

St. Gaspar's Letters

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July 4, 1820
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Camillo

At the time when we will be seeing each other, I would like you to have for me the price for a few rolls of cloth or sheeting, whatever it is called, to make bed sheets for a pious place in the care of the poor where I am involved. They have sent me urgent letters from Rome and I would like to help this pious work which is so very, very close to my heart. You do not have to bring me samples, because I surely am not capable of judging anything like that. I leave everything up to you; just let me know that you are going about it; I have found other rolls, and it is something quite important. Before concluding the transaction I shall tell you: you can spend just this much. And then we shall find a way of having that material delivered to Rome. I recommend this to your energy and zeal. I so want to be of assistance to the benefit of the poor, more than I do for my own self. They tell me that around Sanseverino they produce these cloths. Everything is left to your good judgment; and I ask you to keep me informed since that pious place is in extreme need for bed sheets. I seize this occasion, also, to renew myself, Camillo, with esteem and respect and with anticipated obligation, as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

S. Felice, July 4, 1820

July 9, 1820
Msgr. Nicola Mattei
Archbishop of Camerino
Rome

Venerable Monsignor *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*¹

Here I am sending a response to your letter. On the vigil of the feast of our Lady of Mount Carmel the Mission in Turricchio will commence; immediately after that, the one in Mergo. I have learned nothing more about the situation in Fiastra. I know that there were legal disputes; but with regard to the Mission, I have had no further information. Fr. Lunerti, if I have not mistaken his name, said that they might be able to arrange another time. I mention this for your records. Whatever the decision may eventually be, there is no difficulty in sending workers quickly. In view of our new foundations, God does not fail to provide the society with most virtuous priests, adept for the ministry.

In this regard, I must tell you that the excellent bishop of Fuligno, in love with our Institute, has presented me with a gift, so to speak, of an outstanding young Canon from Spello who served as an assistant during the recent Missions. Since he is endowed with particular gifts, I would like to help him advance to the point of giving the main sermons. In the meantime, prayers. This young man is still not a confessor. I shall quickly take him along with me to Pievetorina, and, in full

¹ Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

consultation with Monsignor Lucchesi, I would like you to authorize me to appoint him, in the meantime, as confessor for men as soon as you have received from us all the necessary regulations that we lay down for hearing confessions, and he has studied in our conferences the rules of morality, etc. This fine, young man came from Spello to make a retreat in Pievetorina, gave one or the other pep talks in the Oratory, and, with pleasure, all recognized in him something that one day will be useful to the benefit of souls and the most lovable mercy of God.

I am very contented with these residences for the spiritual exercises. I assure you that I am consoled to the point of tears. Praise be given to God. When the House in Belforte is opened, I shall be there for a short time, setting up the system to be observed for the greater glory of God. You must assist in the execution of this project. You know so well the need there is for spiritual help among those people where confessors are so scarce. God will reveal his will. So, I just keep on saying: "Our society is from God; he will look after it".

Now we come to our most worthy Canon Betti. If it pleases God (which we shall see) that something can be worked out in regard to releasing him from his Canonry, this would indeed give him more freedom to work in the ministry. One should not take a single step, as is correct, without your approval. For, even if he were released, you will want him appointed to Sanginesio ... *quod Domino placet fiat*.² In this regard, I will also say: "God will see to giving us a compensation". Thus, I must open up my heart to you. Since many other pastors are cooperating with the society, I would like you to give a word of encouragement to Fr. Ugo Horgiani, or to some other capable man, to go along with all of these plans of divine providence. If I urge someone, it can be interpreted as my own personal desire to build up the society; but, when the bishops support us by giving us a capable man, then the structure is given greater stability and value. After all, Fr. Ugo Borgiani is neither a Curate nor a Canon; but we are always in a state of indecision. Finally, I would like to count on someone from your archdiocese as I envision new foundations. In this way, the welfare of the various places is taken care of and the good work of the Reform, in which we must all cooperate, is done. Pray ceaselessly for and, most reverend excellency, consider me always ready to carry out your every wish, as I renew myself with esteem, respect and most special affection,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

S. Felice, July 9 (the day on which Mary opened her eyes)³

303

July 10, 1820
Fr. Giuseppe Zampetti
Spello

Jesus Mary Joseph

Dear Canon

I do not know what to say about the matter you mentioned. I am afraid, however, that Fr. Giattini is not sufficiently energetic for this work. I am acquainted with such situations. As soon as a Procurator General in Rome urges it, he will obtain what he wishes. That is how it generally happens. I am not saying that I want him to leave the institute there, but in this matter I must confess

² Let there be what pleases the Lord.

³ The year, 1820, is written in another's handwriting. But, that year is confirmed because of the reference to the Missions in Mergo and Turrichio.

the truth and I find that he is languid. We simply do not know the ways of God. Adhering to the means which prudence suggests, it seems to me that we must leave it to the divine good pleasure. I assure you that, since I am far from Rome, I am not able to do any more than what has been arranged already and the paper that I sent to the bishop was as clear as the noonday sun. I repeat, Monsignor Lucchesi is very, very honest, and I have known him for quite a long time. He will receive illumination from God to straighten out this affair. At any rate, I am not losing hope. You are to see that the Procurator gets as many letters as are necessary from anyone who is anxious to have the Liguorini remain, especially since I would like to see that too. That organization is quite close to my heart for Spello. Those letters could stimulate the Procurator to present to the Holy Father the situation as it presently exists. With esteem and respect, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

S. Felice, July 10, 1820

I recommend to you attendance at the Oratory. I know that Canon Monteverde goes there infrequently. When he is unable to go, it is better to appoint someone else, otherwise the seculars become discouraged. The priests, too, upon reflection, must make sacrifices. Ask him etc. He could remain a member of the organization, but appoint someone else in order to avoid wonderment.

304

July 10, 1820

Fr. Luigi Santinelli

Serra Sanquirico

Jesus Mary Joseph

Dear Prior

It is quite impossible to change the time established and hence I am checking with you. We have already contracted for the coachman; but, at any rate, if you no longer wish to schedule the Mission, for which the archbishop has written to me, send word to me in Pievetorina, and then I shall see what I can work out with the coachman. I shall not be able to help you any more this year. *Quod Domino placet fiat*.⁴ I must not be a source of anguish for anyone. You are sensible and look for whatever you feel is good in the sight of God. Pray for me, and believe that I am ready to constantly carry out your every wish.

Your devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

S. Felice, July 10, 1820

P. S. Until I hear something to the contrary, the appointment remains set; otherwise inform me quickly. Missions that have a great number of difficulties ordinarily turn out to be the most fruitful ones.

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July 10, 1820

Rev. Mother Costante Moscatelli

Spello

Jesus Mary Joseph

⁴ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

Languor of spirit joined with a desire and a yearning to love Jesus Christ places the soul in a state of trial. If God withdraws consolations, he does so to see whether the soul with its interior actions will continue to work for the good. As for the rest, be serene. Think of Jesus in the Garden, and seek tranquil repose in his lovable will. You know very well that the Cross is the royal way to heaven. *Quod Domino placet fiat.*⁵ In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

S. Felice, July 10, 1820

306

July 11, 1820

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Jesus Mary Joseph

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

The difficulty of the locale should never stand in the way of the good to be done for souls. You might, at least, suggest to the good pastor the holding of a retreat, because, dear me, how important it is that all become saints.

Let us now turn to our appointments. The other day, Prior Santinelli sent me a response and asked me to begin the Mission at the beginning of August and not at the time established. I have already answered him that this is impossible for me and that now everything has been arranged. I cannot tell you how important it is to maintain letter-correspondence with regard to Missions. I added that if things were not worked out as I had indicated at that time for the work this year, I would no longer be able to make that trip, since all of my appointments have been arranged already for Umbria. Finally, I said that I would make a reasonable settlement with the coachman. I am convinced, therefore, that my letter confirmed the appointments already made.

Keep close to your heart the Constitutions for the S. Xavier group, and the bishop of Fabriano could see that they are brought to light soon, since the Confraternity in Cereto is very, very dear to me. God will manifest his will. Pray for me, and with particular esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

S. Felice in Giano, July 11, 1820

P. S. Within a few days I shall be in Pievetorina to begin the Mission in Turricchio on the 15th. Also in Giano, the retreats are most consoling, etc. We shall speak about the cloth when we meet in person.

