

Saint Gaspar's Letters

351 - 400

Letter Number	Date	Page
351. Pope Pius VII,	<i>October 1820</i>	306
352. Msgr. Nicola Mattei,	<i>18 October 1820</i>	306
353. Mr. Camillo Possenti,	<i>20 October 1820</i>	306
354. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi,	<i>25 October 1820</i>	307
355. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi,	<i>25 October 1820</i>	309
356. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>25 October 1820</i>	310
357. Fr. Antonio Mariotti,	<i>25 October 1820</i>	311
358. Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli,	<i>30 October 1820</i>	312
359. Fr. Luigi Locatelli,	<i>1 November 1820</i>	313
360. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>2 November 1820</i>	314
361. Fr. Luigi Locatelli,	<i>3 November 1820</i>	316
362. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>22 November 1820</i>	316
363. Fr. Felice Perrucchini,	<i>25 November 1820</i>	317
364. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>26 November 1820</i>	318
365. Mr. Camillo Possenti,	<i>29 November 1820</i>	318
366. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>29 November 1820</i>	319
367. Fr. Luigi Locatelli,	<i>1 December 1820</i>	321
368. Msgr. Nicola Mattei,	<i>2 December 1820</i>	322
369. Mr. Vincenzo Benedetti,	<i>2 December 1820</i>	322
370. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>6 December 1820</i>	323
371. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>13 December 1820</i>	325
372. A Prelate of S. Giovanni in Laterano,	<i>15 December 1820</i>	327
373. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>16 December 1820</i>	327
374. Mr. Camillo Possenti,	<i>16 December 1820</i>	328
375. Fr. Luigi Gonnelli,	<i>16 December 1820</i>	328
376. Mr. Carlo Marani,	<i>20 December 1820</i>	329
377. Fr. Luigi Gonnelli,	<i>20 December 1820</i>	329
378. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>23 December 1820</i>	329
379. Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli,	<i>25 December 1820</i>	330
380. Mr. Camillo Possenti,	<i>27 December 1820</i>	330
381. Msgr. Nicola Mattei,	<i>27 December 1820</i>	331
382. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>29 December 1820</i>	332
383. Fr. Anacleto Giliucci,	<i>29 December 1820</i>	333
384. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi,	<i>31 December 1820</i>	334
385. Fr. Giovanni Caroni,	<i>31 December 1820</i>	334
386. Countess Lucrezia Ginnasi ,	<i>1 January 1821</i>	335
387. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>6 January 1821</i>	336
388. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>January 1821</i>	336
389. Pope Pius VII,	<i>12 January 1821</i>	337

390. Mr. Luigi Fuschi,	<i>23 January 1821</i>	337
391. Mr. Filippo Marchetti,	<i>28 January 1821</i>	338
392. Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni,	<i>26 February 1821</i>	338
393. Mr. Camillo Possenti,	<i>28 February 1821</i>	339
394. Fr. Luigi Mosconi,	<i>February 1821</i>	340
395. Fr. Luigi Gonnelli,	<i>2 March 1821</i>	341
396. Fr. Luigi Locatelli,	<i>2 March 1821</i>	342
397. Fr. Luigi Gonnelli,	<i>5 March 1821</i>	342
398. Vicar General of Albano,	<i>14 March 1821</i>	343
399. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi,	<i>14 March 1821</i>	344
400. Pope Pius VII,	<i>17 March 1821</i>	344

351

October 1820
 Pope Pius VII
 Most Holy Father¹

With the blessing of your Holiness, two Houses for Retreats and Missions have already been opened in the Province. From them, much good work has resulted to the greater glory of God. Now, Canon Gaspare del Bufalo humbly petitions your Holiness to deign to grant a subsidy of one hundred *scudi* to be shared by the two Houses according to the need for providing in particular all of the materials necessary for the apostolic ministry of the Missions; who etc. etc.

In behalf of the two Houses of Retreats and Missions in Giano and Pievetorina

352

October 18, 1820
 Monsignor Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Camerino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

When he is finished around November, Canon Betti will depart from Umbria and will return to his residence. I ask you, Monsignor, to be patient until that time, and be assured that if I had been in Umbria when I received your letter, I would have been able to work things out differently. But, since I am far from there, you realize quite well that it is not so easy to handle situations from a distance, and especially in these times when, if I had more members, then more men could have been used this year in Umbria which up to now has been served with Missions in only a small way. Let this letter be a renewal of our pacts in God and as a petition for your prayers since very soon I shall be leaving for Subiaco. Upon my return from there, I shall apply myself to initiating the foundation of a House of our Society in Albano. You are quite aware of the merit that such a holy institute has in our times. You are to be given great credit since you help in whatever way that you can, and I urge you to continue that. In the meantime, most reverend excellency, with the customary esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 18, 1820

P.S. The Holy Father has granted Canon Betti the enjoyment of the fruits of his small canonry until the time of his return to Sanginesio.

353

October 20, 1820
 Mr. Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Camillo

¹ A notation in a different handwriting says: "around 1820". In the collection of letters to Cristaldi, this petition is placed after the letter of October 18, 1820. It certainly was written before the letter of October 25, 1820.

I have been urging the petition that you are concerned about. God knows how much I desire to have a good outcome. Now, send two well-prepared and concise petitions to the most reverend Treasurer for the two Capuchin postulants. It will be sufficient if I have them in my hands in order to present them before November. If they are accompanied by a document from the monastery that will accept them, in my opinion, they will be that much more convincing. Prayers. Whatever help you can possibly get will always be opportune for this objective.

With regard to the priest that you mentioned to me, tell him that he should discuss things with Canon Gonnelli and with Fr. Biagio Valentini, giving them all that information that he supplied to me. After I have reviewed the replies of these two companions of mine, a decision will be made. That priest could also go to sample the life-style and to feel in practice the burden of an exact observance, and thus realize better what the will of God is. Try to get from Canon Cartoni a new letter for Fr. Pietro Odescalchi with whom I am dealing in behalf of the man stricken with ring-worm. That is the reply for Marani.

The other matters will be handled in November when the Secretariats will be opened again. Tell Fr. Biagio to send me his requests. I am urging for the release of the good Tarulli; give him my best wishes and tell him to see that many prayers are offered for this intention. How about those constitutions for the St. Xavier group? And, how are chances for the foundation of one of our Mission Houses in that area? With esteem and affection, I am²

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Also, send the sheeting, addressed to me here in: Palazzo Gravina Monte Savelli, where I am living.

354

October 25, 1820

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

By commission of the most reverend Vicegerent, I am still continuing as the extraordinary confessor for the nuns of Divino Amore, and oh how I would like for these religious women to quickly have a better backing! Here in this holy institute, one sees the totality of the spirit of St. Ignatius Loyola: school, education, exercises. May the Lord be blessed in everything.

I am enclosing a petition for the young lady desiring to become a nun. Do not fail to pray for her intentions.

A Father of S. Girolamo della Carita has sent me a petition for some men who were formerly

² This letter does not have a written date, but the postal marking supplies one (October 20). Likewise, there is a notation written by Possenti himself (October 1820), and of course the content of the letter itself.

in the Rocca of Spoleto. I would like to see them given some form of consolation. Now that we are speaking of the Rocca, I remind you about the erection of the Stations of the Cross. To cut down on the expenses, they can be erected with only the crosses since the images are not essential. The eighty-year old chaplain in that prison, ready to continue to offer his services, would appreciate receiving some sort of subsidy. It seems to me that because of his age alone, that would be sufficient reason to please him in whatever way possible.

You are to take good care of your health. I pray that God will preserve you *ad multos anos*³ for his greater glory and for the benefit of souls.

If anyone interested in Albano would like to have a meeting with me before my departure for Subiaco, I would be very pleased to do so, as long as this is in conformity with what you think is best in the eyes of God. I am sending you a few pages which I have already promised to you. I have recently put into your hands our method of giving Missions. If you would also like a copy of the booklets that we distribute during a Mission, according to the circumstances, all you need do is say the word and I will see that they are placed at your disposal. Being the cornerstone for so many good works, you are deserving of esteem, recognition and very special affection. May the Lord make you evermore holy and fervent, as you weave a very special crown for your future in eternity.

Do not forget the subsidy requested for supplying the needed materials of the two Mission Houses. If the Holy Father approves the procedure planned for the release of three priests for the growth of our Society, I will immediately send the three petitions in proper order, upon receiving your word.

Finally, now that I have the burden of supporting two of my very beloved companions (so as not to remove workers from Rome), you would be doing me a most acceptable favor if, under the title of postal expenses sustained up to now, you would deign to have them grant me that subsidy which you consider fair, since up to now I have not had any precise reply. In truth, I could not even give you the exact cost. But, in general, I assure you that it has been quite considerable, and both Canon Muccioli and even the letter-carrier would witness to that. Later on, I will give you an exact account which I have just begun to compute in detail starting from the time that you were kind enough to first demonstrate to me your very charitable dispositions. My Monsignor, after the Lord, I recognize that everything is due principally to your charity. The Lord, indeed, has given to me a heart yearning to do good for souls; but he has not made a gift to me of temporal things, but may he still be forever blest. Instead, he has instilled in you, most reverend excellency, those sparks of illumination that are proportionate to the needs of the ministry. Thus, even though you may be the Treasurer for the Holy Father, you can also be consoled in the thought that God has given you the opportunity of promoting all those things that are open to the eyes of all people. Most reverend excellency, with particular esteem and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

House, October 25, 1820

I have other memoranda which I shall send to Fr. Camillo Lepori. With regard to the Regulars, I would like you to consult the treatise of Muzzarelli entitled *Claustrali* in the work, *Buon*

³ For many years.

Usò della Logica, which I do not have in my possession.

P. S. Vicar Paolini, an outstanding priest, very much in love with the House in Giano and one who has been helpful in travel arrangements for our men in going to S. Felice, reminds you concerning a certain Francesco Sansi. He says that the superintendent's position of the Salt and Tobacco will soon be vacant in Fuligno; but the applicant is ready to go into banking wherever you consider it the best opportunity for him to apply.

I am enclosing a copy of the rescript for Giano concerning the back-payments. The schools are not opposed to this in view of the ideas I presented. I have received word that if the schools can find a way of recovering, they will satisfy their debts to the sanctuary, etc. We shall see what happens, etc.

355

October 25, 1820

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

Observations concerning the printed matter etc.⁴

You will notice some printing errors.

In this difficult situation, we have sought to have the discretion of De Sales so that the members will be inspired not to give way to distracting thoughts, in view of the fact that they are priests of middle age who in so many different cases could be promoted in the seminaries etc., could have funds to buy vesture that gets so worn out during the ministry; so it is necessary that they have, in some way, the means of providing for what is necessary, and to be able to do so in a reasonable and proportionate manner.

The House in Rome that I referred to is the House of *Buon Consiglio pro interim*.⁵ Even though it is very, very poor, nevertheless priests who are fond of our Society meet there in order to support its good name, and, in a certain way, verify their positions through Roman decorum etc. God will take care of things.

Everything that is being done is in accordance with the ideas promoted by good Albertini, *cujus memoria in benedictione*.⁶

All is under the egis of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood, in keeping with the norms, although with a different approach, set down for the Archconfraternity of Christian Doctrine. How better could the Blood of Christ be applied than by means of holy Missions? More about this, as circumstances allow, when we see each other in person.

