

St. Gaspar's Letters

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October 6, 1822
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
 Bishop of Agatopoli
 S. Nicola in Carcere
 Roma

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Msgr. and dearest brother

Today the Mission at Sezze will begin and I hope it will be supported by your prayers. Upon my arrival in Rome, we shall complete our discussions relative to our organization. Even though I would like to stay put there in Rome during this coming Lent, as is my wont, you can see how brief at present my stop-overs have been, and the days that I spend there will be sufficient to take care of the most urgent matters. It would be most helpful then for you to handle the following two things with the greatest energy:

1) Recommend to Lawyer Angeli the approbation of the 15 *scudi* per year that the town of Sermoneta was paying out first to the Franciscans and now intends to consign to us. They have already put these *scudi* on the list for the approval of the *Buon Governo* Commission. Have him keep in mind that we are deluged with work and that, for the time being, he make every effort to assist us, etc. On this same occasion urge him also with regard to the amount that was promised for the beds in Terracina, where our house will be opened again by December 3. Meanwhile, let us continue our preparations for the project. I have already spoken to him in person about this, etc. Upon my return I will again mention my concerns, but in the meantime let us increase our prayers.

2) With regard to the difficulty of obtaining the Treasurer's records, containing the document of the release of the Convent by the Capuchin Fathers, it will be most appropriate for you please to have a copy made of it by the Superiors of that saintly community. Have the Hospice included along with the Convent; otherwise both of them will be reduced to looking like barns. Whenever the Religious pass through, let them be certain of our hospitality. If that were not so, these Religious might have to suffer the displeasure of seeing everything gradually falling to pieces. Winter is coming, and if we do not see to the restoration of the roofs, you can imagine what might happen. Having obtained the deed for the Convent and the Hospice, draw up a petition asking that our Community have the investiture of it. In speaking of the Convent, mention also the enclosure and the adjoining properties, which already had been enjoyed by the Capuchins. There is, in particular, an area of trees which would bring in a bit more income for our community; otherwise, at present, anybody who has the desire can go in and make use of it. Or, rather, I hear that the Mayor has received from the Religious the right to use it, and they are better informed of this than we are. At any rate, see to it that by some means or other you obtain this favor. Since winter is coming soon, it is imperative that you do so immediately. You yourself might be able to get the Rescript through the good services of Msgr. Menochio.

The new Houses do not have any endowments. I am fearful that something contrary may occur, so I travel around in the hope of establishing as much stability as possible. In addition to this you realize that the expenses are so enormous that, in the difficulty of obtaining from the Treasury what we need to get along, I am getting gray hair, so to speak, trying to find some way of providing each house with the bare necessities; particularly now that we are getting new members sent to us by

God, and the families are growing. Finally, if ever our Society should have anything left over, the Retreats which we give *gratis* to the poor would soon drain off everything.

The Convent of the Capuchins, however, is located on more level ground and I have envisioned it as an ideal place for Retreats for the poor, *suo tempore*.¹ In that way the rooms of our other location would not be ruined. But even if we get the enclosure I am requesting, the mere maintenance of the building alone would demand that there be an organized group to look after it. There is none around here, nor are there any hopes for one. The Bishop himself could personally obtain the Rescript for us, and it might be a good thing for you to mention my observations to him. See to it that we get the Rescript for Sezze, and if you need the Treasurer's help, go to him. But if you can spare him the trouble, so much the better, since he is liable to forget, with all the cases he has to handle.

Surely in the Hospice where we are now living, where it already rains in, nobody is going to spend a *paolo* until he has the ownership of it. So, we are running the risk of not even having a place of shelter for ourselves. If, however, something were to be spent, let us be perfectly honest, it would not be a pleasing thing to spend it on property that is not one's own.

Do not forget to go to the Ursulines to ask the Superior to excuse me from attending the Investiture. The Profession will be enough. And whenever they wish to have the Investiture, they can do so in private, since she is already an Oblate. Pray for me who with esteem am

your

Humble, devoted, obliged Servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sermoneta, October 6, 1822

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October 9, 1822

Fr. Giacomo Gorgi

Bassiano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father

I am now requesting that you be here in Sezze for next Saturday in order to help with the ministry of hearing confessions. I know that you already have a place for lodging; if not, it will be taken care of. Then, too, on behalf of the most reverend bishop, ask Fr. Gaetano Gnessi to come for the same purpose, along with Canon Antonicola. Lodging will be arranged for both of them. You should come for Saturday; the other two should come as soon as possible; at least next Monday or Sunday. If anyone should not be able to come, send me that information. Next, I would like you to go along for the Mission in Maenza, to give the catechetical instructions; so, bring along whatever will be necessary for you. Having given the Lenten series there, you will now also add an even greater good work. The Mission in Maenza will begin immediately after Sezze, and you will go there as one of our qualified Missionaries. I pray that no difficulty will arise. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

¹ In his time.

M. Ap.
Sezze, October 9, 1822

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October 31, 1822
Fr. Francesco De Luca
S. Lorenzo

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Do not become discouraged about your vocation. It would be very helpful for you to read the life of St. Stanislaus, or should we wish to overlook the extraordinary, you will find in it a great deal that can be imitated. Likewise, you might jot down on a piece of paper your doubts. With great fervor, make the upcoming Novena in honor of St. Francis Xavier, and read his life also. In certain cases, one must remember that *caro et sanguis non revelavit etc.*² Your relatives will be able to see you in the Province at some house, and they will be able to do so whenever they wish. Perhaps I may have importuned you, but in doing that I was following an impulse of God's grace. As for the rest, *quod Domino placet fiat.*³

If you must write to me, always address your letters to Rome. If you wish, you might also confer with Father Biagio, my companion in Frosinone, and if you would like to withdraw in retreat for the evening of November 22, when we shall all in fact be going into retreat in preparation for the feast of Xavier, all you have to do is write to Father Biagio Valentini and make the arrangements with him. Above all, pray a great deal for me and for the Society. In your area, try to procure the public recitation of the Chaplet of the most Precious Blood. And, get the young people, in particular, to develop a love for the mystery of the Immaculate Conception. With esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Terni, October 31, 1822

P. S. Read Liguori where he speaks of vocations in the *Selva predicabile*. At times, some families have experienced a deep sense of remorse for having stood in opposition, etc. But you do not need to have such illuminations.

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October 31, 1822
Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Monsignor and beloved brother

I am supplying here for an oversight of mine. Enclosed is my request that, upon the return of

² Flesh and blood have not revealed, etc.

³ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

his Eminence Galeffi, you procure the *pro gratia*⁴ which you will then forward to Cencio.

