

# St. Gaspar's Letters

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401

March 17, 1821  
Fr. Giovanni Mimmi  
Acquasparta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Prior *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*<sup>1</sup>

I know quite well that my excellent companions in S. Felice are quite occupied at that time and consequently it is not possible for them to supply for your need of a Lenten preacher to handle the holy exercises. I, a miserable creature, prayed to the Lord in favor of this most important work and with divine grace I have succeeded in releasing two of my companions from other duties, making adjustments the best way possible, and thus affording me the opportunity to provide this consolation for you. Therefore, I shall send two members of our group from Rome to Acquasparta for the Retreats there. They will leave on the Monday after the fourth Sunday, so that after resting a bit from the journey, if you would like to follow my suggestions, they could have the introductory services on the Thursday before Passion Sunday and continue then until Palm Sunday inclusive. The main objective is the hearing of confessions, and since it is our duty to do this good work, let us try to do it for the greater glory of God. Give me instructions concerning the point to which one can take the coach. I would think that it would be as far as Narni, and there, then, you could arrange to have two mounts so that they can proceed on to Acquasparta where they should arrive by evening. Pray to Jesus and Mary *sine intermissione*,<sup>2</sup> and dear Prior, expressing the desire to be able *os ad os loqui*,<sup>3</sup> I am, *in corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi*<sup>4</sup>

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

March 17, 1821

402

March 17, 1821  
Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli  
Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

Confide indeed in the merits of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ and you will accomplish great work in that locality.

With regard to the young lady seeking to become a nun with the Perpetual Adorers of the Most Blessed Sacrament, one thousand *scudi* in all are required. She can bring whatever attire she has. Then, there is the moderate rent expense during the time of probation. If you are convinced that this young lady will join that institute, then specify her age and see to the other pertinent

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<sup>1</sup> Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

<sup>2</sup> Without interruption.

<sup>3</sup> I speak face to face.

<sup>4</sup> In the heart of Jesus Christ Crucified.

requirements.

With regard to the widow accepted for Marino, we know nothing more.

As for Fiuminata, I must know two necessary things: 1) the location, which I am not acquainted with; 2) the request of the Ordinary in due form; then, I will send a response. Likewise, it is not a good thing to be limited to a single period of time, namely, during the month of May. Still, if I were not able to be there at that time, we could arrange for another company of our men to do so. I shall await your clarifications.

I keep on urging for the rescript in your behalf, but the multiplicity of duties that weigh on the Treasurer have delayed him. We will have to leave this matter *ad alias*.<sup>5</sup> Offer prayers for me; and I certainly will not forget you *quem diligo in charitate non ficta, in visceribus Jesu Christi*.<sup>6</sup>

Within a short time our House in Albano will be opened.

May Jesus and Mary be with us. Pray that I become a saint. Let us cultivate ourselves deeply in humility and in prayer, and we shall do great good. Dear Canon, with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, March 17, 1821

Send word to Matelica that with regard to the Carmel Confraternity, nothing is found. If the registers can be located in the office, the representatives should investigate them.

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March 21, 1821

Missionary Fr. Luigi Gonnelli

Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon

On Sunday, the Mission House in Albano will be opened. In addition to those assigned, the Society requires the selection of another from the more mature men in the Institute which God is promoting in our times. It is not a good idea for the Romans to come from Giano: it is better that Pierantoni remain in S. Felice since he is the one most acquainted with the area. I do not speak of Fr. Biagio since Umbria has many projects underway and the neighboring cities are of considerable concern, so he cannot be removed. God inspires me to turn my glance to our Fr. Luigi Achille whom I would be delighted to see in Albano where, in my opinion, the approaching summer climate would be more beneficial for him. In fact, I noticed during this past summer how the good Achille suffered quite a bit. Our locale is that of S. Paolo. It seems to me that this move should please him and I find him quite fit to do his type of work in Albano. I am stating all of this for your information, but I surely do not wish to upset anyone. As soon as any consent can be reached, let him come immediately *et nulla interposita mora*.<sup>7</sup> I realize that we are not supposed to travel alone, but in the appendix of our rule it says that in certain cases the congressus can make that decision, but women are always excluded. So, if the aforementioned Fr. Luigi comes, he will be doing me a great favor; but he must begin his trip immediately because you know so well how the founding of houses goes.

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<sup>5</sup> For another time.

<sup>6</sup> Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> And without intervening delay.

But, if Fr. Luigi does not agree, I am equally content, and in that case send me Fr. Rafaele for the wholesome climate of Albano can be helpful in re-enforcing his health. Yet, as far as I am concerned, my first wish would be for Fr. Luigi to decide. In the second place, Fr. Rafaele. But, whoever is to come, have him come immediately. I think that he will need a passport; look into this. Then, you will ask, what about Pievetorina? Here is my reply. For the time being, the three of you will remain; later Mosconi will arrive, then Tarulli, and Fr. Angelino can be of help. If you would like someone else, let me know. Moscatelli is fearful of the climate there, so he will not be coming to Pievetorina. We now have other postulants. As for the Mission in Annifo, turn that over to Giano, for I am writing at this same time to them, and Fr. Biagio will take care of it. I do not want you to jeopardize your health, having learned of the convulsions that you have had. You will look into this when the weather improves. Send to Fr. Biagio a report of the correspondence which you have had with the bishop of Nocera.

Do not pay the fee either to the Seminary or to the Confraternity of the Cathedral until Bonaccioli first writes to you. Goodbye. Pray for me. We shall speak of the other things *ad alias*.<sup>8</sup> Whoever comes, should contact me, but do so immediately, immediately, immediately.

I am

*G. C. del Bufalo*

March 21, 1821

When whoever is to come passes through Spoleto, he should stop at the house of the Merlini family to pick up a package for this very excellent companion of ours. He could stay over night with Luparini, if necessary.

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March 25, 1821

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

Your venerable letters are always most pleasing to me. Read in my heart what I would really like to express to you. The statue of our Xavier will cost at least 12 *scudi*. But, I am speaking of a semi-bust, if I am not mistaken in my choice of description. With regard to the Storpia woman, it is necessary for the bishop to write to Rome to his brother who will check with the haven for the poor, the only place where anyone could be admitted. But I do not know how urgent it is to endanger her in making that trip. See if you cannot find a place for her with some good-hearted widow, supported by the charity of people etc.

As for my arrival in Pievetorina, I will be able to tell you more in a later letter. I would like to have the regulations for our Saint printed in Fabriano. In the meanwhile, encourage the members to be united in doing good work. As soon as I can, I will send you a copy. I am waiting for a sure occasion.

The accounts with Taddei are in good shape. Do not worry about anything. I will keep in mind the other books that he wants.

Tell Canon Tarulli, who is preaching in Offida, that he should send me quickly the Chapter's

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<sup>8</sup> For another time.

consent for him remaining as Honorary Canon. I have need of that document, and then all will be settled.

As for the young ladies seeking to become nuns, prepare those memoranda that you see fit, but the dowries will be small. Explain everything in them quite clearly, distinguishing which one is to receive the veil and which is to make the profession of vows.

How is the idea of setting up a House in Fabriano progressing? Today, one is being opened in Albano. Prayers for me. With esteem, I am

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

March 25, 1821

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March 30, 1821

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My Monsignor

Please pardon all of my inconveniences. I have just held a meeting with Brother Piastrini who has taken on the job of preparing six beds, and computing a cost of 15 *scudi* for each one, the total will come to 90 *scudi*, which Ratti will supply in due order at the end of May. The aforementioned Brother Piastrini therefore should receive from your excellency that indicated sum that I have just mentioned. Thus, the subsidy for the beds will serve for other expenses necessary in furnishings for the house etc. as well as in part for food. I thought that Ratti was willing to give only 50 *scudi*, but, after some discussion, with God's help, he was led to agree to give 90 *scudi*. Whenever you want me, just say the word. You and I will steal a bit of time as is possible for us. Take good care of yourself; pray a lot for me. Tomorrow I shall offer Mass for you because of the alms that you gave for the printing. Wishing you always an infinite number of blessings, most reverend excellency, with particular esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

House, March 30, 1821

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March 30, 1821

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

Oh how God is good! This morning I saw Ratti who will keep his word concerning the payment for the beds, so that now we can return what the good people of Albano loaned us up to now. Brother Piastrini of the Mission will come to inconvenience you after he has finished the work in order to collect for what he spent, with Ratti promising to reimburse you by the end of May for the tenant of the abbacy. My companions will work to return everything to your excellency, to whom I simply do not know how to express the obligations that we owe you. On the first Friday in

April, we will begin offering a monthly Mass in each one of our Houses for you. I would like to be able to put up in each House a portrait of you. Even the Religious use this practice in order to give good example to others and not for any other human purpose that I know of, by divine mercy, but I do not have the money to do that. If you should have an extra one in your home, I would put it up in the House of Albano. I speak from an open heart to your excellency because in all of this I see nothing but the glory of God and the edification of others. So, when you are passing through Albano, you must stop and stay in our Mission House. Do not deny me this favor. All you need do is let me know the time and the number of beds we are to have ready and everything will be arranged. For the love of St. Francis Xavier, please say yes.