The bishop of Albenga, who was the head of the Missions of the Secular Clergy in Genoa, told me that in addition to the city just mentioned, basing their setup on the same principles as our ideas, they are found existing in Marseilles; and, it is so not only in substance, but also in the

⁴ According to Merlini (Cfr. Gaspare del Bufalo [*Un Santo scruta un Santo*], pp. 214-215) the printed matters are: "The Rule for erecting Mission Houses..." and "Spiritual advice for Missionaries...", set down in print before June 7, 1820. This present letter is certainly from the year 1820 as can be deduced from the references to the Missions in S. Nicola in Carcere and in Subiaco. In the collection of letters to Cristaldi it is placed after the letter of March 18, 1820, but it should be located in a position shortly before the Subiaco Mission and should be considered in relationship to the preceding letter.

⁵ For the time being.

⁶ Whose memory will forever be in blessing.

smallest particulars. I held a conversation with this most willing prelate. He told me that their congregation had been approved by Benedict XIV; ours will be solemnly accepted under Pius VII, etc. I am told that those institutions are in existence in Turin; substantially also in Naples. I, myself, came in contact with that institution. Little by little, the Holy League of the spirit will be established. May God bless anyone who encourages and promotes these instruments of battle which form the bulwark against hell itself. Here in Rome, we would need a Mission following the directions given by Benedict XIV in the time of Blessed Leonard *Ut in Vita*. He had this holy man go up and down⁷ the entire city, street after street, and during that time to revive the pious organizations, for example, in that particular part of the city. Souls were aroused to tears of repentance; that was pleasing to God. We are reminded of the Ninivites. Before Christmas, the Missions in S. Nicola in Carcere will be conducted in accordance with the Constitutions of that Archconfraternity of the Blood of Jesus Christ, that is, every five years. Oh what a beautiful thing it is to continue that! We now have very capable men for the ministry. This method, like a torrent of water that grows larger each day, will change the hideous appearance of this city of ours. On that occasion, time will be dedicated to the giving of particular conferences to different individual groups, depending on the time available. Oh what a great good! Let us pray to God, Monsignor, that all this will occur. And with the support of the Sacconi, a Confraternity will march down every street in an effort to extirpate the vice of blasphemy; as a result, I do not see, in a manner of speaking, even the time to go to Subiaco.

The other day some outsiders went to the Museum in the Campidoglio and, seeing the *Monte di Venere* (I am told that is the title given to the painting) came back to me weeping, shall I say. Oh what a responsibility we have before God! Our eyes can do nothing other than shed tears. Everything around us breathes out seduction and libertinage. If, among all the good works that you do, you would include speaking seriously of this to the Holy Father,⁸ and initiate the Reform radically, the chastisements would come to an end, for God is exceedingly merciful and *respicit in orationem humilium*,⁹ etc.

Then, too, orders should be issued to the bishops in every location, so that our good example etc. etc. etc.

356

October 25, 1820

Fr. Francesco Pierantonj

Fuligno per Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francesco

Your management of the House is blessed by God, have no doubts about it. Perhaps I may succeed in being able to furnish the House with the things needed for the Missions: crucifix, Madonna, etc. a person might have a certain idea about it but we still have not come to a decision. Prayers. If you have had any expenses along this line, let me know.

I find myself needing a copy of the Clarification of the Rule¹⁰ and other related manuscripts.

⁷ Cristaldi wrote in the left-hand margin: "Very, very difficult".

⁸ Cristaldi adds this marginal note: "This is even more difficult. I do not believe that any remedy has been applied yet even in St. Peter's. Let us be grateful to God that some correction has been made in printing."

⁹ He cares for the prayers of the humble.

¹⁰ *Clarification of the Rule*. Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia.

I ask you, at your convenience, to do me the favor, for so great is the good that is to be promoted, that I need those papers.

Canon Muti is urgently asking for the book of Masses and wants it immediately. You surely understand. We are talking about the book of Masses of Fr. Biagio, etc. To save me a lot of letter-writing, you gentlemen contact each other, and see to it that that book gets sent back here promptly.

Tell Canon Cavalieri that, when he has obtained the Bishop's permission for the collection, nothing else is required. The only thing left then is to have the document on hand. As for the rest, any objections that may be raised should not alarm you. I do not know whether this same Canon has ever told you anything about the return trip for which he had promised to give some money as a subsidy. I told him to deal with you, so that there would be an understanding between you, but nothing seems to have come of it. At any rate, in order not to produce grounds for new gossip, let us let things stay as they are. Sufficient: we shall stand by and see what he does. You be passive.

Msgr. Santelli will take care of selling your little painting. I am pleased to receive news of your catechism. Continue working on it from time to time. That experience will be very helpful to you. Put your trust in St. Francis Xavier to whom I ask that you recommend me.

Within a short time, I shall leave for Subiaco. I would be delighted to receive beforehand another one of your letters. I am including herein another list of Masses which you will be so kind as to have celebrated. I remain with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 25, 1820

The Masses that I am sending can be celebrated only by the Missionaries. Tell Canon Mariotti that I will answer his letter in another ordinary mail. If you should not be in need of Masses, please send the enclosed back to me.

357

October 25, 1820
Fr. Antonio Mariotti
Caldarola

Jesus Mary Joseph

Dear Father

When the Tribunals open up again, the case for Saverio will resume. *Raucae factae sunt fauces meae*¹¹ concerning the copy for the Confraternity. They may have made it already, but they made a mistake toward the end. Patience.

With regard to the requests to the Sacred Penitentiary, you are to prepare them immediately. Point out that Tizio has delayed in having recourse, indicating the terms in which he writes. May Tizio's case move forward; the only thing that he can be accused of up to now is that of negligence, if indeed that even exists, but still cite the other reasons etc.

With respect to the activity dealing with Moral, oh how I too would be happy with that. Let us try to be in agreement on many things. I am short on time, and I suppose the same is the case for you. We shall see, eventually. Meanwhile, prayers. Be insistent about the pious organizations. Pray

¹¹ My throat has become hoarse.

and have others do so also for the one who now, dear Father, with esteem renews himself as
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Rome, October 25, 1820

358

October 30, 1820
 Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli
 Matelica
 Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ
 Most esteemed Canon

*Benedictus Deus in omnibus.*¹² Oh, how willingly did I read your letter of the 27th. It truly lifted me out of the thousand bitter moments of anguish that I have endured, worrying about your state of health. St. Francis Xavier has preserved your life so that you can dedicate it entirely for the Reform of our times. But, do all with moderation with good order and *juxta vires*.¹³ You are intelligent and you are docile enough to recognize and to follow through using these basic principles. You did well in informing me that the sickness was not the sort that impeded preaching. Indeed, a priest had in a way indicated to me that it was something resulting from exhaustion in the area of the chest. When I read that, I raised my eyes to heaven and said: Dear Lord, I am grateful to you that in the course of this Mission, you tied my hands so that I would not be able to give up my Tarulli; otherwise, this Mission would have encountered new difficulties". So, as long as God is glorified, I shall pay no heed ever again to such rumors. Hence, join with me in thanking God because, through his loving mercy, he gives me that special blessing in whatever regards my most beloved ministry.

Now let us take up something of great importance. With Cristaldi, we are making every effort to procure a patrimony for you. The difficulty, however, is that he does not wish to irritate the bishops, which is certainly plausible, and yet he wants the person who is released to be free to work in the Society. In practice, it calls for a prudential temperament so that *sensim sine sensu*¹⁴ the vocation can be fulfilled using the method of De Sales. Basically, these are the principles to adhere to. Indeed, some day, you should be able to say to the bishop that the voice that you are using in choir duty, you would like to use for the ministry; and, likewise, if you add that you would return from time to time to Matelica to stimulate the pious organizations etc., who knows, perhaps St. Francis Xavier will bring about success in this whole procedure. Prayers and the sincerity of De Sales. You probably have read already our regulations, the fruit of prayer. They are a summary of a book that will soon be put into print. Within a short time, another Mission House will be opening in the vicinity of Rome. Prayers. I have assigned Fr. Rafaele, of the Franci brothers, to Terracina. Since it is contiguous with the Kingdom of Naples, he will do good work there. The other one is presently outside of Rome. I will always do the best I can, but always firm in the decisions that are made

We have taken in another priest, a real gem because of the singular gifts that he has received from God. This man is presently with me and I shall take him with me to Subiaco. I shall return from

¹² Blessed be God in all things.

¹³ According to one's strength.

¹⁴ Gradually without feelings.

there around the 20th of next month. Pray for me, a miserable thing, and have as many others as you can get do the same. What about the young Carthusian? and, what about the girl wishing to become a nun? In regard to that young lady, if things still remain *ut erant*,¹⁵ I would propose her for our new institute, concerning which I will say more *ad alias*.¹⁶ I would like to know her age, her dowry, her spiritual qualities, and any talent that she may have, and whether she would come to Rome, etc.

Oh how I would desire to have our House in the Marca more centrally located and how I would like to have it in the vicinity of Matelica and Sanseverino. Do all the good work that you can, and in the celebration of Mass, I wish to be first in line at the Memento, etc. Perhaps I am asking too much, but the ministry that I exercise deserves it. In the meantime, you, in private, try to lead the life that is followed in the Mission Houses, and during the Novena to St. Xavier, make your own retreat (if you are fully recovered), in spirit with all the others. I (confidentially) am trying to discover whether I can set up a fixed abode in a Mission House when I am in Rome so that I can better activate the Society. *Si Domino placet fiat*.¹⁷

Let us prepare ourselves for gaining the youthfulness of spirit spoken of by the prophet. Youth represents robustness. So, may our interior life be robust etc. Read the writings of De Sales often. May the grace of the Lord make us entirely for Jesus and grant that we be united here on earth *in unitate ministerii*,¹⁸ so that we can be re-united *in consortio gloriae coelestis*. Amen.¹⁹ Wholeheartedly, I am

Affectionately yours in J.C.

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 30, 1820

P. S. Offer suffrages for our companion, the good Tani, who died in the odor of sanctity, etc. Fr. Alessio of Fabriano would like to read the booklet dealing with the pious organizations, etc. In that case, lend him yours. On my behalf, give him my best wishes and encourage him to look after the organizations in Fabriano, etc.

359

November 1, 1820

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

I imagine that it was Father Tiraterra who left your very dear letter for me at my house, but I did not speak to him. The certificate as Missionary is not granted until one has participated in a Mission and after obtaining delicate information from the Ordinary. I esteem all applicants, but you know very well how exalted a ministry this is. More about this in person and in time. In the meantime, continue to encourage him in his good aspirations.

When you return to Rome, do not forget to go to the Filippine nuns. Believe me, my

¹⁵ As they were.

¹⁶ For another time.

¹⁷ If it pleases the Lord, so it will be.

¹⁸ In the unity of the ministry.

¹⁹ In the fellowship of heavenly glory. Amen.

promises will be verified. Have no doubt.

I recommend to you the man that I proposed as a cook, or perhaps to engage him for some other work. Once again, I urge this strongly. Write to Vincenzo Severini, addressing it to my house, since I am leaving him in charge. You will have to make plans for that man's trip, having him ride with the coachman, since you can save expenses better that way. You make the purchase, and you will see. However, be sure that he has what is necessary, so that he will become attached to the pious place.