I suppose that you have remembered to have the Mass celebrated for Father Torribio. Do not forget to write, in compendium form, the saintly life of our Monsignor Albertini; and, please see that his portrait is corrected as best as possible. Keep in mind, too, the aggregation for Sezze. When you write to Monsignor Manassi, tell him that he should take care of the stone marker. Upon seeing Monsignor Falsacappa, give him my best regards and inform him that I shall get more copies of the little booklet "*on the manner of conversing with God*", a precious book, but that it will be for Masses, however. So, in providing me with a number of them, the alms will be distributed for this important objective.

Next, have a reply sent to me concerning the Convent of the Capuchins in Sermoneta. Pray and have others pray a lot for me. Please send to Father Lettore Campolongo, a Scolopi Father in Alatri, the faculty for aggregating which he will be able to share, if possible, in the schools wherever he may be. This religious is so enamored of our devotion, and I keep in touch with him concerning this document of which I speak. Let us become saints. May Jesus be in our hearts. With a thousand heavenly greetings, consider me in the meanwhile

Your humble servant and affectionate friend

G. C. del Buf.

M. Ap.

Terni, October 31, 1822

Do not forget the Novena in honor of Xavier, and, do not forget an oval against the Crucifix, at the earliest possibility. Do not forget the Bedoni matter and try to get an increase in contributors, not overlooking the suffrages that might be called for. Give my regards to Lawyer Angeli and insist that he should get a disposable amount of money for the initial expenses incurred in the foundation in Terracina.

655

November 6, 1822

Fr. Mattia Mattiangeli

S. Severo

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Curate

Since you have the desire to give yourself to our Society, I would be pleased that for the Novena in honor of St. Francis Xavier you would withdraw for a retreat with our community in S. Felice. In that way, you will get to know the spirit of our Society better, and you will obtain the desired grace. If you go for that retreat, all you have to do is give that information to Fr. Luigi Achille. With the retreat beginning on the evening of the 24th of this month, you will note that all the days are ferial days. You could entrust the care of your assignment to the neighboring pastor. I am not acquainted with the methods that are customarily used in doing this. You, however, will know what you will be able to arrange.

I repeat, I would like you to go there for that retreat which is conducted specifically for our Missionaries and for anyone who wishes to become acquainted with our Society. I am writing this while traveling to the Mission in Teramo. I would like you to send a response to me in Ascoli where

⁴ As a favor.

I have arranged for them to forward my letters. With esteem and respect, I remain

Most obligingly yours

Gaspare Canonico del Bufalo

Missionario Apostolico

Grottammare, November 6, 1822

656

November 6, 1822

Fr. Vincenzo Bonacci

Piglio

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

You and Canon Massimi will be receiving shortly from Rome the requested certificate.

In order to obtain the rescript for the Mass and Office of the most Precious Blood, write, in my name, to Monsignor Muccioli, Bishop of Agatopoli and the President of our Archconfraternity in Rome. Indicate to him that the Chapter is not able to spend etc., and finally, let him know whether the Office is recited and the Mass celebrated there on another day of the year. All of this is in reply to what you asked about in your letter. Please pardon my delay in writing to you. Pray a lot for me. May the pious works be evermore close to your heart. I hope that the Novena in honor of our saint will be greatly solemnized. When you have to write to me: Rome.

With esteem and very special affection, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Grotte a Mare, November 6, 1822

657

November 11, 1822

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Teramo, November 11

Most beloved Monsignor

Here I am in Teramo. Oh how content I am! How much good and what a field for the apostolate! Prayers. A thousand good wishes to everyone. Send your letters through Cencio. I have found a way of getting the story of the Passion of Jesus Christ written by Father Durazzo, a Jesuit, to be reprinted; it is a precious work for the preachers of our devotion and for everybody. I would like you to accept the dedication, and I would be pleased if you agreed with these desires of mine. However, it would be sufficient if you would take 100 copies, each copy in thin paper worth 45 *baiocchi*, and it is divided into two volumes. I am well acquainted with your sense of economy, and I do not wish to alter that. Your only concern would consist in contacting, for example, Falsacappa to take 20 of those 100 copies, Brignole another 30, Martorelli, Ferretti and others in general, so that you would be left with one or two copies. I shall hold off until you have looked into this distribution.

The printer in charge, for his own protection, would like to have some assurance and then he would immediately undertake the job. You might get Filonardi's thoughts. Otherwise, I shall consider reducing the printing to 80 or perhaps 70 copies; we shall see. This surely will be to God's holy glory and to the benefit of our Archconfraternity. I urge you to write to Sezze about the aggregation. Look for contributors in behalf of *Buon Consiglio*; then, there is always the Archives, the life of Albertini, contacting Bishon Manassi about the stone marker in Terracina, the improving of the portrait, the solemn funeral services (for Father Turribio, perhaps you have already done this). Always keep your eyes open for suffrages. The month has been reprinted in Foligno. Keep close to your heart the Bedoni affair, Lawyer Angeli's help for Terracina, and all the petitions that may favor the Society that is so much in need, etc. Do this as a favor to me. As the opportunity arises, give my greetings to Maria Giuseppa and to Monsignor Falsacappa. Let us become saints.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

658

November 28, 1822

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My most venerable and beloved Monsignor

Thank you for sending the requests for the current month. You will be able to do the same for the upcoming month of December since it will be necessary to pay the merchant who has provided the necessary material for the winter clothing of the brothers in service; Severini has already been given the instructions. My obligations to you are immense. *Dominus autem retribuet pro me.*⁵ Still, I beg our most lovable Father in common, with all my heart, to deign to send resources, for the more the Society grows, so much more do its needs increase, and even more so because in those Communes where they were supposed to offer help for the installation of the Institute, generally speaking, up to now nothing, in effect, has been done. I can do nothing more than to pray and have others pray; nor do I lose my trust in God. The Houses in Giano and Pievetorina are likewise most needful.

With regard to the problem with the schools, despite my insistence, I believe that nothing will be done. Furthermore, the endowments for the shrines must also be taken into consideration. Be assured that the archbishop *tamquam non esset nihil aut fere nihil*⁶ can do anything.

With respect to Benevento, some sort of difficulty has arisen. I am awaiting an explanation from Canon Betti, and I will send the information on to you as our Father in common. As for the locale of S. Agostino in Frosinone, realize that an effective letter from you to the most reverend Delegate would reduce things to a perfect state. I engaged in speaking at length in Frosinone to both the Delegate and to Colonel Gennari, and I had them note that the Commune has the obligation, by way of the rescript from Rome, to set up a pious Institute in the locale of S. Agostino. We shall see.

I will later be able to tell you about the status of things with regard to the church in Ascoli. I would ask that you see whether it is possible to solicit in Benevento from the Cassa dei Lotti the

⁵ The Lord, however, will repay in my behalf.