Immediately after Easter, I shall leave for the Province of my patrimony, and I am also going to go to the hometown of his eminence Consalvi. If you were to stop off at Albano during that period of time, even though I am not there, my four companions there (I was mistaken when I told you three) will fulfill their duties. On the Monday following the catechetical instructions I shall go with Ratti from morning to evening to Albano for reasons of the work to be done. On Tuesday, we shall begin the Retreat at the Sapienza, I hope that you will see soon his eminence della Somaglia. And realize that if I have been mistaken with Ratti in the discussion we had concerning the Abbatial Palace, I did not give him the least impression of it, since this morning he himself showed up to speak with Valentini; one should be able to suspend the note to Fr. Ostini. In all, may God be praised. St. Francis Xavier is our advocate in heaven, and he will correct any mistake.

The Marquis del Bufalo, whom I saw according to what was agreed, will speak to you about my monthly allowances from the Datary. Oh, my God, how much I owe you!

This morning, the printer is coming to see me. I shall make calculations according to what was planned. I truly am sorry to cause you so much trouble, but you know very well what the ministry is all about. As for the two hundred *scudi*, I can see help for paying the postal expenses as well as the cost of a new mantle for the Madonna, plus a certain amount for the production of new missionary staffs, rosaries, etc. etc.

You know what my burdens are, and if I were in the position to do it, I would consider it to be a blessing for me to be able to direct the temporal to the eternal.

Finally, try to nominate the niece of my very dear Albertini for a dowry. Do this in memory of the deceased. May the Lord make us saints, and lead us one day, most reverend excellency, into his most blessed kingdom. With esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

March 30, 1821

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March 31, 1821

Mr. Carlo Marani

Cereto

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Carlo

Enclosed are the rescripts. The delay was not due to me. I suppose that the Oratory may not have been aggregated to the other pious organizations; otherwise, it was necessary to state that. The

charge was six *paoli* for which you will have four Masses celebrated according to my intentions. While asking you for your prayers, Carlo, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, March 31, 1821

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April 4, 1821

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

I have finally seen your brother. I was pleased with his character and bearing. I hope to be able to meet with him again. On this first occasion, I did not wish to broach the matter. Shortly you will be receiving a small package. It will be necessary to have the regulations produced by the printing firm there, together with those for Santanatolia and Cereto etc. Tell Buscolferri that I have obtained the images of Xavier and that he will be getting them. The new House in Albano has been opened. Pray that it will be richly blessed. I simply cannot tell you how it was acclaimed in the Name of the Lord and the good that it is doing. May God be blessed in everything. If I should forget something, please remind me. Oh how delighted I was with what you indicated to me in confidence concerning a Mission House. What a great good! If the bishop enters into correspondence with me, we shall work everything out together. Tarulli must send me the Chapter's consent to retain his stall as an honorary canon. Please, ask him to take care of this since time is getting short for me. My first campaigns will be in the Province of my patrimony. Afterwards, we will be in touch. In the meantime, continue recruiting retreatants. Prayers for me. And, Camillo, I am and I will always be *in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit Sanguine.*<sup>9</sup>

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

April 4, 1821

P. S. I would like to have the name and surname of that poor fellow afflicted with ringworm. I will take care of the other matters in another letter. Your prayer to the Blessed Mother has already been printed. You will be getting it.

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April 4, 1821

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Monsignor

For your consolation I am enclosing a copy of the printing of the notes in behalf of the House in Albano. I have sent a copy also to Ratti, to Duke Cesarini and to his eminence, the bishop, who wrote a note of gratitude to the Duke. I pray to God that you, in the brief time that remains of my

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<sup>9</sup> In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified, who redeemed us in his blood.

stay in Rome, will be able to conclude what pertains to the temporalities of that House since its very subsistence depends on that.

From Giano, a memorandum has been sent to me which I am also enclosing. Speak to the Holy Father in audience about it. The Society in its extensive work requires a great deal. God knows it. Always fearful of upsetting your reverend excellency, I hide in my heart so many things that relate to temporalities. I speak of them to God and, in general, I pray only that your charity will continue, since that outstanding zeal of yours that is so characteristic of you is our assurance of your protection of this Society which is truly a bulwark against hell itself. Oh blessed are you if you stand by it!

On Monday, from morning to evening, I shall be in Albano. I would like you to arrange a new meeting for me. May Jesus always be in our hearts, and one day lead us into that dear homeland, where we shall be eternally happy and completely content. Amen. Most reverend excellency, with esteem and particular affection, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

April 4, 1821

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April 4, 1821

Countess Lucrezia Ginnasi

Imola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Countess

Your letter of the 28th was completely filled with the Spirit of the Lord. God, who is shedding his graces upon the great Society which you know about, will see that it will reach fulfillment. It would even be better fulfilled if in Imola God were to allow me to give at least a series of Retreats. In that way, both the clergy and the people would have a clearer idea of what this holy Institute is about. Here, in brief, are a few details.

Each one of us is well aware of the need that exists for reform. The means to be used for achieving that are Retreats and Missions. Consequently, in accordance with the ideas of the Holy Father, we establish in the different dioceses and provinces, a pious House with those objectives under the direction of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, namely, the priests drawn from the secular clergy. In our churches, we promote the Oratory, that is, services each night only for men; on feast days, the organization for young people dedicated to St. Aloysius Gonzaga; then, too, for the women, there is the organization of the Sisters of Charity, etc., etc., etc. Finally, in addition to giving Missions, we set apart a section of our House for the making of Retreats. There, many of the clergy as well as the laity can withdraw from time to time to pursue that knowledge which is the knowledge of the Saints. Our printed regulations will bring these points out more clearly. With our priests, we insist on continuous study, all following a definite method that is arranged and directed carefully.

Recently, one of these Houses was established in Albano. Oh how I would love to have one in Imola. You could become the promotor of it in the way that fits you. Keep your eyes open for any one of those places that are in disuse and open for someone to run, for that makes the founding that much faster. You could find out what could be obtained from pious places, from the Commune or

from particular individuals. Then, the plans could be worked out and perfected here in Rome. The neighboring towns likewise could participate, joining together in a spiritual bond, having, for example, a Mission every three years, or a Retreat each year, or the selection of many, many retreatants, etc. If the bishop were to initiate a correspondence on this matter, things could be worked out in a satisfactory fashion. Very useful would be a request from the Commune addressed to the Treasurer or to the Holy Father. God will manifest to you what is to be done.

To get the project for the House underway, representatives are to be selected and by investigating who can donate a tool, who something else, the institution of the House can be activated. To organize the work of the House, at first three priests-members and two brothers-in-service will be appointed; and, as time goes on, everything will be in order. With everyone cooperating, the maintenance will be handled with discretion. I, who trust firmly in God, have opened one or the other House with just a meager income but relying on the obligation incumbent upon the representatives and other pious persons to provide for whatever may be needed. May the Lord give you his enlightenment.

Just what great things may come from this Institute, you can calculate at the foot of the Crucifix. Pray a lot and have others pray for me. If the bishop supports our Society, you can take up collections just as St. Paul had people do. Love conquers all; it is patient, it is kind; it never tires nor runs away from work; it is completely hopeful and in the end achieves all. And oh what blessings does God pour out upon all of this! Secretly, I would like you to know that God has shed extraordinary gifts upon our work. How much more I could say to you in person.

Your nun is becoming a saint and with prayer is carrying out her apostolic work. Pray to Jesus and Mary for me. While asking you to extend my warm greetings to all, dear Countess, with esteem I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 4, 1821

411

April 11, 1821

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantonj

Fuligno per Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francesco

In the next ordinary mail delivery, I shall send you some miscellaneous materials,<sup>10</sup> I shall look into some sort of subsidy for the House, but pray. I cannot tell you how much the Treasurer has done for Albano, yet prudence is called for. More about this *ad alias*.<sup>11</sup> The Mission in Nocera will be conducted by Fr. Turribio, who should be in Annufo already. Fr. Pietro will give the Triduum at S. Silvestro, but always with a Brother companion. Let them know at Monte Martano that, if they so wish it, I will send him *ad alias*.<sup>12</sup> The opening of the new House makes it impossible for us to be

<sup>10</sup> *Selva*: a collection of selected passages, examples, outlines of discourses, etc. that are to be used in the composition of sermons.

<sup>11</sup> For another time.

<sup>12</sup> For another time.

there for the three feasts of Easter. I hope that they will be convinced. You will thank the priests of Spello. It is not necessary for them to inconvenience themselves.

I urge the strictest and most accurate vigilance in the observance of the Rule as well as in the handling of our Associations. I leave anything else for Fr. Biagio to make known. Whenever any kind of request comes in, write to me: let us be agreed on this. I am wholeheartedly

Affectionately yours

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, April 11, 1821

412

April 14, 1821

Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli

Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

I hope that you have received the document for the pension as you requested from the Pro-Vicar General. Now, I am awaiting the document from the Chapter indicating that you remain an honorary Canon. In the meantime, let me know also the laical title of your canonry, etc. so as to be able to draw up the petition.