I am eager to see the aggregation in Sermoneta brought to a conclusion. Work too for the one in S. Felice for which I already informed you that there is someone who will donate a *zecchino*. So very dear to me are the principles and the wishes of my very dear Father in Christ, for whom I so often am led to tears of love just remembering him. Do not forget the rites for him at the end of this month and I would like to see them observed in all three cathedrals. If I would have to give a Mission there in the diocese, I would want to go to the burial place of so great a Father. In the meantime, pray for me so that I will become a saint, and prepare myself for that last moment of life that is drawing ever closer.

Do not exert yourself beyond your strength, for God does not want that. If you lose your health, what will you be able to do? In handling matters, I would like to see you more like De Sales. Meditate well on those words: *ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima*.²⁰

I have given to lawyer Angeli the warmest recommendations, pouring out my heart effusively, in behalf of your monastery. I argued in favor of the situation and I am hopeful for the best. Do not be discouraged, but with tranquility, act courageously. Goodbye, my dear Canon. Let us place our wills as victims on the altar of God's will, for that altar is the bed of the mystical spouse mentioned in the Canticle. Do not think of becoming a religious, because God wants you as an apostle in Terracina. In time, we will erect a Mission House in that area, serving also the nearby Kingdom of Naples. We shall select the locality that has the best climate. Pray for me, a poor fellow, and believe me to be yours in Jesus Christ *qui suo nos redemit sanguine*.²¹

Affectionately yours

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Rome, November 1, 1820

P.S. When coming to Rome, write in time beforehand to Muccioli if you would like to stay at the *Buon Consiglio*. If you or the bishop wish to write to me, go right ahead and do so since the letters are delivered quickly from Rome to Subiaco. Have no doubt about that. In confidence, let me know whether the bishop will be able to apply some Masses.

360

November 2, 1820

Fr. Franc.° M'a Pierantonj

S. Felice do Giano

Spoletto per Giano

J. M. J.

My dear Fr. Franc.°, whom I think of continually

²⁰ Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

²¹ Who redeemed us in his blood.

Your letters have been too few and far between. Therefore, I am presently bringing you up to date on all that follows.

I know that Bonanni has the Mission at Narni. Betti cannot go there at all. Furthermore, with Moscatelli, Mosconi and Liparelli going, it will be an excellent Mission. Mosconi, a credit to the ministry, will be successful because of his Catechism instructions. So, with Bonanni's knowledge, you will ask Liparelli to go there to establish the pious associations, etc. I, too, from afar am ready to assist in any way that I can.

This Mission, then, calls for certain adjustments so that there won't be too much of a burden on the House. Mosconi must give the Retreat there, and you can prepare for him one of the rooms in the new section. He will be there on the evening of the 24th. Early in the morning you will send him a mount outside the gates of Spoleto, where he, after leaving the carriage, will take your mount so as to be able to continue his trip to your place. You will ask the good Vicar of Castelritaldi, in my name, to prepare a bit of refreshment so that he can proceed finally to S. Felice. These are the items that I must call to your attention first. Our Merlini will be taking care of things in Pievetorina.

So as not to have all three members gone from the House, I have written to good Fr. Corradi and have directed him to return for that time, that is, when the others will be leaving for Narni. Since we will need help, we have the Vicar at Cannara, the Pastor at Grutti, having first obtained the Ordinary's permission; but since he is a Pastor, it would not be a good idea to inconvenience him; later Moscatelli will return.

Because of a letter from Fr. Corradi, and I tell you this in confidence, I am hoping to get him to join us. Fr. Biagio will come to Rome for the Mission at S. Nicola in Carcere.

I will not be sending anyone else. If it were not because of the singing, I would not have inconvenienced you. So, I am arranging things according to our agreements: but, please, do not let this reach the ears of Pievetorina nor even those Companions there in S. Felice. All of this in the greatest secrecy. because to say anything now would upset every prudential judgment.

Please supply for the Director of the Retreats, *pro interim*,²² and give Mariotti the task of assisting you in one or the other of your duties, so as to train him as you see best. As long as Corradi remains with the group, he will be the Prefect of the Church, and you can give him the responsibility for the country people, the Suffrages and the Pious associations, etc. for otherwise you will be too heavily burdened. This young man is a wonderful priest: I would like to have him as one of our own.

So, are you praying for me, Fr. Franco?²³ You know how much I am in need of it.

Hoping to find out more from you soon, I am in the Heart of J.C. Crucified, etc. I commend you for your thrifty management, something that you do quite well. Praise be to God.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

(Rome) November 2, 1820

Have Bonanni realize that with regard to Betti, there is nothing to do but pray. Until he is released, one must be patient, but I hope that it will be quite soon, etc. and yet, the archbishop wants him etc. etc.

As for the cost of Mosconi's mount, have Mosconi bring the bill to me himself.

²² For the time being.

²³ *Fr. Franco*. Elsewhere, in writing the given name of Pierantoni, the Saint always uses a shortened form, "Franc." or "Fr." for Francesco. Here, there is no sign of a shortening of the form. Is it possibly an omission? Or, should one not rather say that the Saint on this occasion might have wanted to use a familiar and affectionate form?

361

November 3, 1820
Fr. Luigi Locatelli
Terracina

Jesus Mary Joseph
Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

I have sent for the man, and I hope that everything will work out according to your wishes. As for his travel expenses, however, it will be necessary for you to make that the charge of the Collegio since he is unable to handle it on his own. But even this charitable treatment will draw him more affectionately. See that he has what is necessary for living, and I recommend him to the fullest of my ability.

Blegi has the works of the Blessed Liguori, but ask for the latest edition; likewise helpful is a small treatise published by the Postulator of his cause, but I do not know whether it is included with the latest edition of his works. Blegi will know; otherwise, contact Canon Muccioli on your own.

Let me know whether you would like to help out with the Mission (to be given in S. Nicola) of our Archconfraternity. It will begin on December 8th and conclude on the feast of St. Thomas. I want to inform you that the Archconfraternity will not be able to cover your expenses. But if, for other reasons, you find yourself here in Rome, you might seek the consolation of doing this good work. Outside of you, the other members are not available. So be it.

Write to me; pray for me, and take good care of yourself. Believe me to be

Your affectionate friend

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, November 3, 1820

362

November 22, 1820
Fr. Franc. Maria Pierantonj
Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

My dear Fr. Franco

How happy I am to receive your letters, even though they are quite rare! You have my pity, however: in being father to a family, I truly realize that it demands many things of you. Live, nevertheless, with the certainty that I never forget you, Oh! how many blessings I wish upon you! You shall see one day that my advice to you, not because it is mine but because it comes from the most loving Father of lights, will lead you adorned in palm branches to Paradise.

I would not consider plausible your trip to Monte Corona. We are facing the time when the Society is becoming widespread and being given a firmer rooting. However, I would like you always to be tranquil in spirit. Vain ideas are nothing but vexations which God uses as an assiduous testing of humility. Difficult and contrary situations have formed Saints. In that way does God derive his glory. I shall mention other things on another occasion.

I hope to be able to come up with a subsidy for Giano. We shall see action, zeal, prayer, persistence, trust in God and patience. You are greatly appreciated by our Society, and everyone

owes you a great deal for your wisdom, which I have noted already in your well-ordered letter-writing as well as in the carefulness of your administration.

Coming there from Rome are two students who, one day, will join us. Along with them are two very fine priests from among all those that we have in Rome. They have been Directors of Nuns. They are ascetical, especially one of them, and most talented in preaching, etc. How it all happened is almost miraculous: I shall tell you about it on another occasion. Both of them are a bit past 40 years of age, and perhaps more mature in the practice of virtue. The affection that I have for my S. Felice requires me to send them there, if you approve.

Consequently, it would be my judgment to set up the House there in this fashion: Fr. Biagio, the two new men, Canon Mariotti, the two boarding priests. The first in this line-up will govern the Community there and will promote the practice of the rule; the other man (Mariotti) will be the economist; and, when you have broken him in, I am resolved to bring you closer to me. Also, the payment of room and board will be helpful in temporal matters. I do not pretend to be an economist, but I would think that these payments should do some good in a reciprocal manner. The two members will assume direction of Society work. Provisions have also been made for Umbria, bearing in mind that there are those people there who are of help to us whenever the necessity arises, etc.

Again, for reasons of economics, (please keep this secret), I would like Moscatelli to go to Pievetorina, where he would be most contented because of the organ that they have, etc., and, if he should like to do so, he could go to Romagna at his convenience. I will specify the exact time for his transfer in another letter, provided that he is in agreement with all this.

The Madonna of our Missions²⁴ will have to be uniform; for the time being, Bonanni's Madonna can be used.

I shall collect the offerings, and we shall come to an agreement. I am, with esteem and most partial attachment,

Yours affectionately in J. C.

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, November 22, 1820

363

November 25, 1820
Fr. Felice Perucchini
Spello

Jesus Mary Joseph
Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

St. Xavier has heard your prayer. Using the fast mail-delivery, send immediately to the Holy Father a well-detailed memorandum requesting your release etc. The Holy Father will change it for a pension drawn from the treasury which will be equivalent to a patrimony. It is not very hopeful to receive ecclesiastical benefices or pensions. Later we shall discuss this further. Inform the most reverend bishop that it is necessary for you to be freed for the apostolate, otherwise this situation

²⁴ *Madonna delle nostre Missioni*, cf. Gasparian History and Trivi: Madonna of Our Missions.

cannot be worked out. Urge the printer in Fuligno to make a new printing of the life of Xavier. Oh what a dear Saint! Our society is making progress; we are in the process of opening other Houses, and within a short time, two excellent members, fit for the Missions, will depart from Rome for Giano.

I hope that the holy cards get there on time. The cost for them was 1.50 *scudi*. Prayers for me *sine intermissione*;²⁵ and, dear Canon, with esteem consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Rome, November 25, 1820

364

November 26, 1820

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

S. Felice in Giano

Dearest Father Francesco²⁶

Tell Canon Mariotti to be tranquil. I shall look after his matters. Everything is moving along and momentarily everything will be concluded. I am writing in a hurry. More about everything *ad alias*.²⁷

G. C. del Buf.

The Masses can be celebrated only in our Church.

365

November 29, 1820

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

Our plans have all gone for nothing. The coachman, Domenico Biondo, did not come for me, but one from Fuligno, to whom I gave 1.30 *scudi* after quite a bit of bargaining. It is true that he brought your forwarded letter, so it was not in Biondo's possession. He may be a gentleman, but, these days, one must be very cautious. I thank you for all your efforts, and I am most obliged to you for all that you have done for the poor. Because the coachman did not show up, I am unable to send the books. I will try to find another occasion. Give my regards to Marani and tell him that the Papal Blessing is not granted that easily, and it is practically useless to attempt to get one. The Pope does not wish to be bothered with those requests. That is what you must tell the priest who was wishing to have it. As for your prayer, they do not wish to attach any indulgences, because the Holy Father says that there have been enough of them granted. For now, at least, that will have to wait. But the bishops, *a jure*,²⁸ can attach an indulgence of 40 days, so you can make that appeal in each diocese where you propagate it so praiseworthy. I do not fail to urge the case of the young man stricken

²⁵ Without intermission.

²⁶ This letter has no written date. The postal marking has: "26 Novembre". The year is determined from the letters written to Piarantoni and Mariotti between the 25th and 28th October, 1820.

²⁷ For another time.