⁶ Not as if he were nothing or nearly nothing.

promised subsidy of 100 *scudi* for the good Canon Betti, at least on account, for depending on that, he has incurred a debt on behalf of the women seeking to become nuns, and he is experiencing a bit of anguish. He deserves every possible consideration, especially since he has been left without even a patrimony, authorized to procure one for himself in the space of a three-year period, while living in the meantime in our Society.

The fifty *scudi* for Vallecorsa had already been agreed upon at the time when Monsignor Gasparri was acting for you, and that was the result of an order issued by you. I imagined that they were meant for Vallecorsa. In addition, your idea is truly an illumination from God, as the need for a Convent that is being refurbished is extreme. If this idea of yours is to be confirmed, you might send the order to Mr. Gulielmi with the customary regularities, and later, after receiving your next letter, I shall present the same corresponding information. *Ita fiat si Domino placet.*⁷

The father of Fr. Pietro Pellegrini (the nephew of the now deceased Fr. Turribio), a worker presently in Albano, recommends himself to your charity to obtain for him either some work or some subsidy from time to time. This man, my dear Monsignor, is in the image of the Lord. It is the Almighty's will that there be consideration between creature and creature in order to promote the communication of good in the exercise of virtue, while rewarding in certain ways even the good desires that are there. The Mission in Teramo was one of the most glorious ever, thanks to the grace of the Almighty. With that very precise description, I have said it all.

Presently, I have five companies of workers who are traveling about the Province in order to get help, and I shall try to bring things to a conclusion as soon as possible. Yet, no matter how energetic the activity may be, it is still necessary for me to remain a bit longer, unless, of course, you dispose things otherwise, for surely I am ready to obey even when halfway through a Mission. I must declare the truth, however, that in the course of giving a Mission, I see many outstanding things. Praise be to God. But, how can one manage to have devotional materials, pay postage etc. as you dole out alms, in your usual manner, I ask that you do not overlook these needs. If you think it a good idea, you might ask the Lotti, under the title of expenses for postage, to grant me a small bit of assistance in Ascoli or in Fabriano.

The Mission in Teramo is now completed; presently, I am in Campli. Do not deprive me of your communications. The address is Ascoli. The feast of Xavier is approaching. Requests for foundations are coming in from everywhere. Already our membership is increasing. I have stolen this time in order to write at least something to you about the more important matters. If you could manage to get some copies of the Life of Xavier for our Mission Houses, you would be doing me a terrific favor. I kiss your hands, I am and will constantly be ...

Only for your consolation do I point out that my trip through the Province has revived the good work of giving Missions, and especially the renewal of the practice of Oratories. I sent the rescript to Alatri, and I am hoping for the best. We shall see. I conclude this letter by saying that if it is such a pleasure to work for God, what will it be to enjoy him! I would not leave this ministry not even for the possession of a principedom, nor, indeed, for all of them put together. I make this special prayer to God that he deign to allow me to exercise the work of the Missions until the moment of death, and to die with the weapon of the Crucified Lord in my hands, still proclaiming, if it be his good pleasure, the divine word.

I would like your advice and it is concerning this: whether for Lent would it be to the greater

⁷ So may it be if it pleases the Lord.

glory of God for me to divide my time between the Houses in the Province of Campagna or to be in Rome. I would be giving retreats in Frosinone to the workers and other things that God would inspire us to do. I would only be limited to the Cappellette di S. Luigi, according to what Canon Muccioli tells me. As far as I am concerned, that is how I am inspired at this time. What do you say? It would also advance the Society. Your answer will determine a thousand things for that period of time, and I pray that you will give me your answer as you see it *in Domino*.⁸ If we were to combine our sentiments, that is what I would think; otherwise, it will be necessary to arrange to etc.

I add that in order to come to Teramo, I got the approval of Cardinal Sevaroli because of the agreements contracted for his Diocese and he told me that he willingly granted it, recognizing presently the greater divine glory. The time will come when workers will be sent from Rome *ubique*,⁹ and that is why this Society of ours, so necessary for our times, is very dear to my heart. *Fides enim per verbum Dei*.¹⁰ In certain locations, it is truly needed to have training in apologetics. In short, I have written a lot more than I had thought I would. What more should I say? Whenever I think about or write to you, it is the same as being in heaven. I never fail to have prayers said for you. Give my best wishes to Canon Muccioli. I ask you to pay a visit to Jesus in the arms of St. Xavier, on his feastday, so that the Saint will bless our Missions. I cannot describe to you how prodigious this service is.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Buf.

M. Ap.

Campli, November 28, 1822

Take care of yourself and do not overwork. Who knows, on my return, I may pass through Benevento. We shall see.

659

November 30, 1822

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail etc.

Venerable Monsignor

Would the retreats in the seminary there be opportune at Christmas time? First, perhaps, the subject has not as yet come up. Please send a couple of lines to Ascoli. With regard to our leaving the House in Pievevitorina, you are wise enough to know that it would not be proper for us to abandon a people who have always demonstrated so much affection toward us. Only if we were to be excluded would we then be justified in such a conduct. Excuse me if I write in a hurry. I am going now to preach to the clergy. Pray and have others pray a lot. Most reverend excellency, with esteem and the most particular affection, kissing your hands, I remain wholeheartedly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

⁸ In the Lord.

⁹ Wherever.

¹⁰ For faith is through the word of God.

M. Ap.
Campli, November 30, 1822

After these Missions, Pievetorina will be getting more workers. At times it is necessary to relocate them etc. I have recommend the House to the Treasurer etc. If you would like to have another in Camerino, it would be possible to have two in your diocese. What do you say to that?

660

December 2, 1822
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

The best procedure would be to make the acquisition of a locale to be turned into a chapel or an oratory of St. Francis Xavier, getting all the needed faculties, for which, in my name, you can write to Rome to Canon Muti, the Canon of the Vatican Basilica, and every dispute will be ended. You will ask him: how are means to be had? But if law would require it, a contract could be drawn up easily in that case. This thought just came to me momentarily. You, however, should keep on insisting, and the tribulations involved will make you stronger and more vigorous. Pray a lot for me. I wish you an abundant showering of celestial blessings, and, dear Canon, kissing your hands and with greetings to all as usual, especially to Father Serafino, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.
Campli, December 2, 1822

If you need to send a response: "Rome".

661

December 2, 1822
Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

Enrol as aggregators for Canzano, in the diocese of Teramo, Father Giovanni Battista Gentilini, and in the Guardia Umana, Father Casimiro M. Feni, diocese of Teramo.

Keep the Bedoni affair close to your heart, as well as the matter of the Capuchins with regard to the Convent in Sermoneta. Maintain your insistence *in omnibus*¹¹ with Lawyer Angeli, to whom you will give my regards.