Have the Polidori woman come too. I myself spoke to the Vicar General of Albano at the time when the Mission House was opened.

I am truly delighted to learn of the abundant fruit that you are harvesting from your apostolic labors. Oh how lovable is the master whom we serve! What a huge reward he has prepared for us! *Qui elucidant me etc. etc.*<sup>13</sup>

Despite the shortness of the preaching season this year and the duty that I have to reside for a while in the Mission Houses, and the recent problems that have come up, I nevertheless accept the two Missions of Ascoli and Offida. Have the duly prepared requests sent to me, and we shall make the arrangements. I would like, however, that you keep me informed, for my own direction, of any request whatsoever, since there are so many of them that I cannot give an immediate reply and I try to observe where the need is the greatest. This year, I am beginning the third anniversary of this career. Keep writing to me and I expect a prompt reply to this one. Return my greetings to Giovanni Francesco Pangelli. As soon as I learn that you are free to accept the ministry, I shall let you know what I have in mind for you.

In person, we can discuss an infinite number of things. In the meanwhile, write to me here in Rome, and let us fervently recommend each other to God. I leave you in the sweetest Heart of Jesus, dear Canon, while repeating that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Rome, April 14, 1821

Within a few days, we will have another acquisition for the Society.

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<sup>13</sup> Who enlightens me.

413

April 14, 1821  
Mr. Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

I have spoken several times with Fr. Angelo, and I note that he is a fine young man with a docile heart. I would hope that ultimately he will resume the religious habit. We have had one or the other conference. Meanwhile, prayers.

Tell the priest of thirty years that I shall not cease having prayers said for him. I hope for a miracle because of the vow. I would like further answers. The Missions are close to Xavier's heart. As for the bishop's plan, I do not know what kind of success it will have. But, secretly between us, I do not see how it would be plausible to mix the institutes and regulations. However, I am giving a response, now that I have been asked. In the meantime, prayers and action.

The House in Albano has been opened. Every night they have the Oratory since the locality is ready for it. Prayers. I hope that we will see each other soon *et os ad os loquemur*.<sup>14</sup> The first Missions will be in the patrimony, that is, the Diocese of Viterbo.

You will be receiving a package under the care of Fr. Angelo, and in it you will find some errands which I ask you to take care of. A friend of mine has had a small work printed which costs 25 *baiocchi* each, and it is a treatise on humility. If they can be sold, then we shall make the arrangements. He has asked me to introduce this to the Province; I could not excuse myself from doing it. As for all the other things, if you need further clarifications, let me know. The rules are being compiled and the printing of them will be done there. A thousand greetings to the most reverend bishop whom I esteem and love. Take good care of your health. Continue to send your letters here to Rome. With esteem, I am wholeheartedly

Your humble servant  
*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Last year, it seems to me, a certain Augustinian religious spoke to me in Fabriano about some Missions requested by a certain bishop. I do not remember who that might have been. If you should discover who it was, let me know. It seems to me that it could have been the bishop of Cagli.

414

April 14, 1821  
Monsignor Luigi Piervisani  
Bishop of Nocera  
Nocera

Jesus Mary Joseph

Most venerable Monsignor

Oh how I was pleased to see your handwriting; also, because you promised to send the writings from Canonica which you can address to me here in Rome, with an outside covering and a letter addressed to me. I will see to having copies made. I thank you wholeheartedly. We are approaching the month of the most Precious Blood in June. The question of health does not

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<sup>14</sup> We will speak mouth to mouth [face to face].

influence me because God is asking of some of his servants, what they claim was once said of St. Gregory: "*aegra valetudine multa fecit, dixit, scripsit etc.*"<sup>15</sup> The thing that makes me speechless is your trip to the shrine that you mentioned. I ask that you do not forget to pray for me there, as I hope that you always do in the Holy Sacrifice of the altar. Such an impediment does not allow for a reply. Patience. You will be helpful with your prayers.

Captain Bernabej is of one of the first families of Caldarola and he is seeking a position, the poor fellow, and he deserves it. Odescalchi is handling the matter since he has a petition pending. You, too, can add your own words of recommendation. In particular, he is asking for a position in Caldarola that is, if I remember correctly, in the Chancery. In that way, he would be better off. Take care of yourself. After Easter, I shall resume the ministry in the Province of the patrimony etc. When you must write to me, always address it to Rome for my letters are always forwarded to me. While kissing your hands, most illustrious and reverend lordship, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, April 14, 1821

415

April 26, 1821

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

I am presently giving a Mission. Tell Taddei that I will take care of getting the books this coming winter, as long as he reminds me about it.

With regard to the Crucifix to be worn on the chest, contact Canon Gonnelli in Pievetorina and he will see that it is sent.

As for the Mission House, it is not to be hoped that the government will give us what they would have given if two Filippini were there. In the second place, being half Filippini and half Missionaries is something else which I am not sure will be acceptable. More when we see each other in person. As for the Suffrage Society, it is necessary for the bishop or the commune to write indicating the wish they have for encouraging suffrages. With respect to the fellow stricken with ringworm, have Fr. Angelo write to his brother, since I have not been able to get around to helping him, and now I am occupied with this Mission. Entrust this apostolic work to him. Likewise ask Gonnelli in Pievetorina to contact other brother-priests that he knows in Rome. God knows how much I would like to be of service in every way. But, how can it be done? But do not be doubtful. We will see each other again nevertheless.

In the Province of the patrimony there will be two Missions. The others, upon my return. May Jesus and Mary be with us. The regulations for the organization are being drawn up by the brethren of the group, and they can be printed there. Oh how pleased I will be! If something is not clear, when we see each other we can speak about it. I will be giving the Retreats in the two Mission Houses, and that will be like giving a full Mission. How is the priest doing who has been having trouble with his vision? If you have to write, address your letters to Rome. With esteem, I am

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<sup>15</sup> He did, spoke, wrote much about his ill health, etc.

Your humble servant  
*G. C. del Bufalo*  
 Barberano, April 26, 1821

416

April 27, 1821  
 Missionary Fr. Luigi Gonnelli  
 Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon

A letter concerning the pension will not be necessary since I have already taken care of all the requirements. Otherwise, it would have been necessary for all three to write. So be at ease about that. With respect to Fr. Rafaele, it is not possible now to obtain anything. Your whole case, therefore, changes aspect. It is a matter of patrimony, and, for the time being, this cannot be expected, not even for the others; still, we shall be of help to each other. Betti can profit from the rescript issued *ad annum*.<sup>16</sup> Once that has expired, he should send it to me and we will try to obtain a *proroga ad interim*.<sup>17</sup> If God provides me with the opportunity to be of help, I shall most willingly do all I can for Fr. Rafaele. He could ask some priest for Masses that he can apply. Let me know when Tarulli has arrived there.

As for the Retreats in Sanginesio, I must express my admiration for God's intervention in affording those people this new help. Send me a confirmation of that, and address your letters to Rome for the time being. Do not be doubtful for I shall assign members. The archbishop has written nothing to me up to now; I would have sent the men that we have now *in subsidium*.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, with them living according to our regulations and trying to renew the people with a new type of Mission effort, involving also the pious societies that we are acquainted with, I would not be pleased to get a refusal. But, I will stand firmly behind the agreement that is made that my companions will have no other duties to perform than to preach and hear confessions, just as the Passionists used to do upon the visitation of his eminence Mattei, formerly bishop of Velletri. The thoughts expressed by Canon Betti are absolutely valid.

If the course of Retreats in Sanginesio is arranged, be prepared by obtaining the faculties from the Archbishop for the companions that I will be sending there. If it were not for the shortness of time until Pentecost and if I were to have the freedom of choice to do it, maybe I myself would be able to undertake this journey. Pray to Jesus for me. Goodbye. Let us become saints. I will let you know when I expect to be in Pievetorina. Also, about Fr. Angelino who will be coming to that House. I would like all to work together for the needs of the Society. You have, once again, assured me of that. Be insistent. With esteem and respect for the entire community there, I remain

Affectionately yours  
*G. C. del Bufalo*  
 Barberano, April 27, 1821

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<sup>16</sup> For a year.

<sup>17</sup> Postponement for the time being.

<sup>18</sup> For support.

417

April 27, 1821  
Fr. Vincenzo Annovazzi  
Civitavecchia

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father

I am returning your logbooks to you, along with some requests. I would like to ask you to serve as mediator with the Valentini family with regard to what follows. A Mission House has been opened in Albano in the locale of S. Paolo. But, in the abbatial palace where the Retreat House is established, Mr. Valentini, the banker, has some furniture. I would like you to ask him to allow us at least the use of it, or indeed even for him to donate it to the Society, since, as a rich man, he would scarcely notice it. But we will be happy to have it only on loan. You must be delighted in working with the relatives that the aforementioned banker has there. Also, you will have cooperated in achieving this fine objective. Pardon me for the trouble I give you. Dear Father, pray for me and believe me to be with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Barberano, April 27, 1821

P. S. I recommend the Oratory and the pious organizations.

418

May 1, 1821  
Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni  
S. Felice in Giano

The introductory catechism has already been done  
Catechism 2

In order to have a systematic presentation of the catechetical instructions on the precepts of the Decalogue, we consider the individual in the fulfillment of the precepts of the first table; then, proceed to the fulfillment of the precepts of the second table.