307

July 12, 1820

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

⁵ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

Venerable Monsignor

On Friday night I shall be in Pievetorina to start on Saturday morning the Mission in Turricchio which is replacing the one in Fiastra, then to be followed by the one in Mergo. However, yesterday I received a letter from the Prior in which he was asking me to defer it to around the 5th of August. As far as I am concerned, God knows how much I would like to content everyone, but with things being so tight now, it is impossible for me. Please note that before setting the date, there was a preceding exchange of letters. Having used all the necessary procedures, I do not know what to say now. I hope that my answer in regard to those dates has convinced the Prior. I cannot tell you how important that correspondence dealing with appointments for Missions is. So, *patientia, opus perfectum habet*.⁶ I shall send a reply to the Vicar, Salvatori, who wrote to me about the matter, telling him whatever you say. So often there are fears and misunderstandings. I shall also write to Prior Cavoni asking him to tell the representative from Belforte to arrange a meeting with you.

As for me, there is nothing more that I can do now except to recommend the whole matter to God. I wrote with great urgency to Monsignor Cristaldi. Now that he is the Treasurer, any word from him would be most influential to bring everything to a conclusion. As I see it, after having understood the mind of the Holy Father with regard to our society, there is nothing more needful to be done with every bit of energy than that of setting up those Houses for Missions and Retreats. If people return into the arms of God's mercy, all else will easily fall into place. Once consciences are set right, so too will all problems find a solution. I am compassionate with you in the burden that you have with your worries, and I beg God that whatever you do will be accompanied with a copious supply of blessings.

I am thoroughly pleased that the bishop does not get involved in the litigations which are now pending with respect to the legacy of the good Zampetti of Sarnano. Merely as a point of counsel, I had suggested one idea regarding the doubt that perhaps the inheritance might end up in lay hands (if, indeed, I am not misled), namely, that having an opportune meeting might well produce a certain spiritual good for the people there. Whatever the situation may be, you are better acquainted than I with the state of things and hence can form a judgment that I would never be able to make. God knows what my aims are in speaking or writing about these things.

Take care of yourself; pray for me, and, venerable Monsignor, while kissing your hands, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

S. Felice, July 12, 1820

P. S. In this Mission House, also, a great good has been achieved through the merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ. Give thanks to the Lord along with me. Pray to the Lord for our society. Missions and Retreats give life to so many of the clergy, and in that way, the bishops are assisted well. This is the reason why it is so important to stress the good that is produced by these two means that the Providence of God has given for the reform presently underway. And oh how consoled I am by the work of my beloved companions who, renouncing all other aspirations of this deceitful world, give themselves in zealous service only for the greater glory of God. I pray that he will increase in all a fervor for the salvation of souls.

⁶ Patience, he has a perfect work.

July 13, 1820
Fr. Luigi Locatelli
Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*⁷

Oh, how consoled I was with the good that has been done in Sonnino! These dioceses will always have the most extensive blessings from God because they have such a great advocate in heaven. He was ready for Paradise and so God called him to himself. But I, who am a bitter piece of fruit, am still maturing on the plant.

How did the Mission in Bassiano, which is so dear to my heart, turn out and when will those souls have the benefit of this good work? I, indeed, suggested my plan so that the people would soon be invited to join the Reform, and souls would be cleansed in the Blood of Jesus Christ. With regard to the women of Bologna, we offer prayers in the meantime.

The Collegio and the Monastery there are very close to my heart, and since I am distant from there, address yourself to Monsignor Caprano and also, if you have the opportunity, use the services of Cardinal Ercolani since he continually sees Monsignor Cristaldi.

I am delighted to learn what you have mentioned concerning the gravestone, but why did you not make a copy of it for me? This is a failing. Oh, how I would read with joy a copy that would be something most dear to me.

Look after the matter of aggregation in Sermoneta; then, we shall think about S. Felice. As a matter of fact, you can count on a *zecchino* for that purpose. You and the bishop think about the rest of the six *scudi*; handle this also. I love very much the persons who have cultivated this tender devotion during the past Mission. You know very well that our common father wanted it to be observed in every place throughout the diocese, so, keep this in mind. About this, tell Muccioli that he can count on receiving a *zecchino* from me. As soon as I set word, I shall settle the payment with him.

My return should occur around the usual time, but I am not able now to give you a specific day. Tell the most reverend bishop that he should make known his ideas in a letter addressed to me in Pivertorina, and I will send him my reply. I will do whatever I can. So very dear to me is the remembrance of my most beloved father in Christ, *cuius memoria in benedictione*.⁸ Also very dear to me is the most reverend Manassi, whose hands you will kiss for me. Prayers, *sine intermissione*,⁹ for one who wholeheartedly renews himself as

Affectionately yours

G. C. del B.

S. Felice, July 13, 1820

P. S. I recommend to you the pious organizations in Velletri. Be insistent etc. If ever you have the need, seek the support of Cardinal della Somaglia who loves you very much. Be vigilant over the groups in Terracina and Sermoneta, and be mindful of S. Felice. Let us become saints. Goodbye.

⁷ Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

⁸ Whose memory will forever be in blessing.

⁹ Without intermission.

309

August-October 1820
Fr. Luigi Locatelli
Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very dear Canon¹⁰

You have received a discipline from Santelli. I know that he wants you to write to him about it. Because of the burdens that he has, he is not in a position to give it to you as a gift. Take care of this at your convenience. I thought that I would inform you of this confidentially.

I would like the aggregation of the most Precious Blood also in S. Felice. Albertini wanted it established in every town. One zecchino is already available for you; I will take care of that. You and the bishop can look after the six scudi. Have the bishop preach at the Oratory of Velletri. With Sunday's mail-delivery, inform Marchetti so that he can tell the Cardinal, and also inform the brethren; let us do this good work. God wishes it. You will give the pep talk. *Ora, jube vale.*¹¹ In Jesus Christ, consider me as

Affectionately yours
G. C. del B.

310

July 16, 1820
Fr. Luigi Santinelli
Serra Sanquirico
Venerable Prior

Realize that it was impossible for me to change the dates already set, and in my recent letter, I asked you to send a quick reply, because then we would be able to schedule the Mission for another year. Now that I learn that you are disposed to accept the Mission for the time already set, there is no need for any change. This will be handled in conjunction with Vicar Tosti. May Jesus and Mary be with us, and most venerable Prior, with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo

Pievetorina, July 16, 1820

311

July 29, 1820
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Camillo

Here I am again inconveniencing you, but then I am also increasing your merits for heaven. On Sunday, August 6th, the papal blessing will be given here in Mergo. On the evening of that same Sunday, Fr. Biagio Valentini and Fr. Giovanni Scipioni will be staying overnight in Cereto. I ask

¹⁰ This letter, which has no date, is placed among the letters falling between July 13 and November 1, 1820, addressed to this same person.

¹¹ Pray, entreat, be steadfast.

you to find lodging for them, paying for the expenses that occur. For Monday, *summo mane*,¹² you are to see that a coach for two is ready for these two men who must absolutely go as fast as possible to Camerino. Make the contract with the coachman from Cereto to the Capuchins' place in Camerino and no farther. That is all that is needed for these two companions. Arriving there by the evening, they can immediately give the pep talks and take care of the Oratory.

Now for me. Please send a two-man cart, like the one that we had coming from Pievetorina, to me in Serrasanquirico so that on Monday evening, the 7th of August, we can be in Fabriano. And if we get there in time, we will have the Oratory. You are to alert the bishop, *ad cautelam*.¹³ If the Rector Cinotti would have room, we would be able to lodge in the seminary, with you supplying him with the payments, as I suggested before. There, you will have ready for us a large coach so that on Tuesday morning, *summo mane*,¹⁴ we can leave so as to be in Fuligno by evening. We would also load onto it our baggage unless it would be more economical to rent a small cart in Fabriano, and for us a two-man cart. I leave all to your good judgment. Otherwise, we will take the large coach. Note that it will be myself and a companion, and he, Giovanni, would ride with the coach driver. If there are other places open, they could be sold, in order to cut down expenses, to upright people. So, you do what you think is best. Women are absolutely excluded, as also Jews, and other suspicious individuals. In those cases, the coach must be reserved only for us. You try to find the most economical ways that can be worked out as you see possible.