Also, it is necessary that you submit a petition to the *Buon Governo* to obtain the Monastery, actually falling to pieces, belonging to the Viennese monks located in Vallecorsa which is serving as our Society's building in that foundation. At the earliest possible occasion, obtain the rescript and send it on to me. I shall make the request to Lawyer Angeli for what is listed in the document for

¹¹ In all things.

Sermoneta. Above all, tell the Lawyer that he should press the issue in Frosinone and to work hard so that the locale of S. Agostino will be given to our Institute, since, in general, the Commune is obliged to set up a pious institute there.

If you can obtain the 13 cases for Pellegrini, that would make me happy too. I know very well that they can be of help to him. I am in correspondence with Monsignor Cadolini. But, before deciding the opening with the 50 *scudi*, I wish to speak to him about it. Prayers. I will contact the Treasurer. *Oremus ad invicem. Gratia Dei nobiscum.*¹² With all my heart, I am

Your humble servant and affectionate friend

G. C. del Buf.

M. Ap.

Campli, December 2

662

December 3, 1822

Fr. Nicola Palma¹³

(Civitella)

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Canon

Both because of my own desire as well as out of respect for your advice, I would gladly love to bring the Crucifix, the Image of Most Holy Mary, etc. there. However, Montorio already is sending to Campli on Monday for these furnishings. There simply is not enough time to arrange things differently. God will provide. I really would like to comply with your wishes, but it just cannot be worked out that way.

I am, however, most content with the General Communion, one for Monday, another for Tuesday. You will remind the ladies of the crown of thorns, and the usual announcement of the exclusion of the men.

I am consoled by your zeal in the propagation of the glories of Xavier. Oh, what a dear Saint! Finally, I thank you for the care with which you dedicate yourself to the fulfillment of the apostolic ministry.

A thousand heavenly greetings to all our saintly Brethren. And may the Lord grant that, united here in the unity of the ministry, we may see ourselves reunited forever in His most blessed Kingdom. Amen.

I kiss your hand, and I am and will constantly be with respect and particular attachment of you, Rev. Canon

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Campli, December 3, 1822

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December 3, 1822

¹² Let us pray for one another. The grace of God be with you.

¹³ Fr. Nicola Palma: cfr. Biographical section.

Fr. Nicola Palma
Civitella

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Have this letter read in common by your Companions also. Have two riding-horses here for Sunday night: one for me, the other for my helper. On Monday, I will occupy myself with those Conferences that are considered to be more important; namely:

- 1) for the leaders of the place, at the *Ave Maria* hour, in any church;
- 2) for the clergy (but it does not seem to me necessary), as soon as I arrive;
- 3) after the meal I will give the principal sermon.

I would like to have the mounts here by Sunday night, because I want to leave quite early. On Tuesday morning, the General Communion. For the men, in the Chiesa dei Riformati, or in another church; for the women, in the Chiesa della Missione. After dinner, the Papal Blessing. However, you will stay on there until Sunday, while the Indulgences continue, just as Canon Gonnelli will remain here in Campli. Then, on Wednesday, together with Fr. Mariotti and Fr. Bellini, I will make the solemn entrance into Montorio, where you will then join with me and we shall continue together in the ministry. This arrangement is made for the greater glory of God. In case all of the confessions should be taken care of quickly (something very difficult to imagine), we may make some adjustments with regard to your procedures. Otherwise, the first plan will be observed.

I am, etc.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Campli,¹⁴ December 3, (1822)

P. S. Have them prepare the Cross which is to be elevated, and see to it that they depict the names given to Jesus.

664

December 10, 1822

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

Here I am in Civitella; and today the service of the Papal Blessing turned out very well in church, considering the weather. *Laus Deo in omnibus*.¹⁵ If you get the regulations for the Oratory beforehand, send them sealed to Father Vincenzo Belenghi. Pray a lot for me. I recommend the pious works there and an occasional visit to the holy Relic. With special affection and esteem, I am wholeheartedly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

¹⁴ *Campli*, cf. Geographical Data.

¹⁵ Praise to God in all things.

Civitella, December 10, 1822

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December 10, 1822
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
 Bishop of Agatopoli
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am sending the enclosed matters so that you can work things out with the most eminent Penitentiary. Or, perhaps you can deal with someone else in the Sacred Penitentiary. Try to have these petitions taken care of with the widest pertinent application. I ask that you do this with the greatest haste. You will then forward them to me via Vincenzo. I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant and affectionate friend

G. C. del B.

Mis. Ap.

Civitella, December 10, 1822

666

December 16, 1822
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

Thank you for your letter, and I am very sorry to learn that my recent letters have been a source of disturbance for you. Be assured, that is not what I intended, and in the future I shall be more cautious. You can be certain that I shall not fail to show up in Rome, and around the second of January I shall set out on my trip. If you favor me with another letter of yours, which is something that will bring me very great consolation, please address it to Ascoli. I shall apply my three Masses on Christmas for your soul. Be assured that many prayers will be offered for you. The distributions for the upcoming January could be arranged as follows: 100 *scudi* for Terracina, 100 *scudi* for Frosinone, 100 *scudi* for Rome.

Vincenzo will handle the distributions as usual and I shall correspondingly keep in touch. The House in Terracina has been reopened, as you probably know. Most reverend excellency, pray for me, for I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Bellante, December 16, 1822

667

December 18, 1822
 Fr. Nicola Palma

Notaresco

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My beloved Canon

I hope that you have arrived in good health. I have to advise you that you are to give the Retreat to the priests, even though there may only be three or four. In another letter I shall urge the pastor to assemble those who are close by. Furthermore, I remind you of the Spiritual Conference. Prior Orazi will assume the direction of the Mission together with another excellent Companion. You will be the counselor for it, so that everything turns out for the greater glory of God. Blessed Leonard knew what it was to be obedient to a layman. Try to look at me in much the same way, and let each Companion be of help to the other *in vinea Domini*.¹⁶

I am sending the devotional materials for that Mission, for the Oratory, etc. You know the general rule: give the Oratory a solid foundation. *Vigila in omnibus, etc.*¹⁷ Inform the two Companions that, once the Mission has been completed, should they have to return, the expenses will be shared proportionately by these towns. I have received these orders from Teramo. I do not know whether Notaresco¹⁸ will meet the costs for all this. I leave everything to your prudence. The Ascoli trip is short. Civitella will have to take care of Mariotti's return. I sent him back because he was not holding up too well under the duress. Inform the Mayor to come to an understanding together with his brother. As for the Diocese of Penne, I will see to it that another Company comes from Benevento. Let us work hard to bring ours to a conclusion. If a request should come from Montepaganico, accept it. If your two current Companions are unable to handle it, we will take care of it. I recommend Campli to you for Lent. When the weather is good, go to the mountains.