With respect to the first table. Every person must be holy. Holy in their internal affections; holy in the utterance of their words; holy in the execution of their deeds. (At this point, the order of the first catechetical instructions dealing with the first table can be shortened or lengthened according to the need.)

1) Holy in their internal affections. Only the evangelical law sanctifies people in their basic principles, that is, in their roots; otherwise, it would be a monstrous law. The Lord reproved the Pharisees because they were content with the external and nothing more. So, they were whitened sepulchers, etc., woeful hypocrites etc.

Texts: *Renovamini spiritu mentis vestrae induite novum hominem.*<sup>19</sup> That is the reason why internal sins are forbidden (you could elaborate on this). The essence of evil lies in the will, in the free will, which is misused etc. Therefore, the Scriptures say that we are not only to flee what is evil,

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<sup>19</sup> Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, put on the new man.

but *odite malum*.<sup>20</sup> One might easily flee what is evil in an external fashion merely for human reasons, and with deceit, but when it says "*odite malum*" those words are effectively indicative of an uprooting of what is evil. Nowadays, so many people reduce Religion to certain pious practices per se, but not as something proceeding from the heart.

Observation. Having presented this generic idea and having specified the teaching concerning internal sins, making use of Fr. Segneri's *Cristiano Istruito*, the works of B. Liguori and some other Lenten preacher who has treated one or the other point, all being sources from which much can be gleaned, then point out that in speaking of internal affections, one must investigate in the first place, the theological virtues, faith, hope and charity.

Faith. This must be firm in its motivation, broad in its objectives, animated in its execution of deeds. Then the catechist could offer some practical objections and follow that with a solution. He could point out the sins that could be committed: for example, with one's internal assent, one is capable of committing blasphemy, without ever saying a word aloud. Even though some sins may be classified as those that are failings committed with the tongue, nevertheless it is also necessary to include these warnings, etc.

Hope. Hope prevents despair as well as presumption. Therefore: *Spera in Domino*,<sup>21</sup> but *fac bonitatem*.<sup>22</sup>

Charity. Read Liguori where he treats the theological virtues and, excluding all matters of opinion, extract what is certain, positive etc. The human person, by his own reason, is persuaded to love God, and the obligation of the precept is for us a source of confusion because of the lack of knowledge that exists.

2) Holy in their words. Doctors can recognize the condition of the stomach by examining the tongue. One sins in uttering blasphemies. Explain the teaching, resolve the difficulties. Some will say: Father, I have the habit of... etc. You must remind them of the obligation to remove the causes: gambling, etc. Offer some examples, etc.

Furthermore, one sins against God when one commits perjury. Read Segneri and, while adhering to the texture of his presentation, other examples can be supplied from other sound authors, *signatim*<sup>23</sup> from the experiences of the Missionaries. How many castigations etc.

3) Holy in their deeds. The sanctification of feastsdays, the practices<sup>24</sup> with respect to the churches. Finally, two means for maintaining the observance of the precepts of the first table are presented: Prayer and the practice of doing good works. The people should be encouraged to conquer their feelings of doing things out of human respect.

Father Francesco,<sup>25</sup> this is simply an outline concerning which we will have further discussions in person, and a further communication of our ideas. I am etc.

<sup>20</sup> Hate evil.

<sup>21</sup> Hope in the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> Do good.

<sup>23</sup> Clearly.

<sup>24</sup> The word here is not clearly legible.

<sup>25</sup> This letter does not have a signature nor a date. As for the day, month and place of departure, these are derived from the postal markings: Ronciglione, May 1. The year is certainly that of 1821. Cfr. also the letter to this same person on April 11, 1821 in which he promises to send some "miscellaneous materials", that is, some outlines for sermons. What he is sending in this letter is the second collection.

419

May 5, 1821  
Mr. Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

Your brother has taken charge of the package. I do not know how the situation is going. You can write to him about it. I hope to be passing through Fabriano. More in another letter. I can say nothing about the two memoranda that you speak of to me. Send them to me and something will be done. It is necessary for them to be detailed *pro veritate*,<sup>26</sup> and pray, for since the dowries are small, perhaps two or three can be combined for each postulant. I will do whatever I can with full concern. I ask for your prayers. I will be giving a course of retreats in Giano and another in Pievetorina. Take care of yourself, and, Camillo, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Barberano, May 5, 1821

P. S. If you send a reply soon, address it: "Ronciglione per Bieda". Perhaps it would be better to speak in person concerning those memoranda.

420

May 7, 1821  
Monsignor Nicola Mattei  
Archbishop of Camerino  
Camerino

Jesus Mary Joseph  
Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

On the morning of the 24th of this month, I hope to set out early on my way toward Camerino, and I will have the pleasure of seeing you again, while passing through. In regard to the Monastery of Caldarola, resume your letter-correspondence with the Treasurer. Have no doubts for things are well underway. I have recommended the matter as strongly as I could. May Jesus and Mary be with us. Pray a lot for me. Let us always dwell in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and while kissing your hands, most reverend excellency, though very much in a hurry since it is almost midnight here, etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Bieda, May 7, 1821

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<sup>26</sup> For truth.

May 7, 1821  
Mr. Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

Jesus Mary Joseph  
Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

I received your letter with the enclosed petitions. I will do all that I possibly can, and we will discuss this further in person. On the 24th of this month, I shall be in Fabriano. For the morning of the 25th, you will see that a good coach is reserved for a trip to Chiaravalle of Ancona, taking, if possible, the shortest route. You will see that your response gets to me in Pievetorina, where on my way I shall stop off for a day. That is all that I have to inform you about at present. In your letter to Pievetorina, write and let me know where I will be able to go for lodging, because, quite confidentially, I do not wish to inconvenience anyone. If the most reverend bishop will have me, I will indeed go there. But what I am saying to you is said as a matter of principle. If there are some religious there, I would stay with them. So, you handle everything. Dear Camillo, with esteem and very special affection, I am

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Bieda, Diocese of Viterbo, May 7

Let me know what route will be taken to Chiaravalle and whether one day is sufficient for getting there.

422

May 12, 1821  
Fr. Luigi Locatelli  
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

Oh how pleased I was to see your handwriting! Blessed are you whom God is refining for paradise! It seems to me that I have answered all of your previous letters. Courage. "*Cum ipso sum in tribulatione, eripiam eum, et glorificabo eum.*"<sup>27</sup> This present life is strewn with thorns. The bishop will be returning soon, be sure of it. With regard to the precautionary measures, you would do well to consult with Caprano. As for the rest, continue to regulate yourself according to the situation and to God's enlightenment. If you go to the monastery, be mindful of the spirit of De Sales. I would appreciate it if you would pay a visit to my home. Love me in Jesus. May his grace abound evermore in our hearts. Amen. With total love for you in Jesus Christ, my dear Fr. Luigi, and with greetings to Monsignor Caprano, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Bieda, May 12, 1821

A thousand good wishes to Monsignor Bonanni *et ad omnes Confratres.*<sup>28</sup> I shall send a reply

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<sup>27</sup> With his help I will rescue him in tribulation, and glorify him.

<sup>28</sup> To all the confreres.

to Monsignor Marchetti.

423

May 12, 1821  
Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli  
Matelica

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

Please inform the most reverend bishop as follows. The expenses for food are well known; now, however, we can save by the one who does the cooking, for the one whom I am bringing with me is one of our Brothers from the House in Albano who does everything. In that way we can economize. My Giovanni has not been feeling too well and I have not wanted to overburden him this year. As for the trips, help can be sought by having a collection or so in the church. I do not know what I can say that would be more precise. I have an endless number of appointments, and this delay in getting a response from Ascoli has caused me to hold in abeyance a thousand things. Among all of my duties, I shall not overlook a brief stay in each of the Mission Houses since this is what God wants. Ascoli would be able to have the Mission after the one in Chiaravalle. But, write to me immediately, addressing it: Ancona per Chiaravalle; after Ascoli, there is Offida. Others will be going to the one in Chiaravalle; in the meantime, you should hasten the surrender of your canonry so that you can then join up with us. We shall discuss this further when we meet in person. The Mission in Chiaravalle will begin on the feastday of St. Philip Neri. I will be passing through Fabriano, but very hurriedly. May Jesus and Mary be with us. I will also stop off quickly at Giano and Pievetorina. Dear Canon, with esteem and very special affection, asking you to recommend me to God, I am

Your humble and devoted servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Bieda, May 12, 1821

There must have been some excitement because the recent Missions were conducted by Strambi, Zampetti etc. and when one speaks of a bishop instead of one of our own, three are maintained etc.