It seems that I have nothing more to add now. Inform the most reverend bishop, whom you will greet for me and Fr. Giovanni etc., that Fr. Serafino is always ready for Missions that he would like to entrust to him.¹⁵ Prayers for me. Anxious to receive your reply, with particular esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mergo, July 29, 1820

P. S. From Serrasanquirico, or rather, from Mergo to Fabriano, our baggage will be taken by a cart that will be accompanied by someone. Let me know whether there will be an inspection of the luggage at the gate, though I think that there will not be one. In case there is, you be there outside the gate to look after everything until I get there to Fabriano. I shall send Giovanni on horseback to escort the baggage up to Fabriano. Contract with the coachman for the trip from Fabriano to Fuligno and include the place as mentioned before, etc. You need not worry about anything else.

312

August 5, 1820

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor¹⁶

¹² Very early in the morning.

¹³ As a precaution.

¹⁴ Very early in the morning.

¹⁵ Some crossed-out words follow, but they are undecipherable.

¹⁶ This letter was first sent to Rome and then forwarded to Camerino. The last postal marking indicates "August 14" as the date.

A couple of lines in a hurry. I would like you to write a letter to Fr. Ugo Borgiani, with whom I have been in contact, wishing to have your approval, and authorize him to assist in the training of clerics in Mergo. In general, they show signs of having good qualities, and it is not possible for Fr. Luigi Mariotti to tend to their advancement in virtue and spirit. It is true that their care was assigned to the teacher, as I have been told, but he simply cannot do it. Consequently, I feel that *ad mentem*¹⁷ it should be Fr. Ugo, who voluntarily agrees to do this, etc. In the letter that you send to him, urge him to look after the Oratory which is the bastion against hell, *et de hoc satis*.¹⁸

This same Fr. Ugo is, as usual, not decided about the rest; in the meantime, he will look after the pious organizations. So, you do what you feel is best.

As for the Lenten preaching in Mergo, if you wish, I shall appoint in time Fr. Luigi Mariotti so that he can prepare himself. Since he is a young man, he should have a strong influence for good on the people there. The Prior, too, will be happy about this. God will inspire you to do what is to his greater glory. I kiss your hands. With esteem, and a most special affection, most venerable Monsignor, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mergo, August 5, 1820

P. S. With Fr. Luigi going there for the Lenten preaching, Fr. Ugo could handle the Lenten preaching in Moscosi, etc. etc. etc.

313

August 6, 1820

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Dear Camillo

The agreement with Canon Tarulli has allowed things to be disposed according to what was written to me. I hope that the Missionaries will be in Cereto for the Ave Maria hour.

With regard to Tuesday, it would be good to know what time Tarulli has scheduled the sermon in Matelica. I wrote to him that it should be early. Then, on returning later, I shall give it in Cereto, and I shall remain there for dinner, adding the expenses to our accounts. After dinner, I will go back to Fabriano where, without further ado, on Wednesday morning I must, by all means, depart. Accordingly, you arrange things. On Monday morning, the baggage will depart from Mergo, arrive soon in Fabriano where you should be ready to take care of it etc. With esteem, Camillo, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mergo, August 6, 1820

314

August 11, 1820

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Grutti

¹⁷ In mind.

¹⁸ And enough about this.

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father

On August 30th, send four riding horses and four pack-animals at an opportune hour so that we will be able to make our entry into your parish around the hour of twenty-two and a half. On that occasion, you will see to it that the men are separated from the women, and that the latter march under the banner of the Madonna, carried by one of the women. The men, dressed in their uniforms, will precede the rest of the people. Also, you are to see that the principal priest of the town, whomever you deem most appropriate, dressed in surplice and stole, should be there for the beginning of the procession bearing a Crucifix in his hands. He will turn that over to the Missionaries and by this act signify that he intends to consign to them the souls that are entrusted to his care. Also, the bells are to be rung at the time of the entry and during the procession until all arrive at the Church. There, after the Missionaries have knelt in adoration of the most Blessed Sacrament preserved in the sacred ciborium and having venerated the exposed relic of most holy Mary or some other miraculous image of her, if there is one, the holy Mission will begin with the customary introduction in which the people will be instructed in the method that will be observed during the course of those days. I give you this information, adding only that there will be three Missionaries involved, as well as a young helper that I will bring along. With the usual feeling of esteem, I am

[...] I ask you to have the enclosed forwarded.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo¹⁹

S. Felice in Giano, August 11, 1820

315

August 11, 1820

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I am truly amazed by the innumerable jobs that you have done for me. *Quid retribuam?*²⁰ From Serrasanquirico you will receive, precisely from Prior Santinelli, a certain amount of money which you will give to Nicola Ceccarini in Camerino, so that he, then, can see that it gets to Fr. Francesco Pierantonj in Giano, who assures me that everything has been arranged with the aforementioned Ceccarini.

As for the cloth for the Hospice, I hope that it is sheeting or cloth, whatever they call it, for the poor. I also hope that the coachman was completely satisfied. I am, with esteem and affection and with a thousand greetings to all, especially to Canon Tarulli, in the Heart of Jesus Crucified

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

August 11, 1820

Tell Marani that I myself offered the Mass. When you have to write to me, address it:

¹⁹ Only the signature is in St. Gaspar's handwriting. The text of this letter appears to be in the handwriting of Fr. Innocenzo Betti.

²⁰ What shall I give in return?

Fuligno per Giano.²¹

316

August 12, 1820
Fr. Giuseppe Zampetti
Spello

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Even though Fr. Biagio Valentini has assumed the task of assisting the Oratory of Spello from Pievevitorina by giving it a certain amount of direction, nevertheless you are not to relax it in any case. The clarifications that you will receive shortly will make everything clear and evident.

The particular reason for this letter of mine is to inform you that they have written to me from Rome saying that they have received the papers for Fiammenga in good order and the aggregation has been issued by the Pious Union under the title of the most Precious Blood. But that is not the case with Spello; and this is something very disappointing for me since I feel sure that the packet must have gotten lost. It is necessary therefore to make new documents, following the directions set down by Canon Cavalieri, whom you will greet in my name. Send all of this to Rome, and at the same time pay the six scudi that are requested as I mentioned before. Send everything directly to Canon Don Gregorio Muccioli, President of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood, in S. Nicola in Carcere. This is all that I have to communicate to you at this time.

Pray to the Lord for me and, dear Canon, urging you always to look after the Oratory entrusted to your zeal, with distinct esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Montemartano, August 12, 1820

P. S. When writing to me, address it: Fuligno per Giano.

317

August 14, 1820
Fr. Vincenzo Annovazzi
Civitavecchia

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Pastor

I have recommended the matter to Canon Polidori; and I shall not fail to keep it in mind. Indeed, if I were asked to express my opinion, I would say that the Cardinal could make him a simple Canon in some collegiate group, and thus by promoting him to that dignity, everything would settle down. In the meantime, prayers. I trust that the Lord will bring you peace, and I have that hope because of the merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, Father Pastor, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Montemartana, August 14, 1820

P. S. Please send to me in Rome whatever you have with regard to Albertini, for I need to

²¹ There is a notation of the receipt of eight *scudi* by Camillo Possenti.

find those writings available when I return there. Later, I will send them back to you quickly. Please do me this favor.

318

August 18, 1820
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Camerino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I have learned about your unexpected return to the diocese and I am grateful to God for it. The Mission in Mergo turned out to be very successful. I wrote several things in the letter that I sent you in Rome, and I am awaiting your response. For safety's sake, address it: Fuligno per Giano. Among other things, I wish to remind you to let me know if you would like to have Canon Betti take care of the Lenten preaching in Pievetorina, as we would all wish. He, himself, is quite happy about it. I hope that you will not refuse this favor.