²⁸ From the law.

with ring-worm, but Canon Cartoni, whom you met there, can do more for him. With regard to the dowries, I want you to know that the ones that they grant are quite small. Nevertheless, send in the three petitions, concise and with full details. Whatever we are able to get will be useful. I hope that a coachman will be again available. Otherwise, send me one and thus we will bring to a conclusion all of our bits of interest. If I owe something in justice to the pious place, please let me know. Many greetings to Curate Taddei. His books will be ready when the coachman shows up. Asking you for your prayers, Camillo, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, November 29, 1820

366

November 29, 1820

Fr. Franc. M. Pierantonj

Fuligno per Giano

Dear Fr. Francesco

J. M. J.

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

One of these days I am going to pay a visit to Mrs. Girolama (Moroni)²⁹ and I shall bring her 9 Sc., the stipend money for Masses given by the Congregation of the Apostolic Visitation which you then can collect from her estate manager. If Mrs. Moroni does not want to be bothered, I will find some other means. In reference to the Mass stipends from Canon Muti, up to now I have collected nothing. However, I will keep on reminding him.

In a most unexpected way, two of our finest members in Rome have now dedicated themselves completely to the Society. These men are mature in the ministry and I have considered stationing them in Giano, if you approve of it.

I have asked Canon Moscatelli to change places with Fr. Biagio to have a better distribution of our members: but, he should not leave Giano without first notifying me. I would like him, in that case, to go to Pievetorina with his own total acceptance and good will, otherwise, I will be given the full reward. All should be kept in total secrecy in Pievetorina to achieve better order in this matter.

I cannot tell you of what high caliber are the two members who are coming there. In the future, there will be nothing more to worry about, so to speak, in Umbria. According to my plan, Fr. Biagio will remain in Giano, together with the two new men and Mariotti, the latter selected to succeed you as soon as you assure me that he is ready to assume the management. Furthermore, have no doubt about it, I shall never be lacking in words of praise for my dearest Fr. Francesco, to whom I owe so much for his excellent economy and the good order that he maintains there. *Laus Deo.*³⁰ In the meantime, continue zealously. Remember that priest in Egi is willing to offer something for the House at S. Felice. The two members are both middle-aged men and students of the good Albertini.³¹

²⁹ Girolama Paolucci Moroni. She is the sister of the outstanding benefactor, Lawyer Giuseppe Paolucci (cfr. biographical section: Paolucci). She, too, was very generous towards the poor and very fond of the Community at Giano. Like her brother, she ordinarily maintained her residence in Rome.

³⁰ Praise to God.

³¹ The new members. One of the two Roman priests who had given themselves to the Institute (the Saint speaks

The foundation at Albano will not take a lot of time. God is blessing the Society and he wishes it to make progress.

Together with my fullest good wishes, tell Canon Betti that provision for his patrimony has been set by a pension from the Treasury. It is necessary that he be a member of the Society. Furthermore, he should clearly manifest his vocation so as to persuade the Archbishop not to oppose him. A thousand greetings to him and urge him to make his decision, for these are things that escape one easily. Remind him of the Lenten series at Pievetorina. You make every effort to reserve the one at Giano to us for another year and even for always.

I have written something else to Canon Moscatelli. It is that in the meantime I would like to have him change places, if he is willing to, with Fr. Biagio, in order not to leave Gonnelli without a trustworthy companion. On the other hand, it goes without saying that Fr. Biagio is to come to Giano for the winter because he will be in charge of the observance of the rule.

How is your tranquility of spirit as of now? Pray for me. An embrace for Canon Betti. I shall write to Canon Mariotti, in case I do not have time, in another mail delivery. Tell him that I love him in J.C. and that he should pray for me *cum omnibus, etc.*³² You mention to me that Bonanni is leaving the Crucifix, etc. All very good. But, our own Madonna must be uniform. It will probably be all right to have Bonanni's too. If I forget something, remind me of it. Mosconi is prepared to lend the House of Giano a bed cover or so, and some other things, too. Two young men will accompany the two priests, and all should be handled according to our rule.

Courage, my dear Fr. Francesco! Let us become saints and entirely God's. I hope that the fire of the Lord's love will transform us in God, so that each one of us will give evidence to it: *vidi angelum Dei fortem, volantem.*³³

I urge in all things an appropriate silence. I am, with esteem and respect your
Humble devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, November 29, 1820

P.S. Have Betti, in his own handwriting, immediately send a petition for his patrimony, indicating the income for his Canonry; and, in a separate petition, the request for the arrears. I am reserving writing to him for another time.

During these days I shall find out whether we can obtain something for the Madonna, etc. It is not the will of God that you go to Monte Corona, but in place of that, conduct, in the church, the catechism lessons, the guest sermons, etc.

Recommend in Spoleto that they get a sanation for the Masses, etc.

of them with great enthusiasm in the letters of this period), and who were supposed to arrive at Giano the first part of January of 1821, was certainly Fr. Turribio Lenta. As a matter of fact, this man actually entered S. Felice in Giano in January of 1821, and in that same month preached the Retreat there. From the 1st day of March he assumed the duties of the management of the House. The other priest, in all probability, was Fr. Francesco Pacini.

During this same period Fr. Pietro Pellegrini entered the Institute, a young man scarcely 23 years of age; he too a Roman, sent likewise later on to Giano and held in high esteem by the Saint. He certainly cannot be one of the two men referred to here, because they were "both middle-aged", as the Saint had just described them, that is, "both are a bit past 40 years of age".

³² With everyone, etc.

³³ I saw an angel of God strong, flying.

December 1, 1820
Fr. Luigi Locatelli
Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

It is the precise will of God that by the vigil of the feast of the Immaculate Conception of most holy Mary you should be in Rome to be my companion during the Mission in S. Nicola in Carcere. In working with the Archconfraternity, oh how many blessings you will merit for the spread of the Society, and on that occasion, how many pathways God will open up for you that will be beneficial to our common aims. Then, on the feast of Christmas, God wants you to assist in the Church and take care of the Retreat to the Collegio as is done in the seminary. During the Christmas Novena, the glory of God would call for the most reverend bishop to preach along with Fr. Rafaele, and in that way provide public exercises for the people. Fr. Rafaele would preach in the morning and the most reverend bishop after the noon meal. Then you, for Christmas night, must be back in Terracina. During this Mission here, I want you because you were so close to our deceased father in common. And on this matter no further comment is needed. You will give the talks on the Madonna and the pep talks. So, in short, be an obedient son for it is written: *vir obediens loquetur victorias*.³⁴

I now have arranged for a cook for your Collegio; he is not the man that I proposed before, but another quite capable one. He is married and so he will then send for his family. If you wish, I shall send him to you immediately, but it will be necessary for you to pay for his traveling expenses.

You will have sleeping arrangements made for you at S. Galla, but you will take your meals at my place. Send your reply as God inspires you. If I were not so heavily burdened, believe me, I would not be writing in this way to you. But for the present we must be patient. For me, this is a humbling experience. But, let us open up our hearts to each other with confidence.

I would like you to continue working for the aggregation in Sermoneta, sending all of the documents to Muccioli whom you will ask to pass them on to me. I am saying this because I am fearful that I might forget about it. I would like the same to be done for S. Felice. To achieve this, it is necessary to make every sacrifice. Along with the rescript, include a letter from the bishop with the seal of the chancery, leaving blank and for the President to make a choice the naming of a priest who will perform the act of postulation. I am very anxious to have the well-known Confraternity erected. Stimulate the pious organizations and the Sacconi who are striving for the extirpation of blasphemy, as well as visits to the hospital. You, furthermore, *vigila, in omnibus labora, etc.*³⁵ I send my greetings to all. May the Blood of Jesus be our consolation in this life, and the motive and cause of our hope for holy Paradise. Amen. On future visits, you will always stay at the *Buon Consiglio*. Goodbye, my dear Canon. May the Lord who unites us here below in the unity of our vocation re-unite us in the possession of heaven. Meanwhile, consider me as

Your affectionate friend

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 1, 1820

P. S. Delli Franci will complete the retreat for the girls making their first communion and ask them to pray for me.

³⁴ The obedient man will speak of victory.

³⁵ Be on guard, work in all things, etc.

368

December 2, 1820
 Monsignor Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Camerino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Since Canon Betti has now returned to Sanginesio, it is my duty to extend to you my sincerest gratitude for the charity that you exercised in favor of the apostolic ministry. I take this occasion, also, to renew my sentiments of esteem and affection for you in Jesus Christ. There is no lack of activity here in behalf of Pievetorina, and I am hopeful that all will go well. The Holy Father continues more and more to commend our Society that is so similar in operation to what St. Augustine did in his time, and that revives the spirit of the ancient customs that called for priests to live in union just as the Canons used to practice formerly. In the not too distant future the House in Albano will be operative. May Jesus and Mary be with us, and with the passing of each day as we draw closer to eternity, may the Lord grant that our careers may always be *in sanctitate et justitia*.³⁶ Pray to St. Francis Xavier for me, and tomorrow I shall recommend to him the pious works of the diocese and the city of Camerino. Most venerable Monsignor, with total esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 2, 1820

P.S. On the 8th, the Mission in S. Nicola will begin. Prayers.

369

December 2, 1820
 Mr. Vincenzo Benedetti
 Mergo

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Esteemed Vincenzo

The painting will be blessed today and will leave for Mergo as soon as possible. May the Lord bless you for your zeal. Mr. Pacifico Stefanini told me that you would like to set up an annuity for the Missions. Whenever you have made your decision, you could conduct yourself as follows. The Mission House in Pievetorina, which is the closest one to you, would be able to take on that responsibility, and in providing it with what you feel is correct, you could meet with the Superior of the House, whom I shall inform beforehand, so that you can determine the agreements and legally set up the document. If you give that House the money as a fund, that is as a legacy, it seems to me that everything can be worked out. You, of course, are acquainted with people who could better advise you. I mention all of this for your own consideration. So, do as God inspires you and what St. Francis Xavier suggests to you. Pray for me, Vincenzo, and sending my greetings to all, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

³⁶ In sanctity and justice.

Rome, December 2, 1820

370

December 6, 1820

Fr. Francesco Maria Pierantonj

Fuligno per Giano

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Venerable Fr. Francesco

I do not know quite how to express how gratifying your letters are to me. I, notice more and more the gifts with which God has enriched you, and at the same time, the good use that you make of them for his greater glory. In all things, praise be to God, *a quo omnia*.³⁷ Our House and Pious Society owe so much to you, but the reward *in coelis est*.³⁸ God sees what you are doing and has all registered for your future home in heaven. In your daily chores, while thinking of the great good that God is offering you, I would like you to continue repeating: "*Deus meus et omnia*."³⁹ The Lord deserves everything. Join to that the following thought: it is a great grace of God that he makes use of us as corner stones of this mysterious edifice. He has placed us on the road to becoming saints. Let us establish ourselves firmly in holy humility and in all the virtues; let us be convinced that the substantial thing in the spiritual life is the composure of spirit in God.

In the meantime, the devil continues his taunts. How could he possibly be at rest when he sees all those defeats facing him? A priest is attacked in his intellect, in his imagination, etc. etc. etc. But what he needs is simply to have a heart with which to love God; to have great courage in the One who *dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine suo*;⁴⁰ to recognize the gifts one has in order to express gratitude to the Giver; to recognize the wiles of the devil so as to overcome them, and say with the Prophet: "*Persequar inimicos meos et non convertar donec deficiant*."⁴¹

Blessed are you who desire ever more and more to be united to God! Have no doubt that *qui coepit opus, ipse perficiet, consolidabitque*.⁴² Be assured of your vocation. God wants you in the Society, and you shall do good work for souls, those for whom Jesus offered himself as a victim on the Cross. Do not neglect a certain amount of practice in preaching. Be docile in this regard, and put your trust in Xavier who will obtain for you *ignita verba*,⁴³ so as to convert and sanctify souls. Also, pray and have others pray a great deal for me, a miserable one.