424

May 12, 1821  
Fr. Giovanni Caroni  
Belforte

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Prior

I received your letter while preaching the Mission here in the Province of the Patrimony. If I am sending a reply quickly you can realize the reason for it, namely, the press of time. Within a few days, I shall be making a brief stop in Pievetorina. I shall have a longer stay later on. Be assured that there is no lack of things to do. Let us continue to pray. I would like you to conduct there in a solemn way the Month of the most Precious Blood in front of the wood of the Cross. Monsignor Strambi can provide you with the booklet. This year, you can conduct it as you feel capable of doing, but with solemnity. Belforte should have the proud honor throughout the Marca with regard to this Month. Canon Cristianopolo will go to Rome to conduct it there. More when we meet in person.

Pray for me a lot and have others pray *ut ministerium impleam coram Deo*.<sup>29</sup> May his grace abound in our hearts. Amen. Obtain the prayers of others for me. The more one prays, the more good can be done. In *osculo sancto*,<sup>30</sup> dear Prior, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Bieda, May 12, 1821

The Month should be started on the first Sunday in June and conclude on the first Sunday in July with a general communion.

425

May 12, 1821

Fr. Francisco M. Pierantonj

S. Felice di Giano

Fuligno per Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francisco

From the Pastor at Eggi, nothing up to now. You can make this known to him, assuring him of my concern to satisfy his wishes. Although we shall see each other within a short time, only fleetingly, since a permanent stay will come only in due time, Notwithstanding that, I have wanted to write to you about the Triduum that you mentioned to me. That Sanctuary is most dear to me and likewise most dear to me is the person of Canon Cavalieri. However, it is not possible for me to be there for the time that has been scheduled. If he would want others of our men, we can discuss that.

My soul continues to maintain its unshakeable tranquility, despite the scattered rumors,<sup>31</sup> by keeping its glance on the Crucifix. *Ignosce illis, nesciunt quid faciunt*.<sup>32</sup> The royal road to heaven is the way of the Cross.

Pray to Jesus for me, my dearest Fr. Francesco, and let us become saints. Propagate more and more the tender devotion of the Most Precious Blood and let us not be fearful. In my brief stay, I shall steal an hour to go over the miscellaneous material with you. Be assured of my concern. They are a bit abbreviated, I realize! I was not able to prepare them for you as I would have liked to. In the Wounds of J.C., the sweet mansion for all of us, I am

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Bieda,<sup>33</sup> May 12, 1821

I have received the notification of the Masses. Tell Fr. Antonio Caccia that I have understood everything that he told me, and he will be taken care of in every respect. I shall leave instructions about it there. A thousand greetings to all.

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<sup>29</sup> That I may complete the ministry before God.

<sup>30</sup> With a holy kiss.

<sup>31</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Rumors, Scattered.

<sup>32</sup> Forgive them, for they know not what they are doing.

<sup>33</sup> Bieda. Cf. Geographical Data.

426

May 14, 1821  
Fr. Vincenzo Annovazzi  
Civitavecchia

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father

Thank you for your letter and for the concern that you show for the House in Albano. I trust that your mediation will be beneficial for the project. Even with Fr. Valentini supplying you with a response, you should write to me, addressing it: Camerino per Pievetorina; there I too can extend to him due gratitude. I am consoled to learn the news referring to the Collegio; may the Lord bless this new vine. My consolations are increased also in hearing of the progress of our pious institutions. *Tu vero vigila, in omnibus labora, etc.*<sup>34</sup> Those institutions are the bulwark against hell, and they promote in a marvelous way the spirit of prayer. I am happy that you will be assigned the office of Pro-Vicar, and never renounce it again. Your thought concerning Corsica is praiseworthy; cultivate it, encourage it, make it workable. The port can provide you with some lines of procedure. Yes, indeed, let us become strengthened through the Blood of Jesus Christ which is applied to souls in an especially fruitful way through Missions and Retreats. Captain Savelli from Corsica, who is here in Bieda, is likewise very, very much concerned. This piece of news should not be useless for you. What is needed is that the pastors and the people should send letters to the Holy Father, and with those petitions urge the Vicar of Christ to open up the pathways that he deems expedient. In the meantime, prayers. I did not know that Fr. Orsini was there. Give him my regards. I have always regarded him as an excellent priest. I, too, am eager for us to continue writing to each other from time to time.

As for the organizations, be sure to have frequent meetings. And, St. Aloysius would love to have an organization there for the young boys. You could begin it with only twelve. Keep close to your heart the practice of giving the pep talks, etc. Finally, I beg you for a particular remembrance of me in the Holy Mass. Let us become saints, and be mindful always that our Beloved *est fasciculus myrrhae*,<sup>35</sup> and that the candor of our souls is preserved amidst a bed of thorns. May Jesus be our comfort here below and our glory in blessed eternity. Amen. Wholeheartedly and with esteem, gratitude and special affection, Father, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Bieda, May 14, 1821

P. S. Once a month, read again the rules and memoranda for our pious institutions. I hope that little by little they will be thriving fully. At the Contedini publishers in Rome, the Month of the Precious Blood has been printed. You will have to propagate it also in Civitavecchia.

427

May 21, 1821  
Countess Lucrezia Ginnasi

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<sup>34</sup> Indeed be watchful, work in all things, etc.

<sup>35</sup> It is a bundle of myrrh.

Imola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Countess

I have obeyed you. I have written to his Eminence. May you be helpful for the Society. If the nobility were to submit a petition to have me conduct a series of Missions, that would be very worthwhile for the cause. If the Jesuits come, they will be able to take care of the schools, but our Society has different aims in view, and, in my opinion, they are of the first importance for our times. If need be, send your response to me in Chiaravalle of Ancona. As far as I am concerned, I have done all I can for the Province of Romagna. See that you cooperate in the needs of Lugo. Dear Countess, asking you for your prayers, with esteem I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Terni, May 21, 1821

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May 21-25, 1821

The Apostolic Delegate

Spoletto

Most reverend Delegate<sup>36</sup>

In response to your reverend excellency's very kind letter which you were pleased to send to our Mission and Retreat House concerning the matters<sup>37</sup> still pending with regard to the Schools of Spoleto in virtue of the new rescript *pro informatione et voto*<sup>38</sup> from the most reverend auditor of his Holiness, so as to avoid the issuance of another rescript by the Holy Father for the benefit of our pious institution, the following is what we are able to assert for the careful scrutiny of your excellency.

Almost from the time of the Holy Father's return, we have used only politeness, pleading and humble remonstrances, and we have obtained practically nothing from the Schools. Even including the present, we have not been able at all to make any demands during the tenure of office of the most reverend Lolli who was the Delegate here before. It was through the concern of the most reverend Cristaldi that a mandate for a quadrimestral payment was imposed upon the lease-holder. From that time, you can imagine how many bitter moments have been experienced up to now. It is true that since the issuance of that mandate we have been receiving something, but this is how it has been done: every now and then they would supply us with some little things in kind, now and then a small amount of money; but, the fulfillment was carried out with intermittent long delays. We simply do not know how it could be possible that the Schools thought that they could accord a month of tolerance to the lease-holder once that quadrimester had matured. If the House had easily obtained its proper allotment, it would never have been reduced to the point of asking for things in kind, for they could have provided for themselves otherwise and budgeted for their own interests. But, when

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<sup>36</sup> Fr. Giovanni Merlini placed the following note on the back of this sheet: "Canon del Bufalo is writing to the most reverend Delegate, letting him know how inopportune was the petition of the most reverend Apostolic Vicar to ask for a suspension of the *exequatur* of the solemn rescript issued in favor of the Mission and Retreat House. He justifies what has been done through the rescript that was obtained and refutes the alleged objections".

<sup>37</sup> A canceled out line follows. We point out that in this rough draft of the letter, there are several cancellations.

<sup>38</sup> For information and prayer.

they did not receive promptly the money that was due to them, they were forced to adapt to the situation, and, in short, become slaves, so to speak, because of the tardiness of others, just as I have indicated above.

The House, indeed, is in a deplorable condition; then, too, the creditors are shouting out and no longer want us to be patient; the need for linens and everything else is most urgent; and, what is even more pressing is that the Masses due for the arrear-payments cannot be fulfilled since the arrear-payments have not been forthcoming. When the Holy Father was informed of all this, he thought it best to relieve our Pious Society from these troubles, for your excellency yourself knows very well how delicate is our ministry, and how a fog spreads itself over the things that are temporal.

So, what can one do otherwise? Close the House? Close a sanctuary of long remembrance in Umbria and see it abandoned? If this situation cannot be ultimately resolved, then, it will be necessary to shake the dust from our heels and go elsewhere. No one is excused from doing good. With the departure of the Missionaries, perhaps the property of the church will not remain immune, all those things that once belonged to it? The bishop should stand up in defense of it. It is regrettable to see a veil fall over the intellect of the one who prepared the memorandum sent to the most reverend auditor of his Holiness. From that, one can assume that they do not wish to acknowledge the evidence of the arguments nor do they wish to relieve the Pious Institution of troubles. They delight in objecting and even bringing it to a point of litigation.