If you must write to me, address your letter to the Vicar General of Teramo. Kissing your hand, and begging you for prayers, with a thousand greetings and thanks to the Companions, I am your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Bellante, December 18, 1822

P. S. You will make the selection of confessors, since you are the more practical one: Let us not go beyond the normal order, and give them instructions before they begin the ministry. There is little doubt, ordinarily, as to dispositions; but, with regard to precision in questioning, or prudence in their approach, etc.

(on the outside, near the address, one reads:)

I have received another message: tomorrow, at the latest, two are coming from Castalbasso; namely, Prior Orazi and Fr. Luigi Marini.

¹⁶ In the vineyard of the Lord.

¹⁷ Be on guard in all things., etc.

¹⁸ Because of his haste, a few things were imprecisely written by the Saint: instead of Notaresco, the manuscript has Naturesco; instead of *recedere* (two lines further up in the text), *ricedere*; instead of *ratizzata*, *ratizzato*.

The verb *antistare* is often used by St. Gaspar in regard to economical references, in the sense of "to come face to face with" (for example, to expenses, to a total amount, etc.) and also transitively to men "to give, to anticipate". The word, however, is not listed in Italian Dictionaries.

December 21, 1822

Fr. Nicola Palma

Notaresco

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I am working out the following matters.

A letter from Rome obliges me to return because of new foundations. The Diocese of Penne will be handled by another group. With regard to the mountain district of that Diocese, in your zeal you will take care of it during the summer, God willing. In general, the rest of the Missions are all set. I have already begun arrangements for those at Miano, etc., which are Missions of a more discreet type. The Companions will remain in that area to carry out the ministry, so as not to lose the interest of the people; and, it is understood, in your charity you will help out. By divine mercy the Missions have had a good number of confessors and plenty of available time. Furthermore, since the places are so close together, an even more extensive good will result. *Laus Deo in omnibus*.¹⁹ Blessings everywhere. *Satis de hoc*.²⁰ I have reserved Companions for this holy endeavor. On Sunday the Missions at Corropoli and Nereto will begin simultaneously.

I am here at Montorio, but I cannot stay beyond all day Christmas. For, on the following day, I must leave in order to be at Notaresco in the evening, where I shall speak with you personally. I recognize as the will of God that my presence has had to be shared in these most recent Missions; otherwise the fervor of the people would have been lost, people who were happy to have me give only one spiritual conference. Where I was able to reconcile the people to not having me personally, I was happy about it; but where they insisted by means of dispatches and messengers, etc., I did not want to appear stubborn. In addition, there were other reasons which we will discuss further when we meet in person. As for Notaresco, I was relaxed; the remarks that I just made do not apply to those people. I repeat, I am coming to see you there, for soon afterwards I must go on quickly to Giulia.

These reflections oblige me to ask you to make use of your good offices with Prior Orazi. It is not by my choice but pure necessity that I ask him to be here on Christmas night to supply for me, since I must leave on the following day in order to be there with you, as I have said, to stay over night. He will find the clergy, the conferences, etc. all arranged. Canon Forcina and Provost Piersanti will be with him. They want an outsider and he will be the director of the Mission. You will handle the direction of Notaresco together with the excellent Fr. Luigi Marini; ask him to please release Prior Orazi for me. Both of these Missions at Notaresco and Montorio should be concluded by Epiphany, still leaving the following eight days for additional good work. Even though the two Companions may have to leave, they can however get together again soon.

In the meantime, I am putting you in charge of this mediation, so that everything works out in proper order, adjusting everyone to the circumstances. I am writing early so that Prior Orazi can be prepared to assume those confessions that he will be able to take care of. You will give the principal sermon there. As a pair, you will turn things for the better. Add one or the other confessor, among whom, it seems to me, that the pastor of Guardiaumana should be able to assist. Give the

¹⁹ Praise be to God in all things.

²⁰ Enough about this.

bearer of this letter shelter and a bit to eat in one of the houses there. It is indeed a fortunate thing that we will have three of us for these first efforts of ours in that place.

I hope that everyone understands the reasons for these unexpected letters, and be willing to comply. At any rate, I shall not worry, content to serve God, just as he wills it.

I am with esteem and respect

your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Montorio, December 21, 1822

When I arrive there, I will stay at any private house that is available, I hope. No one but Bartolomeo will be with me. I am, etc.

(Between us) find out whether Fr. Luigi Marini can remain for another Mission with you. He is an unpretentious priest. It is clear, Fr. Luigi must remain with you in Notaresco. In order to keep the outsiders separated, Orazi will remain here alone.

(on the outside of the letter, near the address, we read:)

Let me know whether the mount must be sent from here.

669

January 1, 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

My dearest Father Giovannelli

Three letters have been summoning me back to Rome because of new foundations. God knows what a feeling of separation I am experiencing in leaving this vineyard which I shall always remember. We have been arming souls *ut orent pro persaverantiam*.²¹ You who are close by can be very influential also *consilio, literis etc.*²² Father Emidio will soon be in Ascoli for the feast of the Purification. Furthermore, if the bishop would be content, he could have him preach the Lenten series in the diocese. You could intervene. He could be helpful for that period of time and find a place where he could do doubly good work. Give many thanks to the bishop for the kindness that he has shown in cooperating with this good work for those souls. *Dominus retribuet pro me.*²³ Do not fail to extend to him my very best wishes.

Soon you will receive the consignment of my Mission baggage; please preserve it in a place free of humidity. When you receive a letter from a certain Vincenzo Severini, you will then turn it over with a detailed receipt to be then forwarded on to me. Whoever will be transporting it, will take along with him a permit of passage, and if difficulty should arise upon their entrance into Ascoli, you make sure that they have the paper, and tell them that they are not to leave Ascoli without that document. Up to now, I have had a permit of passage, but since I take along with me a small trunk, I can get along, otherwise I would have sent it, and in the worst case, it would be returned to Nereto.

Make sure that in transporting the materials they travel slowly. I am convinced that the

²¹ In order that they may pray for perseverance.

²² With counsel, with letters, etc.

²³ The Lord will repay in my behalf.

gentlemen at the customs station will be obedient to what I have directed, for such is the decision of the most reverend Treasurer, whom they would sadden if, in the circumstances, they would not adhere to what is prescribed. I, then, shall be awaiting a letter from you in Fuligno sent to S. Felice in Giano; but do so quickly, otherwise, Rome.