The main reason for this letter is to beg you urgently to revive the organization of the Apostles upon which depends the immediate renewal of the other pious organizations. Generally speaking, I am content with the condition of the pious works in other places in the diocese, but, in Camerino... it strikes me as a desolate case and I am pained to see that those means of piety are forgotten in a place where there is so much need. Prayers, energy and firm patience are called for in this project so that the mountains of difficulties will vanish once and for all. *Montes sicut cera fluxerunt a facie Domini.*²² I kiss your hands; pray for me *sine intermissione.*²³ Only God knows when we shall see each other again. But, let us always see each other in the sweetest Heart of Jesus where, most reverend excellency, I am and will always be at your beck and call.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Fuligno per Giano²⁴

P. S. among other things, I must give Missions in Rocca di Spoleto. Prayers. Prayers.

319

August 1820
 Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni
 S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

Oh, how edified I am by your thoughts. May the Lord make you more and evermore saintly. Anything beyond that you can read in my heart. Now let us consider the question of Cannara. If I get an answer by Saturday, here in Montemartana,²⁵ everything can be worked out. Otherwise, I would

²² Mountains flowed from the face of the Lord like wax.

²³ Without intermission.

²⁴ The handwritten date is missing, but from the postal marking the date is clear: "AUGUST 18". The year is undoubtedly 1820.

²⁵ The letter was sent from Montemartana where St. Gaspar preached a Mission from the 12th to the 20th of

not know what to do. So, you work on it with dispatch during the two days of Thursday and Friday, and send me a quick response on Saturday. On Saturday, I will send you a *scudo* to cover postal expenses. Pray for me. In the sacred Side of Jesus, I implore every blessing upon you, and I am

A thousand greetings, etc.

Affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo

320

August 1820

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Francesco²⁶

I am sending you two *scudi* to cover postal expenses. You may also subtract Betti's expenses. Today, at eight in the evening, I hope to be in Giano. In case you have to write to me, send it to Castelritaldi, since the other Mission is being held nearby. The place is named Pieve. Also, forward the enclosed which you can read and seal. It is a most urgent letter from the bishop of Todi for Grutti. Likewise, Cannara will not be overlooked. Tomorrow, you will receive a letter from Merlini for Cannara. Asking you for your prayers, I am

Your humble and devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

321

August 20, 1820

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Grutti

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Father

You will be receiving another letter in the mails in response to your previous one. Now, after having read your letter in which you express your pleasure to have the Mission, I am sending this reply. Since your previous rejection of the time suggested for the upcoming Novena for Christmas, I received requests from other people and hence have taken on other appointments. But, by making adjustments, I have tried to find a few days available so that you will be pleased to be able to provide a good work for your flock. So, it is inevitable that we leave from S. Felice early on the morning of the 28th of the current month. As soon as we arrive, we shall have the entry in the manner described in that other letter. In that way, once the entry is completed, we can begin the full Mission after the noon meal. Pray for me who, asking you for your prayers, with esteem remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Montemartano, August 20, 1820

P. S. Besides the fixing of the time that I have indicated, there is nothing more to determine for the present. Four riding horses will be sufficient: three for the Missionaries and one for our lay

August, 1820

²⁶ Cfr. the note for the preceding letter.

helper. Then, we will need to have a pack-animal to carry the Mission gear, or a small cart. I am not able to do that, so you look after it. There is a crate for the Crucifix, etc. etc. etc.

322

August 21, 1820
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Camerino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

While I was continuing the course of Missions in Umbria, it was only yesterday that I received a letter from Canon Gonnelli, sent for the occasion, only to learn too late of the passing of your wonderful mother into the eternal years. I have not failed to offer suffrages to the Lord for her, and I asked others to do the same, so that she would get to heaven to become an advocate also for the holy Missions. Her long and painful sickness surely must have spared her the fires of Purgatory, and now must be enjoying the fruits of her patience.

Now, it is up to us to prepare ourselves for eternity. For everything here on this earth is but fleeting and transitory.

I wrote a lot of things in other letters of mine that you have received, so I will not repeat them now. I wish to inform you only that when this summer is over Canon Betti will be returning to his home town, as he has wished. If God will bless the efforts made to get him released from his Canonry, he will be an instrument for the glory of the Lord and for the work of giving Retreats and Missions, as well as for the pious organizations of Sanginesio. Indeed, I assure you that God wants him in the calling that he has undertaken. You will see that in practice. No one will depart from your advice and your wishes. Note that already for some time, now, the climate of Sanginesio has not been beneficial for him. On the other hand, when he is in the Mission Houses and when he is exercising the ministry, he is always in good health. He has a very fine director and he assures you that God wants him to be free to give him glory. As far as I am concerned, I simply say: "Lord, you do your most lovable will". I would ask that you, at least, would allow him to remain in Pievetorina for the Lenten preaching, where he is most satisfied. He is content. I would like to have your reply concerning this. Pray for me; in Jesus Christ, keep me in your love, and in his most Sacred Heart, your reverend excellency, while kissing your hand, I am with the fullness of esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Fuligno per Giano, August 21, 1820

323

August 23, 1820
 Mr. Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

I have already written to Canon Muccioli; it would not be a bad idea for the father of the young man to write to him also: to be forwarded to the most reverend Treasurer. In regard to the

young man affected with ring worm, by the beginning of October, see that I get in Rome a petition addressed to the directors of the hospital of S. Gallicano, along with the patient's past history. I shall do all that I can.

Concerning those girls seeking to become nuns, nothing more can be done than to obtain some alms from the bishops during the future Advent and Lent. I will keep them in mind, but only with difficulty could I be influential. Write to Monsignor Strambi about this and get him interested in this problem. Prayers. Prayers. I cannot tell you how many requests we have for Missions. In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, with esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Fuligno per Giano, August 23, 1820

P. S. Once again I express my obligations to you. I simply do not know how to show my gratitude.

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August 28, 1820

Fr. Luigi Achille

Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Grutti, August 28, 1820

Dearest Father Luigi

Since the position of Secretary and Archivist there have become vacant, and not replaced up to now for reasons that I shall mention later, I ask you, please, to be willing to accept this burden to which, as you know, is attached the job of being Vice Superior.

The reasons are: the indisposition of Canon Gonnelli, and the uncertainty that existed whether Canon Moscatelli, for reasons of health, would remain or not in Giano. Now, however, that the Canon has decided to remain in S. Felice, and Canon Gonnelli is in a position to be able to take care of a number of trips for Tridua and Missions and be away from the House for a day or so, it is necessary that there be someone there to be in charge of the affairs so that the Society will maintain its vigor and not have some trouble arise. You will be there ever charged with praying to the Lord for the Society itself and to offer prayers also for me, who with full esteem, am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo²⁷

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August 28, 1820

Fr. Francesco Pierantonj

S. Felice di Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

My very dear D. Francesco *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus J.X.*²⁸

Enclosed are a few letters. Some of them are to be delivered by hand, the others are to be

²⁷ In this letter, only the signature is St. Gaspar's. The rest seems to be in the handwriting of Fr. Innocenzo Betti.

²⁸ Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

mailed. I beg that if any letters should arrive at the present time, you should try, in as far as you can, to send them on to me here.

It is urgent that you send one man immediately to Spoleto at my expense, so that he can report to the Vicar General and to Merlini's house. Please give this your prompt attention.

If you have not already taken care of it, it is not necessary for you to obtain the lists of Indulgences for me in Fuligno. What is necessary, however, is that you inquire at the post office whether there is any money there for me. In case there is, withdraw it, showing this paragraph if necessary, to Mr. Tomassini.

On Sunday, during the day, I shall send a mount for you so that the House will not have to bear the expense of the carriage transportation. Then, on Monday morning, we shall leave for Cannara. It will be better to discuss the rest in person.

Pray to the Lord for me that I might acquire the wisdom of the Saints, and with greetings to all, consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Grutti,²⁹ August 28, 1820

P. S. I am sending you the book that you asked me for and the prayers for the Oratory at Giano. As for the Via Crucis on Sundays and for the recitation of the Chaplet of the Sorrowful Mother on Saturdays or any other pious exercises, nothing more is required. The Confraternity will make the rounds with the Crucifix once a week.

If possible, do not forget the trip to Spoleto. Oh! how pleasing I would find that! Go, likewise, to the house of Luparini in my name. Also, Moscatelli might possibly write to you.