So, how can it be straightened out? In this trying time, we are facing the dire necessity of abandoning the House of S. Felice. The ruination by the Schools is the postponement of the legacies of Masses and they show no signs of coming to terms. No pact or agreement is acceptable to a Society which, in virtue of a rescript of justice, wishes to have its independence from the Schools and no longer have to fuss with anyone, just dedicating itself to God and to the care of souls. The Schools have continued to receive the benefits, but have allowed the place to deteriorate into something that looks like an abandoned cave. We have had to redo everything, starting even with the chairs. Only God knows with what sacrifices. But, the works of God are born amidst thorns. Patience.

So, now that the Holy Father is willing to remove them, why confuse the affair with another memorandum to the most reverend auditor, one drawn up by someone who ought to have a better comprehension of the rights pertaining to the Church's endowments and its legacies? This is all that we can manifest to your most reverend excellency. We know well the concern that you have for us and we shall never be forgetful of the obligations that we profess to you. Continue, only with the glory of God in mind, to support our type of work which formed the delight of a St. Charles in his time when he established the celebrated foundation of the Oblates; ours is a work of reviving the ecclesiastical spirit of the clergy, so necessary for our times, and one that is close to the Heart of the Lord who initiated it in this very House of S. Felice; then, one in Pievetorina, and just a short while ago one in Albano.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> This rough draft of the letter was written by the Saint, as is evident from the context, in the House in St. Felice in Giano in 1821, shortly after the opening of the House in Albano which occurred on March 25, 1821. St. Gaspar was just passing through St. Felice in Giano towards the end of May (Cfr. the letters to Tarulli and Pierantoni of May 12, 1821) while he was on his way to give the Mission in Chiaravalle, which began on May 26, 1821, and another from the 6th to the 22nd of August, 1821. It is not possible for him to have written this letter during this latter period because in July 1821 Monsignor Mario Ancaini was named the new Archbishop of Spoleto and thus the jurisdiction of the Apostolic Delegate had been brought to an end. So, the only time remaining would be the end of May, probably confirmed also by the letter to Pierantoni on July 5, 1821.

With particular esteem and veneration, I am, in behalf of everyone in common.

Excuse me, Monsignor. The receipts from the lessee-holder *ad commodum*<sup>40</sup> were made only as the opportunity arose. The truth is what has been explained. No one bothered then to make out receipts *toties quoties*<sup>41</sup> gifts in kind or anything else was received. So, if the lease-holder should produce them, they are not worth anything.

Excuse me, Monsignor. There ought to be a meeting concerning the 48 *scudi*, but there never seems to be a way of calling them together. There is no way, be certain, of ever bringing this matter to a conclusion. Even with the bishop coming, he would never be able to dispossess himself of something that has been granted by a superior authority; so, from this point of view also, the Vicar Apostolic's petition has no validity. I leave the rest to your wisdom.

429

May 1821  
Mr. Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano  
Dear Camillo<sup>42</sup>

Send the coach for the time we agreed upon. The rest we will discuss in person. With esteem, I am

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mail the enclosed.

430

May 29, 1821  
Mr. Carlo Marani  
Cereto

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Carlo

The papal blessing will be given here on the octave day of the Ascension. In the event that the members of the St. Francis Xavier group will be coming, please send word to me. It is a weekday, so whoever is able should come. All will turn out for the greater glory of God. With all my heart, I am

Affectionately yours

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Chiaravalle, May 29, 1821

431

May 31, 1821

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<sup>40</sup> At the right time.

<sup>41</sup> As often as.

<sup>42</sup> This letter does not have a date nor place of departure. Possenti put the following notation on the letter: "August 1821". But the month is probably May, since St. Gaspar in August left S. Felice for Albano and he did not need to have Possenti concerned about sending him "the coach". On the other hand, he did need one to get to his Mission in Chiaravalle. (Cfr. the letter of May 7, 1821 to this same person).

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi  
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

How is your health? Please do not overwork. After the Mission in Chiaravalle, I will move on to the one in Ascoli where I hope to be getting a line or so from you. In the meantime, I urge you to take care of the petition<sup>43</sup> which I am enclosing. You know very well that in providing for the patrimonies through the concern of Canon Gonnelli, Canon Innocenzo Betti has had to face a deprivation of that providence and I simply cannot tell you the regret I feel in seeing him in a sort of dejected spirit, even though he has not lost his spirit of holy resignation. Now that the time granted to him *ad deliberandum*<sup>44</sup> with regard to his Canonry, has expired, he will have to return to Sanginesio and I realize that, in this losing cause, he must proceed in that fashion. Still, he does not cease praying and recommending himself to St. Xavier. The Archbishop of Camerino is happy that he is renouncing it in favor of joining the Society, but how can we manage to get the 40 *scudi* that the Curia is demanding? If God should inspire you with some particular solution for getting this amount of 40 *scudi*, what a general consolation it would be for all of us.

Monsignor, I am well acquainted with the goodness of your heart and your charity and I am convinced that if anything can be worked out, you will surely do it. If it should turn out otherwise, God will certainly reward you for your good intentions. This man is a truly worthy priest and is wonderfully successful in the ministry. I would not want to lose him. In the meantime, I ask you for your prayers, most reverend excellency, and I remind you of the other matters that you know about, in particular, the matter dealing with the Chapter of S. Giovanni. I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Chiaravalle, May 31, 1821

432

May 31, 1821  
Pope Pius VII  
Rome  
Most holy Father

Canon Innocenzo Betti Severini, a most unworthy petitioner of your Holiness, humbly requests that you deign to grant him an annual allotment, under the title of a sacred patrimony, so that he will be free to renounce the Canonry which the petitioner holds in the town of Sanginesio, Diocese of Camerino, being relieved of the Chapter and the other requirements set down by the institutor, thus being able fittingly to occupy himself in the ministry of giving holy Missions which are being conducted by the Missionaries of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood, and allowing him to join up permanently with the men who are living in our Mission Houses, already erected for the secular clergy, all for the greater glory of God; that etc.

In favor of Can. Fr. Innocenzo Betti Sevsrini

*C. del Bufalo*

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<sup>43</sup> See the following letter.

<sup>44</sup> To weigh carefully.

## 433

May-June 1821  
Fr. Anacleto Giliucci  
Ancona

## Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Anacleto

With regard to the preaching, put together whatever you think is best. You will hear a donkey braying. At best, we will be able to select one of my companions. With reference to the Mass, I cannot promise you anything for certain. I shall see how the fasting will affect me. However, I hope to bring it up in the presence of the most holy Mary of graces. We shall see. What will I do for you? Ottaviani will be involved only in the Mission in Ascoli;<sup>45</sup> after that I shall send him on to you immediately. Realizing how it would satisfy him, as it is also pleasing to me, I have already contacted five others. So, I can send him on to you also for the feast of *Corpus Domini*. Thus I am able to do this good turn, and the good pastor can be at ease for a few days. It allows me to be able to speak without worry of Ancona. If someone were to accompany me, despite my objections, you are not to be upset beyond the minor inconvenience that you will experience. They will stay at the inn. In all of our Missions, we proceed in this fashion. With all my heart and esteem, I remain

Affectionately yours  
*G. C. del Bufalo*

## 434

June 3, 1821  
Mr. Giovanni Franceseo Palmucci  
Offida

## Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

How very pleasing it was to receive your most appreciated letter of May 24. The change that you know about came to my knowledge unexpectedly. It is necessary to be obedient to the most reverend bishop, and the Lord will draw from all of this his glory. More about this in person. I have written what was needed to provide the coach for travel to the most reverend bishop. With particular esteem, dear Giovanni Francesco, and asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Chiaravalle, June 3, 1821

## 435

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<sup>45</sup> This letter does not have a date and was delivered by hand. From the reference to the Mission in Ascoli, conducted from June 10 to June 24, 1821, the letter must be assigned to the year 1821. Very probably it was sent from Chiaravalle where the Saint was preaching a Mission on May 26th. Hence we assign the end of May and the beginning of June as the date for this letter.

June 3, 1821  
Fr. Gregorio Muccioli  
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I received your letter and I was delighted to hear that you are in good health. I hope that, within a short time, you will receive the aggregations from Bieda and Barberano. I do not cease urging this, as I did in the recent ordinary mail-delivery, and I shall continue to do so. With regard to the term Missionaries, the good Albertini wanted me to intervene and append my signature. I mention this for your information. With distinction and very particular affection, dear Canon, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Chiaravalle, June 3, 1821

P. S. I shall soon be moving to Ascoli. I point out that the rescript of the faculties that was obtained from the auditor of his Holiness are applicable only to one who is assigned to the three houses of Giano, Pievetorina and Albano. It is my duty to make this known. It is in keeping with the agreements I made with Odescalchi.