With regard to the church of S. Agostino, it will be necessary that they have someone acting for them in Rome, as well as for the Filippini Fathers. Also, I shall have to have two petitions addressed to the Treasurer in detail. I have sent the images of Xavier. I shall write *juxta cor meum*.²⁴ Asking you for prayers and kissing your hands, with esteem I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Corropoli, 1st of 1823 Happy New Year

I shall be departing tomorrow morning, but please realize that I shall be unable to pass through Ascoli because of the convenience of the carriage. I wrote quickly to Prior Orazi that he should return. As far as I am concerned, I, too, knew very well that the thing could not work out well.

670

January 8, 1823

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Grutti

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father

Since Father Antonio Caccia has gone to his home to recover, that now has brought about a vacancy in S. Felice until replacements are made, which will be done by me as soon as I have visited the other Mission Houses. Furthermore, I am well acquainted with the singular affection that you have for our Society. Therefore, I ask that you do me the favor of giving a sermon *ad libitum*²⁵ next Sunday, arriving there at the earliest possible time in the morning. For doing me this favor, I profess that I shall be eternally obliged. Do it for the love of the Lord and of most holy Mary. Pray for me, and, with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

S. Felice, 8th of 1823

If it is possible for you to come *ad standum*²⁶ for a few days, until the new man arrives, it would be a double favor. In the meantime, let us just take care of Sunday.

671

January 10, 1823

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

²⁴ Near my heart.

²⁵ At one's wishes.

²⁶ To remain.

Archbishop of Camerino
Camerino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

While traveling, 10th of 1823

My most venerable Monsignor

There are two things that have to be settled in Pievetorina, as Canon Gonnelli has probably informed you. The first pertains to Morelli's rent, to whom I have also spoken in person; the second regards the program of moral cases which the aforementioned Canon has discussed with you. Later, the House in Pievetorina will be getting at least five more workers, now that the new foundations have been put in operation, in addition to the acquisition of new members. Among them, as soon as he has recovered his health, is a priest who is particularly gifted in handling the clergy; but, the others also have their gifts - one in one particular field of work, another in a different field. So, whenever you would wish it, you could have them upon request, along with whatever you can work out with Canon Gonnelli. It would be sufficient for you to drop me a line, since the men in S. Felice in Giano would also be available as the needs arise.

In the meanwhile, continue always to protect this new Institute which forms the decorum of the secular clergy. I cannot express to you how much I long to see you in person. St. Francis de Sales says that God, occasionally, brings the times to maturity. You can read in my heart the very special affection that I hold for you *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*,²⁷ together with my very deep esteem for the many special gifts that adorn your person. Pray a lot for me. I kiss your hands, and reaffirm that I am always

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

672

January 16, 1823
Fr. Francesco De Luca
S. Lorenzo

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Francesco

The need that I have of going to Vallecorsa, and not being able to make the whole stretch at one time on horseback, obliges me to inconvenience you as follows. When I am traveling, I usually always stop off with the Capuchin Fathers, where, with holy freedom, I leave an alms and a bit of refreshment.

However, since I am unable to do this in your town, it is with the greatest reluctance, since I do not like to cause people inconveniences, that I find it necessary to take advantage of your charity for this very morning. The last time I was there, I was completely overwhelmed by all the trouble that your people took; this time, I ask that only a simple bit of refreshment could be prepared for my arrival, since I will be passing through quite rapidly. And, even though I shall not be able to respond to your people in the same way that I do for the communities of religious, I shall find some other appropriate means of fulfilling my obligations. I hear that, at the present time, brigandry is not

²⁷ Whom I love in unfeigned love in the heart of Jesus Christ.

causing trouble, so, I am coming without an escort. Pray for me. Give my compliments, in advance, to your people, and with esteem and affection, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Roccagorga, the 16th of 1823

P. S. Send quickly by express mail, at my expense, the enclosed.

673

January 16, 1823

Fr. Francesco De Luca

S. Lorenzo

Dear Father Francesco²⁸

The route to S. Lorenzo was not able to be followed since it is in disrepair. Consequently, I was obliged to stop off for refreshment in Prossedi, and presently I am on my way to Vallecorsa where I shall be awaiting a line from you, informing me of what expense you incurred for the mailing to Vallecorsa. I am very grateful to you for all your favors. Pray for me, decide on joining the Society, and consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

I wrote as soon as I could, while traveling.

674

January 18, 1823

Card. Luigi Ercolani

Rome

Your Eminence

Pursuant to a most appreciated letter of yours, since I had to pass through Sezze, I did not fail to stop off at the Monastery of the Holy Family. I observed that this vibrant Institute is carrying out a true Mission in that city, and, among other strong points, its teaching of Christian Doctrine is truly outstanding. I called to their attention the reasonableness of the decrees issued at the recent visitation of the excellent Monsignor Stracchini, and, on that occasion, I learned that a retreat was held for those to receive communion, with the Mother Superior assuring me, furthermore, that the economy of the monastery had not suffered any loss, and that things proceeded well, based on those opinions. This was all in accordance with what the Archdeacon, who was present then, mentioned to me, along with the report to your Eminence this past September.

However, from various other reports I have reason to believe that the monastery is in a state of need, taking into consideration the sparse returns of the season and the burdens that weigh heavily on their funds. The Superior suggested that perhaps now, when the offices of the Community will be undergoing changes, and with the change of the Chief Magistrate, the *Buon Governo* might

²⁸ This letter has no date, but it evidently has reference to the preceding one addressed to the same person. Merlini says that on January 16, 1823, S. Gaspar arrived in Vallecorsa.

decisively make an allotment for the programs of education, and in that way give their economy a bit of support. I mention this for the record. Your Eminence, since you are more informed about the situations, you will be able to decide better what is most feasible.

Finally, it seems to me that now that at the beginning of May there will be a change in the duties and offices, this should be preceded by a retreat and the appointment of an extraordinary confessor so as to implore more effectively the inspirations of the Lord. This is what has occurred to me to call to your attention with this letter, because, your most reverend Eminence, as far as I am concerned. I shall not fail to be of help with the good being done by this Institute of which we are speaking. Kissing the sacred purple, most reverend Eminence, while recommending myself wholeheartedly to your prayer, with the fulness of esteem and profound reverence, I remain

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Missionario Ap.

18th of 1821

Excuse me if I did not indicate the place from which this letter is being sent, which is Piperno, but, I am moving about in my travels to the other Mission Houses in the Province.