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August of 1820

Fr. Francesco Pierantoni

Giano, S. Felice

Fr. Francesco

Tell Fr. Moscatelli that I will send a reply to his letter by Sunday during the daytime, when I will be sending for you.³⁰

Quite willingly would I adhere to your suggestions, except that I will not use Mosconi since

²⁹ *Grutti*: cf. Geographical Data

³⁰ On Sunday, September 3, 1820, Pierantoni, with the mount sent by the Saint, *went to Cannara*, a town in the province of Perugia, diocese of Assisi, to take part in the *Mission*, together with the Saint himself, Fr. Biagio Valentini and Fr. Innocenzo Betti. During that mission, which lasted two weeks, Pierantoni once found himself so exhausted and with his head spinning that he could not succeed in coming up with a single idea for one of the usual *ferverinos* that were given during the procession with the Madonna. He begged the Saint to release him; but the latter was not willing to do so, and he suggested that he use the topic of Ruth. He was to do so, however, only if Betti, who preached before he did, had not already used it himself. In a fit of hopelessness, the young man went back again to the Saint and this time the answer was: "Do not lose courage: you will say what God wants you to say". Then, he took him by the arm and led him to the platform, "where, after standing there a while pensively, the passage from the Psalter came to my mind: *beati quorum remissae sunt iniquitates etc*[blesses are they whose sins have been forgiven, etc..].; that supplied me with a huge abundance of material so that I talked freely for a good half-hour and aroused great compunction in the audience; as a result, the Saint remarked to Canon Betti, with reference to me: 'Don't you see how the Lord likes to tease?' I am firmly convinced that what happened was that I received a special grace obtained for me by the Venerable, for, as I said before, I was incapable of saying all that". (With reference to the Mission at Cannara, see Rey, *Vita del B.G.*, cap. XII, n.

he is already teamed up with Bonanni. I would not want anyone to say that I take Companions away from anyone. And, as far as I am concerned, I am not in the least bit interested in him, until he declares himself clearly as one of us.

Let God do what is most productive for his glory.

Merlini is excellent. If those making the retreat are to remain content, you see to it. Moscatelli will do what you were supposed to do. You will be free to take care of the business needs. Merlini will also serve as the Director and will do the reading at table, too. Moscatelli will assist with the recreation. In this way, everything will be done with an orderly fashion.

I am sending you two copies of the prayers for the oratory; see that one goes to Morcicchia and the other to Colle del Marchese; also, two copies of the Chaplet for those same places.

The Vicar General has indicated that five *ordinandi in sacris*³¹ will be there in Giano for a retreat before the Ember Days. I will think about the man who is to give it. We still have time. The Mission at Cannara should be finished by the time of that retreat, and perhaps I will decide on C. Betti. Maybe some priest might want to join the group and make a Retreat. In that case, we could make it a Clergy Retreat. When Bonanni comes, we can ask him whether he wants to give it, unless his appointment as Bishop comes to naught.

I add likewise that I consider Mosconi quite weak in his preaching ability; but, that is no great problem for us. Perhaps I am mistaken.

I am, etc.

G. C. del Bufalo

Grutti, August, 1820³²

(On the outside, near the address, we read:)

Open up my room and locate some books on the Methods for giving Missions and establishing Pious associations. You will bring one to Fr. Alessio for the Oratory at Fabriano, the other you will bring along with you to Cannara.

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August 29-September 2, 1820

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Francesco

For your peace of mind, I have already thought of sending a third member there on Monday morning who will be able to fill in during your absence. He is the priest from Grutti for whom it will be necessary to get faculties to hear confessions from the Vicar General. This is also required if ever Fr. Scipioni or Fr. Angelo Primavera should come. You can assign Lipparelli's rooms to the priest from Grutti, and thus he will cooperate in giving glory to God while you are away. But Merlini should be the Vice Economist. I urge you to stress the exact observance of the rules for those in retreat. The exercises in October for the other seculars will begin on the 21st of October so that they can be completed before the feast of S. Felice. The Vicar has not indicated to me, in his letter.. the

³¹ Those to be ordained in sacred orders.

³² This letter, written certainly from Grutti, was, in all probability, sent to Giano in the same packet as the preceding one (January 30, 1836); so, it too could be dated August 28, 1820.

days to be assigned to those who are to be ordained. It would be a good idea to investigate this at the time when you request the faculties for the priest from Grutti, which you might get unlimited. How are the exercises going? I hope well. How is Fr. Raffaele? I am so sorry to hear that he has had a relapse, and how I wish that he would have a change of climate. I would hope that it would benefit him. For my own information, you will tell me in Cannara about the abilities of Mosconi concerning whom you will question Moscatelli. As for the riding horses needed on Monday, the priest from Grutti will handle that himself. I am, etc.

G. C. del Bufalo

As for Fr. Raffaele's trip, if the climate is beneficial for him and he stays in Pievetorina, that house will cover the expenses for the trip, as I have already written to Gonnelli, otherwise it will be taken care of by Giano.³³

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September 3, 1820
Fr. Giuseppe Zampetti
Spello

Jesus Mary Joseph

Dear Canon

I have understood everything that you told me and there is nothing more to do than to be conformed to the will of God, who can draw from everything whatever is to his greater glory. When you have the consolation of having exhausted every means, you can be tranquil in the eyes of God. I urge you to be more and more concerned about the pious institutions. I hope that the aggregation in Rome has been sent from the Pious Union of the most Precious Blood. Dear Canon, with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Grutti, September 3, 1820

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September 10, 1820
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

The receipt is now in my hands, so you can be perfectly at ease. Would that God would grant to me some way of helping the girl aspiring to become a nun. If you were to get some Masses that could be offered *ubique*³⁴ and at one's choice of time, that offering could be donated for her cause. I am hopeful that either in full or at least in part, I will succeed in this purpose; otherwise, I would not know how to manage it since I must continue to insist on funds to support the Mission Houses, as you know so well. As for the poor young fellow that you recommended to me, now that I have

³³ This postscript is found on the outside wrapping, near the address.

³⁴ Wherever.

received the information at the beginning of October, I shall do all that I can. Please check again the matter of the sheeting as soon as you can. Insist on the uniforms for the St. Xavier group. I shall send to Fr. Alessio our printed book of pious works. Give him my best regards, as well as my greetings to the most reverend bishop. Pray and have others pray, dear Camillo, for one who renews himself with esteem and affection as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Cannara, September 10, 1820

P. S. Prior Santarelli wrote that he was sending you the eight *scudi*, etc.

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September 12, 1820

Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli

Matelica

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

You should not be upset because you did not go to Giano. I am quite content with the good that you are doing in Pievetorina. The vacation from choir duty will soon come to an end, and perhaps it might be better to cut down on days of traveling about. How happy I would be if God were to supply you with another patrimony! You know that in Rome I find that it is not that easy to get ahead, considering the miserable status of our treasury. But, despite that, you can be sure that I shall not overlook this situation. Thus, if I were able to do so, how happy I would be to demonstrate to you my true and unchangeable affection for you in Jesus Christ. Let us be united in spirit; let us recommend each other to God, and let us become saints. Here on this earth, everything passes away, everything has an end. Pray a lot for me *ne cum aliis predicaverim, ipse reprobus efficiar*,³⁵ and get others to do so too. My advice would be that you should go to complete your days of vacation in Pievetorina, to the benefit of the House. I would like to know the dates of your stay. That would help me to regulate things. I shall await your response, while I continue on here for a few days in the Rocca of Spoleto, giving a Mission to the prisoners. I would appreciate getting an immediate reply. Dear Canon, with esteem and affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Castelritaldi (while traveling) 12 Xbre³⁶ 1820

331

September 12, 1820

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Francesco

³⁵ Lest after I have preached to others I myself should be disqualified.

³⁶ The copy has this abbreviation which is that of the month of December, but it must be an error on the part of the copyist who changed the abbreviation for September (which would be 7bre) for that of December. Indeed, the fact is that St. Gaspar preached in the Rocca of Spoleto in the month of September.