436

June 5, 1821  
Mr. Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

After the Mission in Chiaravalle, the one in Ascoli will follow. After that, we will be in touch. In the meantime, I am very grateful for all of your favors. Another way of obtaining the patrimony for the Mission house is the assignment of legacies which the possessors may wish to make. I will write to the Treasurer, but I would like to have some idea of what I must say to him. I urge you to look after the rules for the St. Xavier group. *Oremus ad invicem. Gratia Dei nobiscum. Amen.*<sup>46</sup>

A thousand greetings to your brother. Wholeheartedly, and with esteem, dear Camillo, I am  
Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Chiaravalle, June 5, 1821

P. S. The religious who made a request for the Mission in Cagli, where Monsignor Cingari was, if I am not mistaken, was invested in the habit of the Augustinians, I think. Already last year, he spoke to me about that.

437

June 10, 1821  
Fr. Vincenzo Annovazzi

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<sup>46</sup> Let us pray for one another. May the grace of God be with you. Amen.

Civitavecchia

Jesus Mary Joseph  
Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father

Mr. Valentini has come up with nothing for the benefit of the society, and, it is supposed that he will be going there for his vacation. Please look into this. The place is the Cesarini house. He got this by way of a grant, and now it appears by demand. I am told that he wanted to take possession of a few rooms where we used to dwell. Investigate this and you will receive great merit from God. With particular esteem and respect, Father, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Porto di S. Benedetto per Ascoli, June 10, 1821

Be assured that if Valentini goes to Albano, there will be some confusion in so far as the rule will be interfered with etc. and then retreats will not be able to be given. So, I am writing for you to help me. See that prayers are offered.

438

June 17, 1821

Fr. Luigi Gonnelli  
Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon

I am enclosing the letter of your solicitude in behalf of the young man seeking admission into the Passionists. Now you take it from here. Prepare one of the good rooms for Canon Mariotti who has been assigned to Pievetorina. Believe me, for giving pep talks, visitation sermons, and meditations, he is excellent. In particular during the winter Missions, I noted that he is singular in arousing compunction. To begin making room for Fr. Rafaele, I have considered making this transferral. He is a very prayerful man etc. When Betti goes on to Giano, Pellegrini will be coming there, and in this way we manage to provide for that pious House. Begin making your preparations for giving the meditations to the priests. More, when we meet in person *et ad alias*.<sup>47</sup> Wholeheartedly, I remain

Affectionately yours  
*G. C. del Bufalo*  
Mis. Ap.

Ascoli, June 17, 1821

Write: Ascoli per Offida

439

June 19, 1821

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci  
Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

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<sup>47</sup> And for another time.

Dear Giovanni Francesco

Please take care of the enclosed. In the meantime, I am seeking to obtain two confessors for the morning of the third Saturday. The Papal Blessing will be given on the feastday of St. John, and we will have it in such a way that they will be able to return. In a hurry, but asking you for your prayers, I am

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

June 19

Alert them for this appointment. *Ora pro me miserrimo.*<sup>48</sup> Give my best regards to Angiola and to your tender olive plants. *Filii tui sicut novellae olivarum in circuitu etc.*<sup>49</sup>

Write to Fr. Emidio Bellini that since he is to come to Ancona, in keeping with the appointments that I recall, I hope that he will have obtained from the bishop of Ascoli the faculty of hearing Confessions *pro utroque sexu.*<sup>50</sup> If not, he should get it in person, and then come as has been set.<sup>51</sup>

440

June 23, 1821

Mr. Michelangelo Palmucci

Jesus Mary Joseph

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

The most reverend bishop has sent the bearer of this letter to offer his services for confessions.<sup>52</sup> It will be necessary to provide him with lodging. If this should be inconvenient for you, see that you procure some other shelter for him. I am relying on your zeal. I remain

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

441

June 30, 1821

Fr. Luigi Gonnelli

Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord<sup>53</sup>

Thank you for your recent letter. Canon Mariotti will be in Pievetorina around the 3rd or 4th of July. after the Mission in Offida, Canon Tarulli will be returning. The Papal Blessing will be

<sup>48</sup> Pray for me, a most miserable person.

<sup>49</sup> Your sons are like young olive plants around etc.

<sup>50</sup> For each sex.

<sup>51</sup> This last paragraph was written on the outside cover.

<sup>52</sup> Very probably this is in reference to the third confessor, relating to the ones that he mentioned in his letter of June 19th to Francesco Palmucci whom he was supposed to provide for that "Saturday morning", that is, June 23rd. Hence, this letter is assigned the date of June 23, 1821.

<sup>53</sup> This letter does not have a date. But, from the postal markings it shows that it came from Ascoli on June 30th. Without doubt, the year is 1821.

given on July 8th. There have been other requests made but the concern about our affairs has caused me to defer them. We must do good, but it must be done in an orderly fashion. So, arrange for the first shift of retreats to begin on July 21st with the introduction set for the 22nd hour sharp. We simply cannot prescind from that specific date. I leave the decision up to you on whether to prefer first the one for the priests or the one for the lay people, since you seem to have in mind firmly that I myself will be giving both of them. Indeed, it appeared to me sufficient to give only the one to the clergy. But if you see otherwise to the glory of God, I will be obedient. But I will not be able to conduct more than two. You can make use of my room. I will go wherever possible, as long as the glory of God is promoted. Note that as soon as one shift is completed, the other retreatants will begin.

On Saturday, at eight in the morning, the General Communion will be had; after the noon meal, the second shift will begin. You already understand all of this. Without further ado, send out the notifications. Mr. Camillo Possenti of Fabriano would like to know when the one for the lay people will be held. Write to him directly. I think that the Governor of Fabriano will also be coming for the retreat. And, for the clergy retreat, I think that some other priests will be coming from a distance. In that case, I will have them write to you. Do not be worried about Mariotti's travel expenses. We shall discuss it *tempore abili*.<sup>54</sup> Have him keep up with his preaching, and continue always with his formation, for it is always necessary to keep everything on a steady level. You will see that you will be happy since he does have a certain unction. If you must write to me, send your letter to Sanseverino where I am going to be giving the clergy Retreat after I finish in Offida. Betti is going back to Sanginesio and then will proceed quickly to Giano. Pray to Jesus for me. It seems that I have not forgotten anything.

Everyone sends you their greetings. God is blessing your preaching of his divine word. Continue preparing yourself for giving the meditations to the clergy. Later, I will have you join me in giving a Mission. We shall discuss this. Stay well. Love me in Jesus Christ and extend my regards to all.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Since Bartolomeo will be coming with me, you will then be able to send a brother in service to Giano. But if you wish to keep all of them, realize that it is not a good idea to send a new one to Giano. It is better for them to have their formation in Pievetorina. Send me your answer.

442

July 5, 1821

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantonj

S. Felice di Giano

Fuligno per Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

My dearest in the Lord

With reference to the affairs dealing with the Schools, do not cease insisting. Whether the allotment is sufficient or not is not the point at issue. The back-payments are used principally for the maintenance of the buildings, for Masses, etc. Their claim, therefore, is really an observation lacking

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<sup>54</sup> At a suitable time. [St. Gaspar used "*alibi*". It should have been "*habili*."] ]

all logic. But do not become discouraged. Have the lives of the saints before you. also, write to me and be trusting in prayer. I shall await your report in Sanseverino, so as to see whether it will be necessary to write again to the Treasurer and to the Papal auditor.<sup>55</sup> Insofar as I am acquainted with the affection that both of them have for us, so far I have not written; but I shall do so as soon as I have received your next letter. It seems to me that I had already written to Odescalchi about the matter, when he was in Giano. It will not be useless for you to specify the substantial part of the memorandum to be prepared.

I thank God wholeheartedly for the good work that is being done there and for the Precious Blood Month. In person, we shall discuss many things. Through Canon Betti, you will receive the rules that are to be observed exactly. In my stay there, I shall look over your Catechism instructions. The title of Zelatore for Canon Betti, etc., has been changed to that of President of the Observance, thus, as a convenience in letters, one can generally write: President, etc.<sup>56</sup>

You will learn more from him.

May the Lord shower you with blessings and make you entirely his, both in time and eternity. I am wholeheartedly

Fr. Francesco, your  
Humble, devoted, obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Offida,<sup>57</sup> July 5, 1821

Send me the notifications of the Masses to Sanseverino, and tell me the number for my own records. It seems that I told you about the offering.

(In the margin, at the top and on a slant, we read:)

Fr. Biagio is relinquishing his credit, and with two men in need of reform will be admitted gratis for the Retreat.

443

July 9, 1821

Cardinal Ercole Consalvi  
Secretary of State

Jesus Mary Joseph

Your Eminence

Please excuse me for inconveniencing your most reverend Eminence as I urgently recommend to you the enclosed matter. In the Mission that I gave in Ascoli, it seemed that I would have been harsh if I had not assumed this charitable duty in behalf of a very poor lady, especially since your Eminence is so open-hearted in bringing relief to the needy.

