Lord has given the government of the Church should lend a helping hand to this Society which has been initiated and has continued its work up to this time; this, in order to see that it is completely set in order and firmly established; that etc.

We point out that the entire plan for this Institute was the work of the now-deceased Monsignor Francesco Albertini, bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Piperno, and Monsignor Strambi assisting with his counsel.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁷ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Memorandum

1947

July 3, 1829
Fr. Nicola Marazzani
Rimini

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁰⁸

Venerable Father pastor

I have consigned to Monsignor Zollio, who very shortly will be returning to that city, the printed rules of the Institute of the orphans which we have in Rome. I have sent these books under separate cover to your most illustrious and reverend lordship, but saying nothing to the Monsignor about the project, so as to bring things to a state of maturity. Though all may not be applicable, much, nevertheless, will be able to be drawn from it by Canon Contessi, to whom you will give my greetings, to the benefit of that pious establishment. If I may have perhaps been mistaken about this Institute, please do me the favor of telling me what I can do to indicate to you the concern I have for working for the fulfillment of whatever you may ask me to do. However, I must again have in my hands the aforementioned rules, compiled in two distinct books, for I will have to submit them to the nuns for the program of the orphans which St. Ignatius Loyola instituted in his time. Nothing else remains for me to say other than to recommend to your kindness the discovering of the opportune means of seeing that they get back to me safely.

Then, too, I wish to thank you sincerely for the petition submitted in behalf of a place of ours there. I am trying to find the means of making our work more fruitful since I have learned that Monsignor Zollia did not perhaps have the courage to draw it up at first, but only to add his recommendation to the one drawn up by others. In the meantime, prayers. God's works are the fruit of patience. Please accept my sincere gratitude for all the good work that you have cooperated in doing with the most outstanding edification. *Dominus retribuet pro me.*¹⁰⁹ Also, please, as a favor, tell Canon Giovannelli, to whom I am so deeply obliged, that I have received his most appreciated letter and that I will be sending him a lengthy reply which, because of a true lack of time, I have not been able to do up to now. Every day, however, I keep in mind the plans pertaining to the glory of God, concerning which I must write to the aforementioned Canon.

Finally, do not fail to pray for me and have others do so too for I am most needful of prayers. I assure you that I never forget to keep your most worthy person in mind. May the Lord fill us evermore with his Holy Spirit, mindful always of the desire of being ever united in heaven. Amen. Most venerable Father pastor, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem, respect and very special affection,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, July 3, 1829

P. S. Special greetings to the most reverend Vicar, to Canon Moreni, to your reverend brother the Canon, and to Father Paolo Venerucci, etc., etc., etc..

¹⁰⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹⁰⁹ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

1948

July 3, 1829
Fr. Franceco Paradisi
Rimini

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

Here I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter which I continue reviewing paragraph by paragraph.

My departure was sudden, it is true, but I operate that way because of the deep affection which God gives me for my confreres whom I love with the tenderest love in Jesus Christ crucified.

With regard to your canonry, since I do not know who your representative is, I am not able to tell you what conclusion he might have come to. In a general way, I recommended a petition to Cardinal Falzacappa who has connections with the Secretariat of the Council, and also because he said to me what I have indicated to you above.

Archpriest Angelini has supported me and I have given him all of the instructions that I could in behalf of a House in Montalto. You should not cease urging it; in the meanwhile, let us pray to God for a successful outcome. Just what the Lord Deputies of Montalto have done is not known to me.

Also, I never will stop encouraging you to maintain holy perseverance in our Institute, so that the sorrow of departing will not have to be had. With regard to temporalities, you know the rules and policies that have been communicated to you there in person. Then, too, with respect to Masses, do whatever you think is best as the charitable thing to do, and in this regard you might keep in contact with Father Camillo. I do not fail to urge their distribution whenever they are available from Rome.

If you should see your most worthy brother, have no doubt about my reservedness.

In my opinion, it would be better for you to get the iron for making hosts either in Loreto or Sinigaglia.

With regard to your exemption from trips for the ministry, have no doubts: you will not be bothered. In the next ordinary mail, I shall send word, as coming from me, to Father Camillo.

As for your trip to visit your relatives, leaving your baggage there, say a few prayers. I believe that in this matter the Lord will remove those thoughts from your mind.

The earth-tremors in Albano are ceasing. Our companions have been re-established. If I have overlooked anything, let me know. Write to me and pray a lot for me. With greetings to everyone, I am and will constantly be

Your devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, July 3 1829¹¹⁰

1949

July 8, 1829
Mr. Camillo Possenti

¹¹⁰ The copy has 1827 as the year, but that is impossible since Paradisi was invited to go to Rome for the first time in October of 1828. Furthermore, during the months of June-July 1827, St. Gaspar was in Albano.

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I am late in sending you a reply to your very kind letter; but *habe me excusatum*.¹¹¹

Unless I am mistaken, up to now our accounts are even. If not, please supply for my forgetfulness with another letter of yours. *Laus Deo*¹¹² for the services there to the Divine Blood which is something necessarily to be continued *usque ad finem mundi*.¹¹³

I was very happy to receive your suggestions, and oh how wonderful it would be if we could succeed in the balancing out of the distances with respect to our Institute so as to provide good service to everyone. At least we might be able to supply with the giving of Missions every three or five years, as Liguori used to counsel, and to use the income from the Lenten preaching of that year as a means, if there are no other means, of achieving this. At present, with our nearby Houses in Rimini, Pievetorina and Giano, the departures and returns are not that much. The maintenance is frugal; nothing else is needed. If God would not wish to have us, it is sufficient that the good work be promoted. When you write, do not be concerned about brevity; write at length or briefly, depending on how God inspires you.

With regard to the printing, I shall handle half along with the help of other companions. For the other half, one might feel out the possibilities in nearby cities, if no one else makes an offer. For example, Canon Tarulli might ask de Sanctis from Matelica to join in for those booklets. Try a bit to see what can be done and check out the excellent Father Bufera, to whom you will extend my greetings; recommend me to his prayers and those of as many others as possible.

Finally, return my warm regards to your wonderful brother Canon, to your children for whom I do not fail to pray, and, with the fullness of esteem, respect and very special affection, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome , July 8, 1829

P. S. Have as many copies printed as can be covered by around 12,50 *scudi*.

1950

July 8, 1829

Mr. Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

I give thanks to God for the observance of the month there! O how many motives of comfort for you!

I shall not fail to pray always for the grace that you know about and that it will be conducive to your well-being. We hope for it through the mercy of God.

¹¹¹ Hold me excused.

¹¹² Praise to God.

¹¹³ Until the end of the world.

Recommend to God the petition for a foundation there, and do not lose courage. The Lord is marvelous.

I hope that you have received the booklet for the Month. If you have Masses, do not forget us, but, do so without harm to anyone else.

I celebrated the feast of the Divine Blood in Albano. Once the chores of the ministry are completed, I shall resume my travels and occupations in the Province of Campagna and in the Kingdom. In Jesus Christ crucified, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 8, 1829