I thank you for the information which you gave me in your letter. You cannot imagine how much satisfaction you gave me with the orderliness of your letter-writing and the wisdom of your ideas in the management of things. I hope that by Christmas I shall be able to give you consolation with some sort of subsidy. You probably have received the 9 Sc. from the estate manager of the Paolucci family. Within a short time you will receive Fr. Muti's offerings. Fr. Giovanni Merlini would like to know just what his share is for the printed certificates, which you know about, and

³⁷ From whom everything.

³⁸ Is in heaven.

³⁹ My God and all.

⁴⁰ He loved us and washes us in his blood.

⁴¹ I will pursue my enemies and shall not turn back until they give out.

⁴² He who began the work will complete and will confirm it.

⁴³ Fiery words.

which he will be able to keep, if you consider it acceptable. He is leaving the offering of nine Masses, also known to you, for the House. What a wonderful young man about whom we are speaking! I gave Mosconi 20 Masses to be celebrated. He has already received 1.575 *Sc.* on account. You will pass on to him the remainder, to the amount of three *scudi*, and I shall add the reimbursement to the amount that I am supposed to send you.

I will try to get more information with regard to the taxes on buildings, and we shall see what God will provide for us. It is important, however, that I know whether the Camera or the *Buon Governo* collects these taxes. Write to me and let me know what expenses you had for the mounts, even though they were not used, for I would not want the House at Giano to be burdened with that.

God has inspired me to write to Moscatelli about our plan. Prepare him for it. God wishes it so. Mosconi will have to return to Pievetorina, and Betti will be there for the Lenten series: so, *satis provisum*.⁴⁴ Even Gonnelli is somewhat content, nevertheless, with regard to this matter, remember that nothing is to be said in the letters to Pievetorina. I can regulate the situation according to the divine good pleasure. In Giano, Fr. Biagio will recover his health; this experiment in the change of climate will bring about the same thing that occurred with our Fr. Rafaele.

I have sent back a wallet that Fr. Rafaele gave me for the cloth. I do not know to whom it belongs. Let us not say anything further about Mariotti's management of things. I consider your bits of advice at the foot of the Crucifix. One of the new men who is coming there will be the Director of Retreats, the other you can train to become Economist, as I have explained better in another letter of mine. You, however, are not to discontinue your matchless control, without first informing me. You will see that I shall keep my word, but, for now, just a bit more patience.

What a great acquisition we have made in those who have been wonderfully called by God to our Society! In all things, thanksgiving be to the Almighty. Entrust to Mariotti the church and the sacristy, and support him with reference to a foundation that he is proposing. I shall appreciate getting your opinions. Even though a short time from now, you shall be relieved of your position as Economist, I would like you to live tranquilly in the meantime, convinced that you merit a great deal for heaven with the good that you are promoting.

Do not overlook A. Buonafede of Egi as a benefactor of the House. The Romans will be in S. Felice in January. I have written to Mosconi that, having completed the Mission requested by the Vicar Apostolic, he should give the Retreat to the laymen in S. Felice for Christmas, and that he should come to an agreement with you. Later, he will go to Pievetorina, once he has settled some domestic matters of his own. Once the new members have arrived from Rome, one of them will give the Retreat for the Clergy; and eventually he will be able to write to the Bishop of Todi or anyone else with whom he may have connections.

The 90 *baj.* from Spello, which I would hope be remitted to you, should be wholly entered into the accounts. In one of your later letters, you can give me a report on this. Let me know whether the schools have paid something. It seems that I have not forgotten anything. In case I have, write and let me know. I recommend, especially upon the arrival of the newcomers, the exact observance and a revival of the rule. At least, do what you can.

May Jesus and Mary be with us. May the Lord fill you with his Holy Spirit; and in his Divine Heart, consider me, Fr. Francesco, as your

Humble, devoted servant

⁴⁴ Enough will be provided.

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 6, 1820

P.S. If the ordinands should come, immediately summon Fr. Modestini from Cannara, or, in an extreme case, *pro interim*,⁴⁵ Fr. Agostini from Fuligno, if Fr. Bonanni should not be there.

371

December 13, 1820

Fr. Francesco Maria Pierantonj

Fuligno per Giano

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

My dear Fr. Francesco

Oh! how many merits for you! Courage in the merits of the Blood of J.C., and let us enrich ourselves more and more for heaven. This time I shall be brief in my writing, because I am presently *in actu Missionis*,⁴⁶ which may the Lord deign to bless. For my own peace of mind, I shall await with pleasure your most up-to-date report on the status of things.

You have probably received from the estate manager of the Paolucci woman the 9 *Sc.* from the offerings of the Office of the Apostolic Visitation, in accordance with my recent letter. You will make a report on this too. Then, go to Spoleto to visit the father of Fr. Giovanni Merlini and from him obtain thirty *scudi*. Also from him you will get the offerings for Muti's Masses, belonging to the House of S. Felice, and you shall make a proper distribution of them. Whatever is left is to be a subsidy, although meager, for the House. Send me an accounting of the deductions made; and pray greatly for me to God. Write and let me know also what you have there in the line of accessories for Missions.

I intend to put to fire and sword, so to speak, the Schools there as soon as I have completed the present Missions. You, too, should speak in all frankness and point out to them the unreasonableness that is so evident in their way of acting. Let your speech be a mixture of all the virtues that would work together for the glory of God. In the meantime, I shall write a couple of lines, really strong ones, to Liparelli, so that he will continue to make known my feelings on the matter. With regard to the Masses, also tell the Schools, on my part, that Msgr. Canali acknowledged the mistake in the decree stipulating one Mass per week. Always defend the reasons that I have adduced with respect to this matter. Discuss it with the Vicar Apostolic and anyone else that you can; *ipsi autem videant*.⁴⁷

With regard to the deceased Br. Bernardino,⁴⁸ in holy sincerity, reveal whatever is known to the Vicar Lilli. The matters can be treated with the spirit of De Sales, and have them be aware of the mistakes that might occur. I know very well that it is one thing to put down one's feelings in writing and another thing altogether different to express them vocally. But whoever knows these things must be the one to make them known.

⁴⁵ For the time being.

⁴⁶ Already by the 8th of December the Saint had begun the Mission in Rome, at the Diaconia of S. Nicola in Carcere. Fr. Giovanni Merlini was his companion for the Catechism lessons and many Roman priests contributed their services, among them Msgr. Antonio Santelli and Fr. Pietro Pellegrini; on that occasion, the latter entered the ranks of the Missionaries.

⁴⁷ But they should see.

⁴⁸ Bernardino [Sardegna]. Cfr. biographical section: Sardegna, Bernardino.

I do not understand, however, why 4.70 *Sc.* must be paid to Canon Moscatelli. According to our rules, when a trip is undertaken on one's own, the House is not obliged to supply. Speak to him about it in my name and then let me know. It is right that Betti's be paid for. Send to me immediately in one of your letters the other Masses from the Office of the Apostolic Visitation. It is not enough for us to worry about the offerings for today, but also to hold open the source for the entire year. See to it that these are said without delay. You could invite the Pastor of Grutti to come to S. Felice to help with the celebration, since he is aggregated to us.

Fr. Biagio will conduct the Christmas Retreat. I have asked Canon Moscatelli to go to Pievevitorina: I hope that he will do me this favor. You can be of assistance to him. I have told him that I do not intend to remove him from his duties as Superior at Giano, but that he should change with Fr. Biagio when he comes to visit in fulfillment of his office as Visitor according to the rule. He will spend the winter there. I also asked him to put him in his own room. Fr. Biagio's trip will be taken care of by Giano and Moscatelli's by Pievevitorina. On another occasion, we will discuss the other things.

I have said that Fr. Biagio will conduct the Retreat, so that Mosconi can prepare himself for the trip to Pievevitorina. The new men from Rome will come in January, generally speaking, around the first part. You look into it. Send me an accounting of those trips which you have been paying for Betti, etc. I have settled the patrimony for Frs. Perucchini and Tarulli, so as to get their release.

May Jesus and Mary be with us. Kissing your hand, I am with esteem and attachment in J.C.
yours, Fr. Francesco

Humble, devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 13, 1820

I shall have some Missions in these parts before the Lenten season. If it should not inconvenience Mariotti to assume the expenses of the trip, perhaps I shall have him come along. I am saying this because I gather from one of your letters that he would like to come, and I would like to accommodate him just to get him used to it. Otherwise, I shall take him in the springtime. I mention this because I am not able, be assured of it, to handle so many things. Send me a reply quickly. But, etc. I urge the observance of the rule, etc. Send the letters to the Companions, if I am on the Missions.

372

December 15, 1820

To a Prelate of St. John Lateran

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor⁴⁹

In keeping with the desire of His Holiness to set up a pious establishment capable of straightening out the Province of Campagna and in time to extend apostolic zeal to the exceedingly needful Kingdom of Naples, it has been decided, with the previous requests of Duke Cesarini, to set up a Mission and Retreat House in Albano, so as to bring greater glory to the Lord. The Duke, however, who has been greatly helpful in this project, has uncovered a difficulty with relationship to

⁴⁹ This letter is preserved in the archives of the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome.

the Lateran Chapter. Monsignor Cristaldi has assumed charge of handling this whole affair and to settle the problem with justice. You are asked, please, to discuss it with him, for we have entrusted everything into his care. He has requested that I first advise you about this matter even though he is pursuing all that urgently relates to it and that you will be one of those who will gain merit because of this very same pious institution. I add my own deep concerns for this work, as you yourself realize the times that we are living in. Most illustrious and reverend Monsignor, I beg you for your prayers, and with the fullness of esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

December 15, 1820

373

December 16, 1820

Fr. Francesco Pierantonj

Spoleto per Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francesco

After your last letter, it has been reported to the Holy Father in the form of a petition that the Schools have been remiss in their current payments. We have obtained the rescript which is enclosed here.⁵⁰ You are now to present yourself to the Most Reverend Delegate and carry out your office. You will gain much merit in the sight of God. Give my best regards to the Delegate. I do not have the time to write to others. Be very careful not to lose the enclosed very precious original. Anyone who would want one, let him get his own authentic copy. The Augustinians also received this kind of favor. It would not be a bad idea to check with them in Spoleto and see how they have gone about this. You do as you see fit. Your memory will be blessed forever. Give my salutations to the Vicar apostolic.

I am wholeheartedly

Your servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 16, 1820

In my opinion, a specialist will have to be assigned to each side, etc. Msgr. Fransoni is writing to the Delegate.⁵¹

374

December 16, 1820

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

⁵⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Money for S. Felice.

⁵¹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Delegates, Apostolic

December 16⁵²

Dear Camillo

I am giving the Mission in Rome at St. Nicola.

Everything else, *ad alias*.⁵³ A gift is not needed for my companions. Perhaps Fr. Biagio will not be coming since he has not been feeling well; two other capable men will be arriving.

I am

G. C. del Bufalo

Fr. Biagio is now feeling better, but I do not want him to overwork.