675

January 25, 1823

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

The Mission in Teramo, significantly blessed by God, has retarded the pleasure of my seeing your handwriting again. So, even though tardy, I do not wish to be remiss in my duties to send a reply to my most beloved Father Anacleto, assuring him of my sincerest esteem and affection which in no way at all has been diminished but has increased evermore in my heart. It is true that we are far from each other, for God wills that one be here and another there: "*Veni separare*."²⁹ But, our union in spirit is very, very close. Yes, *in Corde Jesu Christi ibi me invenies*.³⁰ In this open furnace, let us become saints, since *sumus hospites et advenae, et futuram gloriam inquirimus*.³¹

Above all, let us not be neglectful of our devotion to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. It would be a good idea to promote there the month of June, dedicated to the Blood of Jesus Christ. I do not know whether you are acquainted with the booklets for this devotion. Finally, a Hail Mary to your image of the most holy Mary at whose feet I intend to remain in spirit so as to merit more and more her most powerful intercession. A thousand greetings to our friends in common, and all the acquaintances. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Albano, the 25th of 1823

²⁹ I have come to divide.

³⁰ In the heart of Jesus Christ, there you will find me.

³¹ We are foreigners and aliens, and we look for future glory.

676

January 27, 1823
Fr. Vincenzo Annovazzi
Civitavecchia

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Father

There is a certain Girolamo Secapelo who is among the imprisoned there who keeps writing to me continuously, causing me to pay for the postage. Assure him that I can do nothing more than to make a recommendation in his behalf. Indeed, I have already done that and I will continue to do so. But, what is to be gained by his writing and re-writing the same thing? With your Salesian gentleness, convince him of this. I have pity for him, but the expense for postage that he compels me to sustain is really a useless thing.

I take advantage of this opportunity to ask you to introduce publicly the month of the most Precious Blood which begins with the first Sunday in June and ends on the first one in July. You probably already have the booklet; if not, let me know. How about the Oratory? I hope that it is flourishing well under your zealous leadership. Oh what a great work it is to draw men away from the taverns etc. to go to confession, promote the spirit of prayer etc. It is necessary to make every effort to activate such a salutary operation.

Very recently we have had the regulations put into print. You will be getting that. In the meanwhile, asking you for your prayers, with esteem I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Albano, the 27th of 1823

P. S. When the opportunity arises, a thousand greetings to his Eminence. Propagate the hours of adoration to the Blood of Jesus Christ to be observed on Fridays.

677

January 27, 1823
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I read your most appreciated letter and I am even more consoled to learn the good news concerning the Oratory. This is a tender plant that will continue to set its roots very deeply with the grace of God, and you will be consoled even more in gathering up its harvest.

Try to train companions and especially address yourself to the young people. The young people and the other men who frequent the Oratory will have precisely this grace, the sacrament of penance; you might, for example, spend three evenings at the Oratory etc. That is what we usually do in Rome and it is effective. In good fashion, the priests can lead them in this practice as a means of the apostolate, and, of course, there is prayer.

With regard to choir, it will be necessary to submit a petition, addressed to the Holy Father; actually it should be consigned to Cardinal Galeffi, but addressed to the Holy Father. You might

engage the services of Canon Muti, in my name. The statement should be very clear in order to avoid difficulties. I hope that, in time, the Oratory will be able to have the same liberty that is enjoyed, for example, in Rome at the Oratory of Father Caravita. I shall concern myself with the life of Xavier, but with regard to the devotions, how can anything be done far from Rome and with the baggage still in Ascoli? Because of the shortness of time, try to arrange things with the bishop's nephew, who does not lack connections. Since I am not in Rome, I am afraid that I will not be able to get things done in time. On a later occasion, I shall send you whatever you may desire. In reference to your brother, it is necessary that he indicate more clearly in what line he is aspiring, since I am not at all experienced in matters such as these. At any rate, by means of correspondence I would be able to direct him to some lawyer or curial friend of mine, and I will do so willingly. It would also be possible to wait and see who will be the most reverend auditor after the promotions are made. If it were someone of my acquaintanceship, I would be able to use that to his advantage. In the meantime, prayers.

Father Raffaele will now have a companion for the sanctified carnival time. In Lent, I shall send him help, and I too shall have to be in Frosinone. But, to be frank, the arrangement of a restricted lodging, the idea of a House, and not a Convent, is somewhat confusing. Here, too, let us say: prayers. The Institute would be able to be set up only in a fifth part of the building; the upper floor is still encumbered with renters. God will make things better.

The triduum for the brethren could be arranged as soon as I get to Frosinone, and at that time I will be able to send you Brandimarte. It is understood that you will be in contact with the bishop. Write and let me know this so that I can get him prepared. It could be arranged for the occasion of the feast of our Saint in March. The sea air agrees a great deal with Father Biagio, of a delicate temperament; at the close of the season, he will be able to return. But, for now, *ad quid?*³² I am looking forward to the moment when the Institute will be established in a just fashion in Frosinone. From Lent on, there will be no fewer than two men. Father Biagio will go, and, will come, so to speak, as the urgency requires.

Now, let us take up another point. For Ash Wednesday, I would like you to offer your services, in the name of our Society which, in short, is of the clergy, to conduct the Retreat for the nuns in Piperno. You would need no more than 15 days for the Retreat and the period of confessions. It seems to me that writing would be lacking and I could have you appointed in Rome by our Archconfraternity as a Missionary *in subsidium*,³³ completing everything before Ash Wednesday. Then, you could consider yourself like Tomei of Veroli, and could go there with the character of a Missionary at that time. It would not be difficult also that the Mission in Piperno could occur at the same time. Right now, I do not know. The bishop would not be opposed since he too, if he wishes, can have our Society at his disposal.

Oh what beautiful Missions we had in Teramo! We were 12 individuals; and for this work, even the number of men in the province were not enough. Now they are once again being gathered together. Oh how many requests! Greet all our friends, and especially Father Serafino. Tell him that I would be happy to spend a day of retreat again with him. Pray a lot for me. Try to carry out for me what I have requested of you. Let us be of assistance to each other, and let us become saints. If you are unable, please urge Canon dell'Uomo to accept; I presume that he can hear confessions and

³² As to which?

³³ For support.

preach, even though preaching to nuns is not hard work. He was a close friend of our founder, the holy bishop Albertini. But, *in primis*,³⁴ I would prefer to have you. Once again, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Albano, the 27th of 1823

Send your consoling and prompt reply to Albano. Conduct the sanctified carnival time by promoting the Chaplet to the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Encourage also the hours of adoration on all the Fridays of the year to the Divine Blood, as well as the month which extends from the first Sunday in June to the first Sunday in July. If you do not have the booklet, I will send you one.

Is there anyone there who enrolls in the Immacolata? Ask Father Lettore Campolongo whether he received the devotional materials and the certificates which I was supposed to send him. If he has not, I shall supply at the earliest possible time. Give my good wishes to the bishop, etc.