The bearer of this is the man who was recommended by Vicar Paolini. He will make known our appeal for funds to all of the pastors. In keeping with our plans, if you agree, this man could be introduced so that he will become well-known, or, if needed, you could write to the Vicar to supply him with an official permit. I am told that he also knows a bit about cooking. I told him that, for the time being, he will be helping out in S. Felice with whatever is necessary; he could look after the garden, if needed, and give a helping hand to whatever you feel he should do. I also added that when he is settled in time there are rules to be observed by the men in service, and that he should be ready to be move on to another of our Mission Houses. I will write more after I get to Spoleto. In the Heart of Jesus, I am

Affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo

September 12, 1820

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September 15, 1820

Fr. Francesco Pierantoni

S. Felice di Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

My dear Fr. Francesco

You will hear from Canon Betti concerning the handling of everything. In the meantime, I would like to inform you that a young man of excellent character will be coming to S. Felice, one who taught Philosophy in the Seminary, a companion of our Merlini. You could move into Fr. Rafaele's room, for I feel that he is quite content in Pievevitorina and hence will not be concerned about the other place. Then, you can give your room to the new man. As for Fr. Mariotti, give him the one that is already prepared for Liparelli.

I am writing to Fr. Moscatelli, upon whom for the present I can count only for the trip to Loreto, unless he would want to go to Oriolo which would be a better jaunt. I am leaving him free in the matter because if he doesn't go, I have already made other provisions. Mosconi would like to go, if Bonanni, to whom I have written, permits him to do so. In that case, the archpriest would be very satisfied, for he is expecting to have four Missionaries.

On Tuesday night Betti will be in S. Felice, etc. Set him up in my room. I am giving him the 30 *baj.* that you know about. Do not doubt my remembrance of that House and of you who are extremely close to my heart. Betti will concentrate on getting across a good understanding of the spirit of the Society, except for the time he is on the Mission at Todi, if it takes place at all, for I have not had an answer as yet.

*Ora, jube, vale.*³⁷ I am *in osculo sancto*.³⁸

Affectionately yours in J.C.

G. C. del Bufalo

Spoleto, September 15, 1820

Oh, how well the Mission in Rocca is going! If Bonanni sends Mosconi, then one of those who like to be co-workers in Spello will go with Bonanni.

³⁷ Pray, entreat, be steadfast.

³⁸ In a holy kiss.

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September 16, 1820
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

I am very consoled by the good dispositions that the prisoners here in the Rocca have shown, and especially the exactness with which they observed silence - it truly edified me.

For one who is already a father to the poor, it is not necessary that I urge attention to the enclosed, which is something favoring the prisoners themselves. More, when we see each other in person.

I am also enclosing another petition given to me by Vicar Paolini of Castelritaldi, who recommends the petitioner to the kindness of your most reverend excellency.

The most urgent matter that I have to inform you about at the moment is the establishment of a firm principle of not sending boys to the public places of detention. Available for them is the Detention Home of S. Michele. Likewise, in this Rocca, only some of the prisoners can fit into the chapel to attend Mass, as the most reverend Delegate will explain to you much more clearly. Indeed, it would be a good idea to get permission from the Supreme Pontiff for a portable altar, so as to provide for so great a good. Time is calling me now to my ministry. But, read all the rest in my heart, most reverend excellency, while with the fullness of esteem and respect, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Spoletto, September 16, 1820

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September 16, 1820
 Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

Jesus Mary Joseph
 Hail to the Blood of J.C.

My dear Fr. Francesco

Your last letter embarrassed me, for it was so superior to mine. I am edified by your virtue alone which lifts me out of a state of lukewarmness for doing good.

I have understood all that you tell me about C.^o Cavalieri. I shall write; but, will I be understood?

I thank you for all your concern about the House there.

I have asked our Father Gaetano to go to Massa with the Bishop of Todi. Betti will go to Porteria. I have explained our rule to the Bishop. He answers that he will not give a Mission strictly so-called, but rather a retreat in the form of a Mission, and Bonanni will do the preaching. We will not consider him bound to the exact observance of the Rule, and, therefore we can accommodate the Bishop who will know how to act in the future, but who now is very happy to have Bonanni. In this way, too, no matter when he gets the word to report to Rome, he can do so easily from here.³⁹

³⁹ It was, in fact, already public knowledge that Pius VII was intending to promote Fr. Gaetano Bonanni to the

Porteria would take him too far afield.

Pray for me. In the Heart of Jesus, I see you in spirit and renew myself with all esteem and affection as

Humble servant,

G. C. del Bufalo

Spoletto, September 16, 1820

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September 19, 1820

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Venerable Fr. Francesco

It would be a good thing to encourage the Pastor of Morgnano, which is near Bruna, to become interested in taking up a collection, because he promised me that he would do so. Do not overlook Fr. Antonio Bonafede, who on his own told me that he wanted to make a contribution to the House of S. Felice. His home is around three miles from Spoleto, in a place named Egi. You will make the acquaintance of an outstanding priest who has our Pious Institute at heart.

How is your health? Do not overwork yourself so much. In whatever way that I can be of assistance to you, just give me the word. Although I am far away, I always live there in spirit. Oh, would that God would give me the favor of being able to withdraw myself to that place! *Utinam.*⁴⁰ Let us offer prayers and let us become saints.

With all my affection, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Terni,⁴¹ September 19, 1820

A thousand greetings to all. In time, and at your convenience, have them put on the doors: "*Viva il Sangue di G.C.*" Try to remind the Pastor about the Cross, etc.

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September 29, 1820

Monsignor Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

I received your letter while here in the diocese of Viterbo where I am completing a Mission

Episcopacy. The formal assignment as the Bishop of Norcia came to him, however, several months later, specifically on February 5, 1821, when he was preaching in the village of Piedipaterno sul Nera (Perugia).

⁴⁰ Would that ...

⁴¹ The Saint was only passing through Terni. He was on his way, in fact, to the Mission at Oriolo Romano (Viterbo), with Fr. Giov. Merlini and Fr. Luigi Mosconi, after having completed the one to the prisoners in the Rocca at Spoleto.

that I have had scheduled for quite some time. Within a short while, I shall be back in Rome from whence I shall then proceed to see his eminence Galleffi in Subiaco to conclude, if God wills it, the course of Missions for this year, in which the Lord has, in a significant way, made the image of St. Francis Xavier miraculous. With regard to Canon Betti, you will be obeyed. I ask only that you be kind enough to allow him to fulfill a few appointments that I have entrusted to him in Umbria relating to the ministry. I trust in your kindness that you will not refuse me this favor, for which I send you my sincerest thanks in anticipation. Otherwise, there would be confusion resulting. I also express my gratitude to you for the favorable information that you gave concerning the good Canon Mariotti, a priest that I find endowed with a good spirit, and from whom I expect great help for the benefit of souls. In the bond of charity, let us assist one another to bring about the Reform that God wills for these miserable times of ours. At least the tears of so many good people will diminish the castigations and will call down the divine mercies.

I kiss your hands, most reverend excellency, and with particular esteem and very special affection, I again assert that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Oriolo, September 29, 1820

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October 6, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor⁴²

Canon Muccioli has probably already spoken to you concerning the placement of the young man, Vincenzo Ferretti, who once before came to be of assistance during the holy Missions. The Canon is quite concerned since, after training him, he now wishes to see him involved in some systematic occupation which will help to give the young man peace of mind and, for the young man to have a means of being of help to his poor family. Although your heart may have no need of encouragement to do something good in the fullest extension of the word, still I felt that I could not excuse myself from doing this noble act, having been asked by the young man to make this request. Pray to the Lord for me, and take good care of your health which is so important for the glory of God. In the meantime, most reverend excellency, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

October 6, 1820

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October 7, 1820

Fr. Giuseppe Zampetti

Spello

⁴² This letter does not have an addressee, but it seems indubitable that it was addressed to Msgr. Cristaldi.

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Canon

I thank you for your letter of the 23rd of the past month. Let us adore in all things the will of God and let us be joyful. Be insistent about the pious organizations. God will reward you a hundredfold for the good that you continue to promote. For if at any time it is our obligation to keep the people warmed up, so to speak, with the love of God, it is especially now that we must be insistent in order to cooperate through prayers and pious works with the divine providence that is awaiting from our efforts the desired Reform. A thousand good wishes *ad omnes nominatim*.⁴³ With esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 7, 1820

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October 7, 1820

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Jesus Mary Joseph

Dear Camillo

Be sure to send the memorandum for the boy, you know, and it will be taken care of. I thank you for the efforts you are making for the sheeting which I am awaiting with impatience. On that occasion, using the same means, I shall send the book to the wonderful Fr. Alessio, whom you will greet in my name. How is my very dear Canon Tarulli? I am greatly concerned for him; in my behalf, give him my best wishes and tell him that if things get worse he should make a promise to St. Francis Xavier to give himself, in as far as he is able, and if he is cured, to the work of giving Missions. We hope that he will obtain that favor and then all will come to know that God wishes to have him in the ministry; no one has to say that twice. With regard to the girls aspiring to become nuns, if you knew some means of getting a dowry chosen for them, or some way that I could be of influence, write to me. *Ora, jube, vale*.⁴⁴ Your letters are always so dear to me. I am awaiting the papers for the St. Xavier group; send them to me. Pray a lot for me and in the Heart of Jesus Christ crucified, believe me to be

Your humble devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 7, 1820

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October 7, 1820

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

S. Felice di Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

My dear Fr. Francesco *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus J.X.*⁴⁵

⁴³ To all by name.