375

December 16, 1820

Fr. Luigi Gonnelli

Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

This is the member who will conduct the meditations in Fabriano. He has a special gift from God for this. Mosconi, who will be arriving momentarily, will work along with him. Otherwise, if Mosconi should be late in getting there, then you supply, using *Cristiano Istruito*, etc. As for Fr. Biagio, there is no change from what I have already written; and, I do not want him to overwork during this season, especially in a very heavily populated city. I have cleared this already with the bishop. In a hurry, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

December 16, 1820

You take care of the travel from Pievetorina to Fabriano, seeing that they get there on time etc. In an extreme case, have Fr. Rafaele go, but Mosconi is the first one assigned. If this does not work, then follow what I directed before.

376

December 20, 1820

Mr. Carlo Marani

Cereto

Rome, December 20, 1820

Dear Carlo

I am writing in a hurry. The three *paoli* charged for the petition submitted can be paid to Mr. Camillo Possenti. Wholeheartedly, I am

Your servant

G. C. del Buf.

377

December 20, 1820

⁵² The year "1820" appears here, but in a different handwriting.

⁵³ For another time.

Missionary Fr. Luigi Gonnelli
Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

Enclosed is a list of Masses. The twenty *scudi* have been remitted and enclosed is the document. I am bringing to an end the very, very fruitful Mission in S. Nicola. Pray for me. Send me your composition and treatment of the regulations for our brothers in service. This is something that we cannot overlook since the booklet is presently being put into good order, and the substance of the Rule must be maintained firmly. Wholeheartedly, I remain

Affectionately and humbly

G. C. del Buf.

Rome, December 20, 1820

378

December 23, 1820
Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni
S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, December 23, 1820

Dear Father Francesco

Upon receiving this letter of mine, you will immediately send Canon Mariotti to Rome where I will assign him to a Mission. The first one will begin on the 2nd of the upcoming month in the vicinity of Rome. You could have Lipparelli come to Giano to fill in; Fr. Biagio would have come. Momentarily, the new members will be arriving. If necessary, he should take the mail coach. With esteem, but in a hurry, I am

Your servant

G. C. del Buf.

379

December 25, 1820
Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli
Matelica

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I must only repeat the procedure that you will have to observe after the renunciation of your canonry, *saltem pro interim*.⁵⁴ I would be pleased to get your latest reply concerning this matter together with the pertinent document showing the subsequent substitution, so that you will be able to collect your pension. As for the young lady that you have directed and who wishes to become a nun, would you not consider her fit to join the new institute that you are acquainted with? But, if God is calling her to become a Franciscan, so be it. Yet, before making a choice of monastery, let me know about her dowry that she has available. I ask you for your prayers, and I wish for you every blessing for the new year along with countless others for the greater glory of God. Let us become saints! May

⁵⁴ At least for the time being.

God re-unite us in his most blessed kingdom just as he has united us here in our vocations. Amen.

With esteem, I am wholeheartedly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 25, 1820

P.S. I have received another of your letters, and seeing that the mind of the Holy Father is substantially verified in it, go ahead in keeping with what you have written to me and settle the affair. From this very time, I assign you to the House in Pievetorina, and in everything else you are to work it out with Canon Gonnelli to whom I am also writing. I myself will take charge of getting the rescript concerning the stall. In Jesus Christ, I love my dearest Canon greatly. But, pray and have others likewise pray for me, etc.

Send word to Santanatolia and Cereto etc. that within a short time they will have the printed rules governing the Confraternity of St. Xavier, our very, very special advocate.

380

December 27, 1820

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

You probably have received the books for yourself as well as the book describing the method for Missions, having the rules for the pious regulations at the end, which is to be delivered to Fr. Alessio. I have also sent three books for retreats for Curate Taddei, if I remember correctly, and it seems to me that I addressed them to you. The few *paoli* that you are collecting, you are to keep a record of and then tell me how we stand in our accounts. The books that I sent to Taddei cost 90 *baiocchi* which you will collect. As for the ones sent to you personally, there is no other charge than that of offering prayers for me. Very soon, I shall send, for Cereto, the rules governing the Confraternity of St. Xavier, compiled by one of my very fine companions whom you have not met as yet. I hope that God will bless the exercises. A thousand greetings to the most reverend bishop, to whom you will deliver the message that in another year, if he wishes, I shall send Fr. Biagio. This year, since he has not been feeling very well, I did not want to overtax him. Tell him all this so that he will realize that the substitution has been a reasonable one.

The Society is going along very successfully. Oh how I would love to have a Mission House in that area. Prayers. I gave the amount you indicated to me to the coachman who brought the sheeting. You supply for things that I may overlook, and pray and have others pray a lot for me. As for the young man afflicted with ring-worm, there is nothing new to report except that the Canon whom you met in Fabriano will urge the matter. I too shall not cease to recommend it. In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I am, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 27, 1820

381

December 27, 1820

Monsignor Nicola Mattei
 Archhishop of Camerino
 Camerino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

The Holy Father has decided to release three priests for the advancement of our Society: one is Canon Tarulli for whom everything has been worked out with the bishop of Fabriano, the second is a Canon from Umbria, and the third would be Canon Betti. But, if you are opposed, then everything relating to Canon Betti, who has obligated me to write to you about this, will come to nought. In my fears all that I can say is: this letter will have no effect at all to soften the most reverend archbishop. Nevertheless, I cannot exempt myself from doing this task, which I assume quite voluntarily, of dealing with you on the matter, for I know that Canon Betti is truly decided about joining the Society. I would be in total consternation of spirit even just thinking that you would not be in favor of supporting his most justifiable desires.

Most venerable Monsignor, reflect that the job for the Holy Office could be filled again by an Augustinian religious whose Community has been re-established, and one who would be capable of carrying out the work. That of Vicar could be handled by Canon Ricci; Canon Betti, while residing in Pievetorina, from time to time would go there to stimulate the pious organizations and could also be a counselor to Canon Ricci. In my opinion, in that way he could be doing better service. So, try to satisfy his request, for in doing so you will restore peace of mind to this Canon. I do not have any authority or precedence over you. I am only trusting in your good dispositions, inspired by the spirit of De Sales, and that illumination which, through the merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ, I wish for you, whenever, at the foot of the Crucified Lord, you will take into consideration what I have proposed. Kissing your hands, most reverend excellency, with the most respectful esteem and special affection, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 21, 18,20

382

December 29, 1820
 Fr. Francesco M. Pierantonj
 Spoleto per Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

My dearest in J.C.

I thank you for the report on the Masses from the Office of Apostolic Visitation, and for the nine *Sc.* Now I would like to know what happened to the eight *Sc.* from Camerino. Please, therefore, send me an exact report of the reimbursement of Masses from Muti, belonging to the House. Check with Fr. Biagio, who subtracted from the amount that they had on account in Rome the amount given by the afore-mentioned Canon Muti, and let me know what the remainder is. State specifically what the different shares are for each house by naming the various parties: thus, having subtracted the *scudi* received from Muti, etc. such and such, for example, must be given to the House at Giano; and then, continue to enumerate the others. When all has been subtracted, note also what remains from the 30 *Scudi* which you received from Sig. Merlini, and send me an account of the entire matter. Add

to that subsequently what you will receive from Spello; and, finally, anything else that has to be counted in.

You no longer have to worry about arranging for Mosconi the Masses of which I was speaking to you. I will take care of that. Give me precise information with regard to the Masses of Fr. Caccia, for in one of your letters you tell me that the number is 42, in another, 32. There is need here for clarification. Mosconi mentioned to me that he had helped the House at Giano with a mattress, etc. I recommend to your zeal the new Companions who are coming. Since I was not sure whether you might have to be away from the House because of some urgent business matter, I have written at some length concerning these Companions to our Fr. Biagio, from whom you should be able to get all the information.

I am not going to write to the lawyer that you named, since I do not know him at all. However, if you are convinced that I should send him a letter, I shall do so; but, perhaps, Liparelli's contact will do. I shall stand by your advice. I am going to find out whether it will be necessary to engage a specialist in that matter of the appraisals that are going to be made. In all of these business dealings I am at ease, since our Fr. Francesco is such an excellent man in this area. I shall offer prayers that the Lord will bless whatever is done for his glory. Let the Commune take care of providing for the Schools. You will have to contact the Delegate again, the man who has given me quite a sufficient response to my letter.

Fr. Giovanni Merlini says that he can get along with two *Sc.* In time, that can then be passed on to Liparelli, as soon as possible. Whatever is left over can be given to the House.

You, however, who are doing so much to give that Pious House a solid foundation, oh! how many great merits you are acquiring for God! At the beginning of this new year, I extend to you my wishes for the fullness of blessings, with many others for the greater divine glory. Courage. Never become discouraged. Fr. Segneri, Jr., for a short time, was entrusted with the office of Economist by the Jesuits. So, in a sea of troubles of a temporal nature, he maintained such conformity to the will of God that he could say, whenever he was giving a Mission, that God supplied him with many gifts during that period of time. He recognized it as a time of great merit in the sight of the Lord. So, if at the present time you are bearing an excessively heavy burden, so too will be the great weight of the merits that you earn.

What a grand Master is the most loving God whom we serve! *Modus diligendi Deum est diligere sine modo.*⁵⁵ May all be done for his glory. If I am to live, St. Ignatius Loyola used to say, I must live only to love Thee. De Sales would add: If a single thought of my mind, an affection of my heart, a work of my hands were not entirely for God, then I would not wish to have a mind, a heart nor a hand. Oh, my Lord, if it is such a sweet and satisfying thing to labor for you here, what must be the enjoyment of you in Paradise!

My dearest Fr. Francesco, blessed are you who are becoming a saint with your practice of virtue. Give no heed to the disturbances of the devil. It is well known that the tempter besieges anyone who is occupied with doing good. It is sufficient that one retain the will to love him who out of love sacrificed himself on the Cross.

I am, with esteem and attachment

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

⁵⁵ The way to love God is to love without measure.

Rome, December 29, 1820

What news is there of Moscatelli?

383

December 29, 1820

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Anacleto

How pleased I was to receive your handwriting which is always most acceptable to me; and oh how consoled I was by the news that you communicated to me concerning the solemn feast of our Xavier and the installation of the holy oratory. Courage - for *quae seminaverit homo haec et metet*.⁵⁶ We are living in a time when it is necessary to keep the people enkindled in the love of God and involved in the pious institutions. In this, let us seek indeed the greater glory of the Lord and we shall become saints. In regard to the Mission that you requested last year, do whatever God inspires you to do. These things are matters calling for prayers and not something that I have to decide; the grace that is sought will be granted by God to you, to whom he has entrusted those souls, the choice portion of his flock. I will probably be in Chiaravalle in the upcoming season. At that time, *os ad os loquemur*.⁵⁷ Your office as Pastor, I understand, will make it very difficult for you to find time for the Missions. Nevertheless, offer prayers so that the most lovable will of God will be manifested. Let us become saints, my dearest Anacleto, *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*.⁵⁸ May God unite us in the blessed fatherland of heaven just as he has united us here below in the unity of our vocation to the holy ministries in which he already provides us with an anticipated taste of Paradise. *Gratia Dei nobiscum. Amen*.⁵⁹ With esteem and affection, I remain

Your loving friend

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 29, 1820

I wish you a Happy New Year, and many more, etc.

384

December 31, 1820

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

In keeping with what you were pleased to tell me, this morning I must remind you of the dowry for the young lady, Luisa Cacciatori, who wishes to become a nun and who will soon be invested in the religious habit since she is already in the monastery of SS. Quattro Coronati, etc. Her father is deceased.