I take advantage of this opportunity also to renew my feelings of high esteem for you and my respect for your exalted distinction. While kissing the sacred purple, your Eminence, I remain

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Canonico del Bufalo*

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<sup>55</sup> Msgr. Bellsario Cristaldi was promoted to the office of Treasurer General in 1820. He had already exercised successfully that of Papal Auditor. In 1821 Msgr. Carlo Odescalchi was Auditor.

<sup>56</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Rule, The

<sup>57</sup> *Offida*. Cf. Geographical Data

Missionario Apostolico  
Offida, July 9, 1821

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July 9, 1821  
Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli  
Ascoli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Vincenzo

In considering the need that exists for you to be in Ascoli, so that the devil does not take it over, I think that you should not leave there presently. Through the help of Fr. Vincenzo Belenghi, please send me the document that you know about, as well as your niece's reply. I have written to the most reverend bishop and have given the letter to Mr. Palmucci. I recommended the pious organizations. May the grace of Jesus Christ be with us. Amen. While kissing your hands, Father, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Porto di Civitanova, July 9, 1821

Another of your choice will be able to occupy your position. It will be the greatest consolation for me to see you again, as God makes known to you that the pious works should not suffer. In all things *judicio et prudentiae*.<sup>58</sup>

With regard to the petition of your penitent, the Treasurer has sent me the following response: "as for the soldier in Finanza whom you recommend to succeed etc., I answer that the vacancy is not verified. You will keep in mind these points etc."

445

July 13, 1821  
Fr. Luigi Gonnelli  
Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon

In person we shall discuss the brothers in service. As for the House in Albano, nothing untoward has occurred except that a few gentlemen who were accustomed to take their vacations there would have liked to continue doing so. But everything is being handled well and all is now in good order. It was an imprudence to have opened it. But that was previous to the rescripts granting the funds and the knowledge of Monsignor Cristaldi. Afterwards, some disputes arose concerning those funds. But *qui sperat in Domino, sicut mons Sion non commovebitur*.<sup>59</sup> I thank you for having given me your advice. I recognize your affection for the Society. My dearest in the Lord, it is born among thorns since it wages war against the devil. Accept the Mission that you mentioned to me, but I cannot promise you right now that I will be there with you. Would that God would allow me to

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<sup>58</sup> In justice and of prudence.

<sup>59</sup> He who hopes in the Lord, like Mt. Sion, will not be moved.

participate in every request. I am not worthy of exercising so exalted a ministry. May Jesus make us saints and lead us one day into his blessed kingdom. Prepare everything for the organization of St. Xavier. In Jesus Christ crucified, believe me to be

Humbly and affectionately yours

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Sanseverino, July 13, 1821

I call to your attention that during this present season the chapel gets too hot as does also the church. You could decorate the granary with furnishings etc. That would be better, or at least the retreatants' recreation area; both the granary and the recreation room. I leave this up to you. On Thursday morning, I hope to be there in time for dinner, without fail. I shall spend the time after dinner with you, walking through the forests, etc. The schedule for Friday is already set, etc. On Saturday, the retreat.

446

July 15, 1821

Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli

Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Please hold off *ad tempus*<sup>60</sup> the departure of Alessandro. We will discuss this in person. Ignorance may excuse our Silvestro, but in the school of De Sales, one recognizes neither antipathy nor sympathy. The spirit lies in perfect order. I surely do not want the cook little by little to be giving orders to the prior. That is why we need to have for the brothers in service some very opportune Jesuitical regulations. We shall figure it all out for the sole glory of God, *et os ad os loquemur*.<sup>61</sup> On Thursday, I hope certainly to be there in Pievetorina for dinner. May the grace of Jesus be with us. With the retreat for the laity scheduled first, you should prepare yourself to give the meditations. But, *cum, moderatione impetus, ut salus tua sit firma pro gloria Dei*.<sup>62</sup> May the Lord make us saints. Dear Canon, with esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Sanseverino, July 15, 1821

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July 15, 1821

Fr. Francesco M.. Pierantonj

Fuiligno per Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francisco

You shall hear many things orally from Canon Betti who should be there around the 20th or

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<sup>60</sup> For the time being.

<sup>61</sup> And we will speak face to face [mouth to mouth].

<sup>62</sup> Let there be force with moderation, so that your salvation may be firm for the glory of God.

21st. Prepare the room for him. I have informed him that his title is that of President. You will read all about it in the rules: this title is equivalent to the other one, *Zelatore*. It is just a bit more fitting.

See that the Archbishop confirms the faculties that we have had, for I will be at S. Felice for the afternoon of the feast of the Transfiguration of O.L.J.C. and on that day I shall commence the Retreat for the Clergy.<sup>63</sup> We have to agree on the date that I indicate for reasons that I shall explain in person. I suppose that there will be one Retreat.

If you should have anything to tell me, write to me at Pievetorina about it. I never want to miss the chance of spending a certain amount of time in residence in our Houses. I reckon that on a par with a Mission.

Inform the Archbishop of everything, and give him my best regards. Give him notice about the Retreat and have him confirm the memorandum. Tell him about the Masses, especially with regard to the payments in arrears, as well as about the mistake contained in the Rescript of the Passionists.

Send immediately to Pievetorina my listings of Masses, and let me know anything else that might come up. With greetings to the Companions, I am wholeheartedly

Fr. Francesco, your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Sanseverino,<sup>64</sup> July 15, 1821

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Mid-July 1821

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

S. Felice in Giano

Jesus Mary Joseph

Dear Fr. Francesco<sup>65</sup>

Canon Betti will be arriving within a short time. Work out with him whatever God directs you as the best thing to do. I note that he is firmly convinced about Pellegrini, and I do not wish to upset him. I shall pray. I am, wholeheartedly. The appointment for the feast of the Transfiguration remains set. I am etc.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

In his letter, Pellegrini tells me that he does not wish to help with the collection. I am writing in a hurry.

449

July 23, 1821

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

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<sup>63</sup> Retreat for the Clergy. cf. Gasparian History and Trivia.

<sup>64</sup> *Sanseverino*. Cf. Geographical Data

<sup>65</sup> This letter does not bear a date. From the context, one concludes that it was written shortly after the letter sent to the same person on July 15, 1821.

Father Vincenzo entirely for Jesus

I am holding off with regard to your niece and am awaiting the result within a short time, as the month is passing by quickly. In governing the pious works, whatever order the bishop or the delegate should want, all they have to do is to inform me about it, for this is the mind of the Holy Father. If it should be necessary to have a letter from me, I shall send it to you upon your advice. It would be very helpful, however, if you were to speak kindly to the bishop, whose authority is dependent only on that of the Holy Father. Use all of those means that you feel are most advantageous. I have already written to the Auditor concerning the theater. I hope that it has not been opened, and I would be most regretful for not having been on time. In Sanseverino, I found all to be in good order. Praise be to God and to the good Filippini fathers. Let your companions gossip - *putant obsequium praestare Deo*.<sup>66</sup>

But, for us, we are delighted to be foolish for the love of God. There, in that locale of Ascoli, you can enrol anyone, keeping the register in good order, and *etiam per epistolam*<sup>67</sup> you can spread this good work out of Ascoli. You yourself should note down the members of the Union of the Divine Blood of Jesus Christ. As for the city of Teramo, adhere to the basic principle. I do not wish to acknowledge any letter correspondence except with the bishop. Lay authority should not interfere in matters that are strictly the ministry of the bishop, and I surely would never go along with an agreement that I am not acquainted with. Preaching in the Kingdom for me is the same as preaching in Ascoli. But I do not know whether we will have access there. Keep me informed about everything. In the meantime, I am awaiting some responses, and I shall see what God's will is, and then we will work things out. In all of this, we must use great care.

With regard to the pious organizations try to get the bishop to see in them the will of God. Do not allow difficulties to deter you. Be as strong as a lion. *Erit tempus cum sanam doctrinam non sustinebunt, etc.*<sup>68</sup> And also *tu vero vigila, in omnibus labora, etc.*<sup>69</sup> Courage. Think of Xavier, and go forth bravely, *cum ipso sum in tribulatione, etc. et qui pie volunt vivere in Christo Jesu persecutionem patientur*.<sup>70</sup> I will have prayers said for Ascoli, the object of my special affection. Kissing your hands, and praying to God to make you more and more saintly, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Pieveterina, July 23, 1821

The aggregation to the Pious Union in Rome will come in August.

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July 23, 1821

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Giovanni Francesco

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<sup>66</sup> They consider giving deference to God.

<sup>67</sup> Also by letter.

<sup>68</sup> There will be a time when they will not endure sound teaching, etc.

<sup>69</sup> Indeed be watchful, work in all things, etc.

<sup>70</sup> I am with him in tribulation, etc. ... and those who wish to live piously in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Your last letter was very precious. You say nothing to me about the aggregation of the Pious Union of the Blood of Jesus Christ. So, after another letter of yours, I will be carrying out the one in Ascoli. As for the other things, I will take them up after your next letter and with greater detail and more leisurely. Offida is for me a place of special consideration. Pray and have others pray for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Pieveterina, July 23, 1821