⁴⁴ Pray, entreat, be steadfast.

⁴⁵ Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

How pleased I am to see your handwriting often and how much I love you for the concern that you show for that Pious House. You are its corner stone by divine mercy, and you spend yourself so fully in promoting the glory of the Lord in it. *Dominus retribuet in benedictionibus dulcedinis.*⁴⁶

I have already written you about the transfer of Brother Agostino. All will go along in a normal fashion. You will see him shortly.

I am sorry to hear about the hastiness of the good Achille in the Society. Patience. When Merlini returns, he will bring some books. I hope that Mosconi, when he leaves for Pievetorina, will send some of his clothing which could be of help. Perhaps Mariotti, at his convenience, will be able to rescue some of his clothing from Apiro. God will not fail to assist us. The more hopeless human means appear to us, so much more does confidence in God increase. God will take care of things.

I agree that you should make a trip home. Your will is my will. I am quite trustful of your good judgment.

Tonight, I shall bring the message to Msgr. Santelli. The "*streccino*" perhaps belongs to Fr. Biagio.⁴⁷ There will be time to talk about it. Do not send it at all. Do not forget Canon Muti's book of Masses and whatever else you can recall.

Canon Fr. Michele Perucchini will handle the carrying of the Crucifix.

My folks at home thank you for your remembrance and they revere you for it.

However, I am not forgetful of what you expressed about yourself. Try to continue training step by step, so to speak, the good Canon Mariotti. For, if we get a House, who knows, perhaps we might have to come together in the House at Albano. Prayers, and for the time being, silence. Progress zealously in your position as Economist and you will be doing a great good, have no doubt about it. Move into Fr. Raffaele's room, since we have already agreed that he will remain as Director of the Retreats in Pievetorina. Merlini will come there to Giano.

In order to save expenses, I shall take Mosconi and Merlini to Subiaco. Then, immediately they will return, one to Giano, the other to Pievetorina. A new man will be going to Pievetorina within a short time. They are needful of a larger number. I recommend the observance of the rule. I shall take Mariotti with me on other occasions. Tell him, however, that he should write to me whenever he finds the opportunity and assure him of my wholehearted interest in him, as I have for all the others, *sine exceptione*.⁴⁸

This year, in view of the fact that Fr. Luigi Achille has had to supply many things that were his own, and, with the desire to extinguish the debts, I am asking you to make it known to the Gonfalonier and others that the celebration of the feast of S. Felice will be only a spiritual one. Since we have those debts, it is not at all feasible to incur more expenses for a big meal. The desire which the Priests and the people have manifested to me to see the Society firmly established justifies this decision of mine. Hence, this is something that is called for by the circumstances and is not a judgment of free choice.

Take care of yourself. *Ora, jube, vale.*⁴⁹ I am in the Heart of J.C. Crucified.

⁴⁶ The Lord will repay you with sweet blessings.

⁴⁷ *Streccino*. This is a word that is not listed in dictionaries. It was probably a word in popular use that was derived from the verb "strecciare": to braid a tress of hair (*Petrocchi*) or even to unbraid a tress (*Palazzi*); hence an instrument for braiding or unbraiding the hair.

⁴⁸ Without exception.

⁴⁹ Pray, entreat, be steadfast.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 7, 1820

P. S. The good Marquis Tani, our Companion and Confrere, has passed on into eternity.⁵⁰ We have acquired an advocate in heaven. Make arrangements for the usual suffragia and also have them pray a lot for me.

If Bonanni should need a companion, you will send him Mariotti or Moscatelli, since we are at the end, etc. I am told that his promotion to the Episcopacy is most certain. Cristaldi has given me this information. He will see what can be done for the Society when the opportunity is available, etc. Who knows how many beautiful things we shall see happen.

Make a notification concerning Fr. Tani in the Archives. He died in Ferentino, in the Convent of the Franciscans, in the odor of sanctity. As a result, out of devotion, they have cut pieces of his hair, etc. Fr. Francesco, let us prepare ourselves also to give up our lodging here in this world.

I have been told that the good Tarulli is ill. Sig. Possenti has probably sent you the eight *Sc.* If you should find the bill for the cloth and colored material, send it to me. Msgr. Cristaldi would like to have immediately a copy of the rescript for S. Felice; send it to me by the current mail delivery.

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October 1820

Fr. Gregorio Muccioli

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

In reading the note, I had a bit of doubt about the word Solemn which, at first sight, seems not to fit in the accompanying phrases with the word *Requiem*. Perhaps I am mistaken since I am not practiced in this.

In sending a notification to Visconti about singing the Mass, if you yourself have not already sung it, urge him to be punctual. As Deacon, I appointed Fr. Filippo Gonnelli. Tell him to invite his brother Fr. Giuseppe who will fill in for Pallotta who is absent. I would like to have the inscription for the grave marker of our father in common by Thursday evening, and then we will speak of the converts and neophytes, and I ask you for your prayers.

Go to Tor de'Specchi and meet with any one of the Altieri women who have already been instructed by me and they will furnish you with a notification for the Patrizi woman.

In settling the Butirroni legacy, even though it is small, use the terms and expressions that are established. You might compose the appeal for the Missions which we shall read Thursday evening.

I have satisfied the Mass intention for Tani,⁵¹ as well as for Locatelli; Santelli will say it. On Thursday, we will compute everything. If you are able, try to dispose of the small altar. You might find access through the Scialbi lady or the Princess of Lucca, when she comes to Rome.

Affectionately yours in Jesus Christ

⁵⁰ Marquis Tani: Fr. Vincenzo Tani, Missionary. Cfr. biographical section: Tani.

⁵¹ Fr. Vincenzo Tani died in Ferentino on September 21, 1820. This letter must have been written, in all probability, from Rome in October of 1820.

G. C. del Bufalo

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October 11, 1820
Fr. Luigi Cocci
Grutti

Hail to the Blood of Jesus

Dear Father

I thank you and the Canon for the kindness that you have deigned to show me with regard to Monte Corona. I shall retain this information for the opportune moments. May both of you pray a lot for me and also have the aforementioned religious recommend me to the Lord.

With respect to what you tell me concerning your parochial care, I pray that God will keep the ravenous wolf away from your flock. Around the middle of November, you can send me whatever writing you may have. Try to write in column form. With prayer and with the exchange of ideas we shall do great work for the glory of God and Father (to whom I recommend a visit to S. Felice when you can, for it is so dear to my heart), take care of yourself, and with esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 11, 1820

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October 12, 1820
Fr. Vincenzo Annovazzi
Civitavecchia

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Father Pastor

I thank you for the writings on asceticism that you have made available for me; now I am busy making an exact copy. At the earliest opportunity, I shall see that they are back in your hands. I take this occasion to renew my service to you and to recommend myself to your prayers. Be insistent about the pious organizations, I beg you to make a special remembrance of me in the Holy Mass, and ready to respond to your wishes, believe me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 12, 1820

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October 13, 1820
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

In bringing to a close the present concerns about the Rocca in Spoleto, I am sending a number of memoranda for Fr. Camillo Lepari. I recommend all of them in general and in particular

to your kindness, begging you furthermore to bring about a lessening of punishment for those men condemned to a more serious sentence, so that they, too, proportionately, will be able to enjoy the benefits issued by the Pope, intended for the relief of those who are sentenced to life imprisonment. Whatever lessening that can be obtained will be forever beneficial for those unfortunate individuals.