His Eminence della Genga has informed me that as soon as he is feeling better, he will send a

⁵⁶ What a man sows, that he also reaps.

⁵⁷ We will speak mouth to mouth [face to face].

⁵⁸ Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

⁵⁹ The grace of God be with us. Amen.

notice to your most reverend excellency concerning the meeting that was discussed pertaining to a Mission House in Rome. I will be helping you with my prayers during the upcoming Mission.

With regard to the locale for the Girolimini in Savignano, where, as Monsignor Sola also observes that there is no corporation established even though the people there are in dire need, it seems that by initiating a correspondence, the hospital that is located in that place could be transferred elsewhere, perhaps to a place in S. Sebastiano, purchased by a certain Mr. Guiccioli with whom, I believe, it would be easy to work something out. I do not know whether there is anything at all open in Rimini. I will abide by your advice.

Pray to God for me. I am enclosing a memorandum of a petition presented by Mr. Filira. I recommend it to you. Your most reverend excellency, with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

December 30, 1820

385

December 31, 1820

Fr. Giovanni Caroni

Balforte

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Prior

*Dum medium silentium tenerent omnia, etc. omnipotens sermo tuus, etc.*⁶⁰ A great deal is being done in behalf of the project. This is it in a nutshell. If the revival of the monastery is what is desired, then get in touch with Monsignor Falsacappa to whom everything has been entrusted. Furthermore, do not mention this to anyone else. For your information, this is to remain secret. Prayers. Prayers. May Jesus and Mary be with us. Now, how about a Mission House in that area? Oh what languidness! Patience. I am very sorry to see so many souls deprived of this good. Recommending myself to your prayers, dear Prior, with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 31, 1820

386

January 1, 1821

Countess Lucrezia Ginnasi

Imola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Countess

Oh how happy I was to see your handwriting! Because of the Missions that I have had to preach here in Rome in the church of S. Nicola in Carcere, I was unable to satisfy your request of going to the monastery. However, I shall go there at the first opportunity that arises. As for my Missions, I simply cannot tell you how much good is being done; but even greater means are needed in order to make them fully effective. If I do not come to the city of Imola again, it is because in

⁶⁰ While all things kept silence at midnight, etc. your almighty word, etc.

Bologna there is that Institute of the Missions. Happily, in that area, those worthy priests exercise the apostolic ministry and they seek wholeheartedly the glory of the Lord. I recommend to you the renewal of our spiritual pacts, and may the devotions of the most Precious Blood and of St. Francis Xavier be close to your heart. I am hopeful that your soul will have the best guidance and God knows how much I desire his holy love to increase ever more and more in you. For the space of some 22 years, Cardinal Pallavicini meditated on nothing other than the end of man.

What a great end we are living for! God alone can satisfy our desires. God alone is the objective that fulfills in due measure the affections of our hearts. But, alas, how involved the world is in the foggy mist of error and the darkness of sin! Let us pray that the truth will become known and that the scandal of unruliness will be removed from so very, very many in these our days. *Deus meus et omnia, Deus per quem omnia, Deus in quo omnia, Deus cui omnia.*⁶¹ There is so much food for meditation in those words. You will learn from Monsignor about the establishment of our Houses of Missions and Retreats: Pray for this institution that is so exceedingly important for our times. May this coming year be one of full achievement. May Jesus and Mary be with us, and, dear Countess, while begging you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

1 of 1821

387

January 6, 1821

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Francesco *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*⁶²

Let us be in agreement of everything up to now. I suppose that in Muti's detailed report there is included the money that belongs to the companions in Pievetorina. They are asking me about that. So, I will have to have a bit more clarification, and I will contact Muti. I suppose also that you have subtracted Fr. Antonio's masses in your computation. Write to me about that and please pardon the bother that I am causing you. If Bonanni would like to handle the retreat for the young lady desiring to become a nun, you men determine that yourselves; if Fr. Biagio wants to do it, he is the boss. Our new arrival is quite capable of preaching to nuns. In acknowledgment of so many of your favors, I am wholeheartedly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

6 of 1821 (I am beginning my 36th year of life. Prayers)

388

January 1821

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

⁶¹ My God and all, God through whom are all things, God in whom are all things, God for whom are all things.

⁶² Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Francesco⁶³

I have already written to the bishop of Fuligno. Let us pray to God for a good result. With regard to the young lady wishing to become a nun, write to the Vicar of Spoleto indicating what she can receive from the House etc. and that she will be accepted by the Capuchin nuns of Cascia. Prayers for me. With esteem, I am

Affectionately yours in Jesus Christ

G. C. del Bufalo

389

January 12, 1821

POPE PIUS VII

Most Holy Father⁶⁴

The priest, Gaspare del Bufalo, formerly a Canon in S. Marco, humbly reports to your Holiness that, for a number of years now, for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls, he has dedicated himself to the laborious and thorny ministry of giving holy Missions and Retreats, in this city as well as in various cities and provinces throughout the dominion of your Holiness. However, in order to continue in this holy ministry that is so especially necessary in these pitiful times of ours, considerable expenses are necessary which the petitioner is in no way capable of handling since he draws almost nothing from the simple benefice which your Holiness conferred upon him in compensation for his renunciation of his canonry. For several months now the payment of that meager monthly allowance, drawn from the Datary, has been delayed and he is completely deprived of the goods of fortune, so that now he must have recourse to your Holiness to deign to have him granted a generous subsidy from the Cassa dei Lotti on the various solemnities of the year. In that way the petitioner will be able to pay his debts of several hundreds which he had to necessarily contract in order that the course of Missions would not be discontinued and he would be able to locate means to maintain them in the future. Thus, etc.

The priest,

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

"From an audience with His Holiness, January 12, 1821. To Monsignor [Treasurer] General, with the necessary and appropriate faculties. P.F. Card. Galletti".⁶⁵

⁶³ This letter does not have a date. We have assigned a date since it deals with "the young lady wishing to become a nun". In a letter to this same priest which bears the date October 12, 1823, St. Gaspar refers to the good work done by Pierantoni in behalf of "a young lady wishing to become a nun" in Giano, that is, during the time of his assignment there in S. Felice in Giano which extended to the end of November of 1821.

⁶⁴ This memorandum to Pius VII is not in St. Gaspar's handwriting.

⁶⁵ In Merlini's handwriting on the original: "See the notification which is joined to this Memorandum and Rescript". Unfortunately, it has not been possible to locate in Volume VII that "notification", which we know must be Merlini's too. Here is his testimony at the canonical process:

"A memorandum was prepared in the name of the Servant of God, in which a subsidy to be granted on the various solemnities was requested. The favor was granted during an audience with his eminence Galleffi on January 12, 1821: 'To Monsignor Treasurer with the necessary and appropriate faculties'. The Servant of God, however, did not wish to have this carried out because (as he wrote on an attached sheet of paper): 'The Treasurer has done something, but it is not sufficient for the purpose. I have been concerned about this. The memorandum was made without my clear and

390

January 23, 1821
Mr. Luigi Fuschi
Norma

Jesus Mary Joseph

23 of 1821

Dear Luigi

Enclosed is the brief. Present it to the Ordinary. Pray for me, who, in a hurry, am
Your servant
G. C. del Bufalo

391

January 28, 1821
Mr. Filippo Marchetti
Velletri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in Jesus Christ

With pleasure did I read your recent letter and that an Our Father and Hail Mary were recited in the public Oratory. I have already written to Rome for the Life of Vitelli; I shall give you an answer in another letter. I did not have the time when I received your letter to give you a response with regard to Castel Gandolfo. Be scornful toward the devil during the upcoming Carnival season. We are living in times that call for special prayers.

Wholeheartedly, I remain
Affectionately your
G. C. del Bufalo

I must talk to you in Civitalavinia in order to make arrangements for the coach to Nettuno etc.

392

February 26, 1821
Fr. Francesco Pierantonj
Fuligno per Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francesco

Here I am keeping my promise.

Whatever has happened ultimately with the eight *Sc.* from Camerino? I hope that everything is in order. I imagine that the matter dealing with the deceased Bernardino will be terminated in proper order. Let them come to an agreement among themselves.

You shall place the 11 *Sc.* and 85 *Baj.* under cash-receipts for the House in Giano. Let me know when you have collected from Peruchini. Also place the 32 *Baj.* that you will get from Canon Mariotti under the House's cash-receipts. Nothing more must be given to Mosconi. It seems to me

expressed knowledge. I am dubious about that expression relative to the benefice where it says: "almost nothing". Indeed, something has been forthcoming, but not adequate for me."

that, in this matter, everything is cleared up.

Now, please, review the following listing of the Masses which up to now have been supplied:

To Pierantonj:	3 Masses	plus	3 more	plus 7 more
To Valentini:	6 Masses	plus	6 more	plus 11 more
To Bonanni:	8 Masses	plus	12 more	
To Pellegrini:	4 Masses			

I would like to include those of Bonanni under cash-receipts for Giano; then you will write to him asking him to donate them to the House at Giano. Give me a full report on this matter so that I can close those accounts, leaving only the actual Masses that are presently being celebrated.

I shall write to Canon Mariotti after I receive the letter telling me of his arrival.

I have written to Fr. Biagio about everything else. With reference to Sardagna, I had to send it unbound so that we could take advantage of the opportunity offered by Marietti.

Whenever you are released from your position as Economist, I beg you to infuse into the new man all those insights of yours as well as your valuable assistance which reflects your attachment to our holy Institution. You will assume the office of Director of Retreats, in addition to that of Secretary and Archivist.

With regard to what you tell me about Tani, I shall speak to the fiduciary heir.

Now we come to your soul. You already have Fr. Biagio to whom you can entrust its care. At the same time, meditate on this text: *nox illuminatio mea in deliciis meis*.⁶⁶ Your soul, in the darkness that it is experiencing, is in a night, but a night which provides at the same time the light for recognizing the abyss of our misery and the great need that we have of God. In this night, the soul not only prays but shouts to the Lord: *ad Dominum cum tribularer clamavi*,⁶⁷; it revives its faith, arouses its hope, and deepens its exercise of humility, while awakening in its heart a lively sentiment of compunction. However, never lose courage. Oh! what Jesus suffered in internal anguish in the garden! Be with Jesus then in the garden *in deliciis animae*,⁶⁸ for the tears of penitence are more precious than the profane enjoyment of a deceptive world.

May the grace of J.C. be with us, and may he lead us one day to the blessed kingdom. Amen.

I am, in the Heart of J.C. Crucified, *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*⁶⁹ Fr. Francesco, your
Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

393

February 28, 1821
Mr. Camillo Possenti
abriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

My absence from Rome has delayed our exchange of letters. Marani will be taken care of. The rules for the members of the St. Xavier group are already in order, and I will send them to you

⁶⁶ Night is my illumination in my delights.

⁶⁷ I cried to the Lord when I was inflicted.

⁶⁸ In the delights of the soul.

⁶⁹ Who redeemed us in his blood.

when the occasion arises. I hope that you are in good health and that the litigation has been concluded. But, I have no way of contacting your brother, unless he were to have the opportunity to come to visit me or to send for me. Curate Taddei wrote to me. Without multiplying letters, tell him to send me the list of whatever he has received and what has transpired with you. Later, you can tell me what more you wish me to do, for I am always ready to serve you. My debt amounts to nine *baiocchi*. There is no lack of opportunity for getting them. Let me know if everything is in order. Pray a lot for me to Jesus and Mary. Let us become saints, and let us do the good that we would have liked to have done when facing the final moments of our lives. May our Xavier lead us one day to the possession of our beloved fatherland. Amen. So, Camillo, with esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Remind me of whatever I may have overlooked, and remember that you have someone serving you in Rome.

394

February 1821
Fr. Luigi Mosconi
Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Luigi⁷⁰

As the line of retreats to the clergy is activated, you, for now, must take up this work in Pievetorina, and Betti will assist you when he gets there. The arrangement of materials could be as follows: with regard to the meditations, use the method of St. Ignatius as applied to priests. Read thoroughly the collected materials of Liguori and the commentaries of Cornelius a Lapide on the scriptures where he refers to priests. Doctor del Monte, in his book, will be able to supply for you a format of ideas. With regard to their reform, you should consider the priest in relationship to himself, to the Church and to God.

With regard to himself, *mortificationem Jesu in corpore nostro, etc.*⁷¹ The spirit of humility, the spirit of purity, the spirit of detachment etc. *Vos estis mei etc.*⁷²

With regard to the Church, the sanctity of the apostolic ministry which must be maintained and the aims to be kept in mind in the ministry. *Omnia honeste et secundum ordinem fiant.*⁷³ Stress the learning that is necessary to have to sustain the ministry.

With regard to God, to seek union and closeness with him: 1) through meditation; 2) through the vocal prayer of the Divine Office; 3) through exercising continuous love for him by means of the Holy Mass which should be treated etc.

Later, if necessary, we shall continue this discussion through our exchange of letters. Right now, be a cooperative worker there in Pievetorina. I shall not move you, until the time when you will

⁷⁰ This letter does not bear a date. However, it seems that it should be assigned to the month of February 1821. As a matter of fact, in the Congress of February 13, 1821, held in the House in Pievetorina, we read: "In the second week of Lent there will be a series of retreats for the clergy to be given by Canon Betti and Fr. Luigi Mosconi". (Cfr. also the letter to Gonnelli on March 5, 1821).

⁷¹ The mortification of Jesus in our body.

⁷² You are my etc.

⁷³ Let everything be done honorably and in order.

transfer from the House in the Marca to the one that will be set up in Romagna. Hence, I am leaving you there in that House as a simple assistant, offering your helping hand whenever it is needed. I am wholeheartedly behind you. Send me the notification of the Masses and review our accounts. The allowance that you are supposed to receive will be provided by Gonnelli.

G. C. del Bufalo

Get your retreat material together quickly, so that the series can be set in motion. Let me know whether you, in behalf of a penitent Tizio, sent a petition to the Treasurer for a condonation, etc.

395

March 2, 1821
Fr. Luigi Gonnelli
Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

March 2, 1821

My dearest in the Lord

From the beloved solitude of the Passionists, after having conducted the Missions in the diocese of Albano, and God disposing that things go well with the new foundation, I am writing these few words, recommending my soul to the prayers of the entire Community so that the Lord will communicate to me his Holy Spirit and that, once and for all, I may acquire the virtues that are so necessary for this exalted ministry of giving Missions. I understand fully all the troubles that you endure with regard to temporal matters. But that is how the works of the Lord grow in the midst of thorns, and our Beloved is a small cluster of myrrh. If needed, one should even go about begging so that nothing will be lacking for the Community. The devil must not score a victory over it. Trust in God. David said: "*Iunior fui etenim senui et non vidi iustum derelictum, et semen eius quaerens vanem etc.*"⁷⁴ God is with us. Furthermore, read what you see in *plagis Jesu Christi Crucifixi*.⁷⁵

As for Principi, your penitent, who wrote to me that he would like to occupy himself with the situations dealing with the countryside, tell him that I have no way of satisfying him about that, and that, in addition, everyone knows what summer is like in the Roman countryside. I do not know whether Fr. Rafaele in the Marca, or Betti would be of help to him. I would wish it with all my heart. I shall be able to help him only with my prayers.

You will be served with respect to Canon Fassitelli. In this same mail-delivery, I shall write to him. I have not failed to offer suffrages for the soul of the parish priest. *In pace sit locus eius*.⁷⁶ That is my deeply felt prayer to the Lord. Do not expect Stramazzi to come for Lenten preaching. It would be better for you to handle it with the authorization of the archbishop, otherwise, with so many twists and turns things will take longer and longer time; then, too, the relatives will be more content. However, I subject myself to your good judgment since you are *in faciem loci*.⁷⁷

Then, with regard to the conferences, until I get there, continue with asceticism and liturgy. Moral cases are in the care of the Vicariate. Let us allow ourselves a bit more time, and I will continue to pray. I do not wish to make a contest of this. Our conference has reached the level of that

⁷⁴ I was young but feeble and did not see the just one forsaken, and his child asking for bread etc.

⁷⁵ In the wounds of Jesus Christ crucified.

⁷⁶ May his place be in peace.

⁷⁷ After the fashion of the place.

of the Missionaries of Monte Citorio. The Spirit of God must be stressed in our group, etc., etc.. In the meanwhile, changes are not called for. Insist on moving forward. You might add a short spiritual talk that would take on the form of a lecture on meditation. Goodbye, my dearest Canon. Let us become saints. May Jesus unite us one day in his blessed Kingdom just as he has united us here in the unity of the ministry. Amen.

Affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo⁹

You take care of the conferences for the clergy and present to them some short talks on asceticism, making use of Fr. Da Ponte or of Fr. Spinola, or the collected materials of Liguori. This will also be beneficial for your own spirit. Take good care of your health.

396

March 2 , 1821

Fr. Luissi Locatelli

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

After the Lenten season you will hear more from Monsignor concerning the Mission. In the meanwhile, prayers.

With regard to the recommendation to the most reverend Treasurer, I would be flattered if I could be hopeful, but this method is unsuitable for everyone, and especially for ministers of God.

Dear Canon, realize that I do not succeed even in matters pertaining to the Institute, and furthermore, I want you to know that when Archpriest Gabellini interested me in recommending one of his petitions in behalf of his Conservatory, I barely got the name out, and he changed the conversation. By means of a letter, you try to do what you can, and press your point. But, do not allow the letter to become reddened, as we are accustomed to say proverbially. Even more, let us put our trust in God, *a quo omne bonum*.⁷⁸ So, venerable Canon, while asking you wholeheartedly for your prayers, believe me to be in Jesus Christ Crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 2⁷⁹

(Remember the Novena of St. Xavier beginning on the 4th).

397

March 5, 1821

Fr. Luigi Gonnelli

Pieveterina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in Jesus Christ

Whatever request you may receive in the future that is contrary to our basic principles, you

⁷⁸ From whom is every good thing.

⁷⁹ The year is 1821, because of the Mission given in Terracina.

are to turn down with the firmest simplicity. Call on the parish priest of whom you wrote and tell him NO very definitely with regard to doing parish work *etiam ad dimidium horae, etc.*⁸⁰ Likewise inform the neighboring pastors that you are seeking to assemble the deputies etc., and that I have written to you saying that if support there is lacking, the House will be moved elsewhere; and that I have everything prepared. On feast days, they can have a collection taken up. It is the people who receive the good, and it is the people who will keep that in mind.

With regard to the care of souls, remember well that we join the *fortiter*⁸¹ with the *suaviter*,⁸² and for us it is only the second word that is our competency. Dearest Canon, whose affection for the Society is so clearly demonstrated, may you have courage always through the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. As for the other things, I will consider them in another letter, after I have completed my Retreat. The grace of Jesus Christ be always with us. A thousand heavenly greetings to all, and particularly to our Canon Betti. According to our rule, see that he is reimbursed for the expenses incurred in his short trip, and do so using the money collected in Lent. I hope that it will be good and if that money is not set aside for a special objective, let it be for the benefit of the House. I would like that you do not overlook encouraging the group dedicated to our Xavier. Pray a lot for me so that I become a saint, and that I keep the eternal years in my thoughts.

*Gratia Dei nobiscum. Amen.*⁸³ I am, in the Heart of Jesus *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine.*⁸⁴

Your servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. A.

March 5, 1821

P.S. Train Mosconi and have him study with you in preparation for serving the Clergy. In the time that you have left, direct him to read the commentaries of Cornelius a Lapide where he treats of the Priesthood. Soon, I will send you the *Filotapinosi* for the ascetical studies. Goodbye. I urge inflexible observance of the rule and pray for the Society from which, in time, squadrons of workers will come for the Propaganda. More when we see each other in person.

398

March 14, 1821

Most Rev. Vicar General of Albano

Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most reverend Monsignor

The Superior appointed for that House in Albano will be there next Saturday, accompanied by two other companions and Nicola Ratti, for the transaction that is to take place in the Chancery, where they will present the papal rescripts for the installation of our Society there. *Laus Deo.*⁸⁵ You will be informed of the other matters when my companions arrive in person. Ask the Archdeacon to

⁸⁰ Also at the half hour, etc.

⁸¹ Firmly.

⁸² Sweetly.

⁸³ The grace of God be with us. Amen.

⁸⁴ Who redeemed us in his blood.

⁸⁵ Praise to God.

be present on this occasion. In a hurry, but with esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

March 14, 1821

399

March 14, 1821

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Duke Cesarini has been kind enough to send me recently two notes: one is for his Eminence Galeffi, and this has been done after a meeting already held with the Cardinal; the other I enclose for you, your reverend excellency, so that, after having read it, you can pursue the matter as you see fit with the wisdom of your thoughts. I shall not fail to contact Canon Ferretti, but I do not have a close connection with his eminence, the Dean. Furthermore, since good order depends on the matters being promoted well with forward progress, I would think that your presence would be most efficacious for attaining the objective, that is, to conclude peacefully what is presently being urged. The original rescripts are being submitted in due order to the Chancery of Albano, and soon after your eminence could have the legal document. Take care of yourself, do not overwork, and, most reverend excellency, pray for me who, with the fullness of esteem and respect, renews himself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

March 14, 1821

P.S. Please tell Canon Muccioli that he should not fail to insist on the Retreats for the barbers. When you see the majordomo, ask him to entrust to the Union of St. Paul the retreats for the Noble Guards, but prepared for fruitfully, otherwise it is reduced simply to a name etc. Do not forget the two notes in behalf of S. Bonaventura that I asked you to handle.

400

March 17, 1821

Pope Pius VII

Most holy Father

For the occasion of the solemn Triduum in honor of St. Francis Xavier, apostle of the Indies, and special protector of the Houses of Missions and Retreats under the title of the most Precious Blood, which will begin on the third Sunday of Lent in Albano, for the opening of the new Mission House in the church of St. Paul, we beg your Holiness to grant an indulgence of seven years and as many quarantines applicable to the holy souls in Purgatory to anyone who takes part in the services which will be carried out during those days, and a plenary indulgence, applicable as above on the day set aside for the general Communion. That etc.

For the Missionaries assigned to the Mission House in Albano.

Can. del Bufalo

"Ex audientia Sanctissimi Die 17 Martii 1821. Sanctissimus benigne annuit pro gratia

[iuxta] petita. Hoc anno. P.F. Card. Galleffi" ⁸⁶ ⁸⁷

⁸⁶ This is on the second sheet as is also the Saint's signature.

⁸⁷ From the audience of His Holiness of 17 March 1821. His Holiness benignly granted grace according to the request. This year. P. F. Cardinal Galleffi.