Hoping that it will not be too great an inconvenience for you, I would ask you to read a few letters that I am enclosing. I thought that this would be a better way of handling this matter, so that you could get a clearer picture of what is going on, and thus place you in a better position to promote an investigation of the more worthy cases, weighing everything *in pondere et mensura*.⁵² I really do not know whether I am doing wrong in forcing you like this.

The news that I get concerning the perseverance in good shown by those poor prisoners is most consoling. So, I am encouraged to look after the relief that they are asking for. God will reward your most reverend excellency a hundredfold for so much good that you do for the greater glory of the Lord.

What will you say of me, my Monsignor, for bothering you so frequently? Well, I just have to say this. Everyone knows, also because of Canon Muccioli, that you are the protector of the Missions and that you are zealously behind the Reform etc. etc., and because of that, so very, very many people are bold enough to have recourse to us. God knows how willingly I involve myself in such undertakings and how earnestly I desire a total success in it. If I were to refuse to do this, as I exercise my ministry, I would prejudice the glory of God. I felt that I had to make this observation so that you will realize the source from which my importune actions arise. I am consoled to know that you are endowed with a generous heart and that you try to the best of your abilities to be a comfort especially to the poor. This thought brings me calm.

Keep close to your heart the petition that I sent you for the Holy Father in behalf of Canon Betti Severini. I would appreciate receiving the *pro gratia*⁵³ as quickly as possible.

The warden of the Rocca will be forwarding a petition to you, asking to be moved to Rome. Receive it kindly, and even now I recommend it to your good judgment and discretion.

Take good care of your health. May the Lord preserve you for many long years. So, your reverend excellency, full of esteem and very special affection, I am in Jesus Christ

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

House, October 13, 1820

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October 13, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

I think it would be a good idea that, in view of the Mission that was made, those who are being tried should be restored *ut erant*,⁵⁴ and, so to speak, a stone marker should be placed on what happened. I, too, was personally aware of this situation; and such would be my feeling about it. The conjectures, the suspicions and everything else - alas, how many misunderstandings they have been

⁵² In weight and measurement.

⁵³ As a favor.

⁵⁴ As they were.

subjected to, as you yourself can point out!⁵⁵

For the four individuals who are crying out from behind the walls.

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October 13, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

The letter enclosed⁵⁶ was written to Salvatori who then passed it on to me. This priest⁵⁷ consigned to me a petition along with documents; then, I, consulting with the Vicar Apostolic, was assured that he did not wish to have him in the Rocca since he did not have all of those traits that were necessary in order to be counted in that community. He added nothing more. So, there is nothing standing in the way of his good name. For that reason, I could find no cause for forwarding his petition, and also because, in my opinion, one ought not to go against the information provided by the Vicar Apostolic, to whom I submitted the letter of the petitioning priest. Let this be kept secret.

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October 13, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Since the petitioner⁵⁸ has only a few more months to serve, it seems to me that he could be shown some favor. This would be an encouragement for the principle to be adopted of not proceeding any further with the litigation, as I suggested in another memorandum.⁵⁹

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October 14, 1820

Fr. Felice Perucchini

Spello

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

I was very pleased to receive your letter of the 24th and I thank God for your fine sentiments. May the Lord make you holier as each day goes by. You are to do as follows. Send a petition to Monsignor Cristaldi who, I hear, will be in Fuligno within a short time. Present yourself to him there and, having confided to him the secret, which is the very heart of this situation, insist again, in my name, on the patrimony. Later you can tell me the outcome. Then, with the bishop and everyone else, show yourself eager for the career in the Missions, and in your discussions with

⁵⁵ This is in St. Gaspar's handwriting, but without a signature. We have assigned the same date as the preceding letter.

⁵⁶ This notation was written by St. Gaspar on the fourth facing of a letter dated September 27, 1820 from Fr. Giacomo Simoni of Spoleto to Carlo Salvatori in Rome. Simoni's letter can be found in Vol. XI, 112.

⁵⁷ Fr. Giacomo Simoni.

⁵⁸ The petitioner is Pietro Lorenzini, an inmate of the Rocca in Spoleto. On September 15, 1820, when he submitted his request to Cristaldi, he had "only about eight months yet to serve". Cfr. XI, 114.

⁵⁹ This is St. Gaspar's handwriting

Monsignor Lucchesi, demonstrate that you will be content only in doing the will of God in Spello (where you also will accomplish great good) but *pro interim*.⁶⁰ Then, if God provides you with a patrimony, at that time, say that you wish to follow your calling. In the meantime, support the things that were established during the past Missions, and pray for me *sine intermissione*.⁶¹ Promote the spiritual and temporal goods of the House in Giano and the one in Pievetorina as best you can. Ready to do your every wish, I am

Your humble and devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 14, 1820

P. S. Privately, as best you can, continue to lead the life that you led in Pievetorina, and give yourself even more to studies.

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October 16, 1820

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Luigi:⁶²

I have not failed to obtain prayers for your beloved father.

The Liguori work is ready, but to whom am I supposed to consign it so that misunderstandings do not arise? I do not know nor do I have time to investigate. So, let me know. The cost is 32 *paoli*.

Next, it is urgent that we help Luisa who wishes to become a nun. Let me know whether there is anyone who might be able to celebrate Masses and surrender the alms. Would you be able to say one or the other? Send me a precise reply. But, no one is to say any without first consulting with me. Make every effort you can for this young lady. A thousand greetings to the most reverend bishop. I recommend to you the care of the pious organizations, in particular, the Oratory. Goodbye. Consider me as

Your affectionate friend

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 16, 1820

P. S. Tani has gone to heaven. He was our Missionary, and it is proper that you offer one Mass for him, and one for the bishop. If either you or the bishop there were to come to Rome, you could find a place to stay in the Buon Consiglio, but you should pay the fee. Butirroni will be pleased. Do what you feel is best. At any rate, inform him in plenty of time. Right now, I can give you no information with regard to the foundress. More *ad alias*.⁶³

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October 18, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

⁶⁰ For the time being.

⁶¹ Without intermission.

⁶² This page is torn in the middle, but the text is clearly legible.

⁶³ For another time.

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Enclosed are the petitions that we have been discussing, and I recommend them to your charity.

Among the priests who are to be nominated, one, perhaps, should come from Umbria. More, when we speak in person, since the procedure has already been set.

In passing through Spoleto, insist on the back-payments for Giano, since the most reverend Delegate and the Vicar Apostolic are aware of all of the concerns. I know that the schools, so to speak, are insolvent, but at least we must not surrender our rights. I have already stated that I would be content with ten *scudi* per year during the time when the schools are incapable, as long as ultimately this entire matter can be settled. Upon your return to Rome, you will find the rescript relative to what I am speaking of here, and you will return that to me in Giano. I realize well that the schools in Spoleto will have to set up some sort of plan in order to recover, and I surely desire full success for them because that is all well and good, but never to the disadvantage of S. Felice to which all the buildings of that area belonged. I am attempting to defend what is the property of the Church, and the rescript that was issued was entirely the result of the work put forth by your excellency and the wonderful lawyer Paolucci, *cuius memoria in benedictione*.⁶⁴ The House in Giano does have debts in view of the situation of having to put the place in order, proportionate to the most urgent needs, and this was done based on the funds that would come from those back-payments.

If my engagement at present of giving the retreat to the nuns of the Divino Amore does not permit me to wish you, in person, a very enjoyable trip, I am doing so now with this letter. Remember me to the Lord; take good care of yourself because that is what God wants. Yesterday, you must not have been feeling well; you seemed to be so melancholic, and it did not seem to me that I was talking to Monsignor Cristaldi. I share with you the pain of having to bear so immense a burden, and may the Lord give you strength: Your excellency, full of inexpressible gratitude along with the usual esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

House , October 18, 1820

P. S. The Holy Father should issue a memorandum for the foundation of a House in Romagna. It could be established in Forlimpopoli, the abbey of S. Pietro in Vaticano. It is pressing that poor Corsica should have one of its priests made a bishop *in partibus pro interim*.⁶⁵ I spoke with a Corsican religious and I am not able to express to you the need that those people have. The only bishop there is an old man and consequently he is unable to do the job; he just does what he can.

⁶⁴ Whose memory will forever be in blessing.

⁶⁵ Auxiliary Bishop for the time being.