678

January 28, 1823

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

Tardily, I am sending a reply to your very dear letter. Here, in short, is what I must say: 1. With regard to the solemn month of the most Precious Blood, you should work things out with Father Vincenzo, to whom I have already written about this. 2. Support him on the plan which I have already submitted to him concerning the foundation in Ascoli. May God be willing that I could do more for so holy a project. 3. Look after the Oratory *enixe*,³⁵ the pious organizations etc. You can withdraw the printing of the prayers, in favor of some other good work; I have not received them and I no longer have a need for them.

I would be delighted if you would be obedient in one thing. And, what is that? Here it is: you are to offer many prayers in front of the sacred relic, and then join to them those meditations that you are able to make on the devotion to the most Precious Blood. Write them down and send them on to me. This is something that is just between us. God wishes to have this good work from you. Encourage as many as you can to love Jesus Christ. Furthermore, I would like to see the life of the Venerable Vitelli made available in Fuligno. It would be of great benefit. Encourage, wherever you can, the work of the Oratories. Along with your wife, pray a great deal for me. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Albano, the 28th of 1823

³⁴ At the beginning.

³⁵ Eagerly.

679

January 29, 1823
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
 Bishop of Agatopoli
 Roma

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My most beloved Msgr.

I am enclosing for you the present memorandum, the fruit of the Missions in the Diocese of Teramo, plus another one similar to it, which you will please draw up for the people of Poggio, of the aforementioned Diocese. In both, the people want to erect a Confraternity of the Sorrowful Mother. Since the procedures in the Kingdom are somewhat different in practice from those of the Papal State, although it cannot be denied that I found in these people the greatest docility, I would like to straighten things out in the following way to the glory also of our Archconfraternity. I would present two requests for the two groups and would say that they wish to erect a Confraternity under the title of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, of Sorrowful Mary and of St. Francis Xavier, to be aggregated then to our Archconfraternity.

Observing the formalities that I have in mind pertinent to the Nunzio of Naples, once the Briefs are obtained, they will be able to participate in all the Indulgences and promote all the good possible for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls, according to etc. The habit of the Brethren should be as follows: a red cassock, black mozzetta and a long black sash; two rosaries on the side: one of the Precious Blood and the other of the Sorrowful Mother; a hood, and an emblem made up as follows: a Crucifix streaming blood, more or less, with the sorrowful Mother on the right and St. Francis Xavier on the left. This would be an accidental change of the same habit as that of S. Nicola. It would be well to mention in the Briefs that small alteration so that there will be no doubt as to its inclusion.

We will be fortunate if we get this project underway, and oh, what a broad field it will open up for our Archconfraternity. Do all with that zeal that animates you for the glory of the Divine Blood. In my name, too, you could have a discussion with Canon Fiaschetti who at one time was (and perhaps he still is now) in the Collegio Capranica, now employed at the Secretariat of Briefs, and you could obtain that *concessio propter amorem Sanguini J.X. cui omnia*.³⁶

I am with particular affection and attachment

Your loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Albano
 29th of 1823

P. S. Send a certificate of aggregator to Fr. Aldebrando Tanzi for enrolling in Santomero, Diocese of Teramo. The letter should be sent: = Naples to Teramo to Santomero =. You will have to pay a few *bajocchi* since it goes outside the Papal State.

I am drawing up another similar petition for Corropoli, Diocese of Teramo. This should be set up in good form and in keeping with the rules that I like to see carried out.

³⁶ A concession because of love for the blood of Jesus Christ to whom belongs everything.

Insuper,³⁷ have them add to the Brief for all of the petitioning towns: *ex speciali facultate, ac de novo, concedimus, etc.*,³⁸ and here mention some Indulgences for the Sorrowful Mother. Furthermore, I would like them to add the faculty that on the first³⁹ of July they have permission to say the Mass of the Most Precious Blood in those churches, every time that they practice the month, (oh, what a beautiful sound), despite the fact that they may have celebrated the Mass at another time of the year. Also, that there should be a Plenary Indulgence on the feast of the Sorrowful Mother and of St. Xavier, on the 3rd of December, and the 12th of March. (Remember the Novena in S. Nicola and the Image⁴⁰ that would be a permanent one on one of the altars). If the Archconfraternity does not get all these privileges, making use of this occasion of aggregation, procure them first with a separate Brief; and then, all that will be necessary is to aggregate, etc. I would suggest that you should not propose the rules that they talk about in one of the petitions; it is quite adequate to be general. I will see that you get the booklet if you need it.

P. S. Do not be surprised if you run into difficulties. Prayers and persistence. Do not leave it half-done.

There should be some Indulgences for the feast *Auxilium Christianorum*, a title mentioned in the Chaplets, if I am not mistaken. A plenary one would be desired. If there are expenses, let me know first. Perhaps one might have the requests made directly to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Briefs, by someone who has connections. Think about it for a while; I will also keep it in mind until I get another letter from you.

680

January 29, 1823
 Msgr. Francesco Bonomo
 Bishop of Gaeta
 Gaeta

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

After having attended the meetings in Vallecorsa dealing with the new foundation, it is now my duty to renew with your most reverend excellency my feelings of esteem and veneration, along with a most personal acknowledgment of gratitude in particular for your having taken on the charitable task of obtaining from the Court of Naples the collections which will be used in facilitating the work undertaken there. I do not know whether, on the occasion of the Lenten preaching, it was an easy thing for you to have directed the taking of a collection throughout the entire Diocese for so important a project. The prayers and the joint communal activity will call down from God his most special blessings on our work.

Presently, I am trying to arrange for another room in the hospice where we are living so that we will have permanent space for still another worker. Whenever you have retreatants available, if you wish, we shall continue making contact in the Convento del Ritiro, since we are assured of the

³⁷ Moreover.

³⁸ By special faculty and anew, we grant etc.

³⁹ Here one must understand the word "Sunday".

⁴⁰ *Ovatino, ovato*. A word that has fallen into disuse. It means: oval, and, as a noun, a space of an oval figure (a niche, etc.) Here the Saint means: an image of St. Francis Xavier framed in an oval cornice, to be situated on an altar.

kind cooperation of the religious there, who will not deny us the favor because of the blessed harmony of charity that governs both of our Institutes. Or, you might keep in mind the locales that we have in the vicinity of Terracina. I wish that the Lord would grant me the opportunity to greet you personally.

In the meantime, pray a great deal for me, for I shall not fail to offer my petitions to the Almighty for whatever may be your needs. In any way at all that I can be of service to you, just give me your command, for it will be an honor for me and for my companions to be obedient to you. While kissing your hands, most reverend excellency, and in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I assure you that I am

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Apostolico

Mission and Retreat⁴¹ House in Albano, the 29th of 1823

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January 31, 1823

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

I am enclosing a memorandum which I would like you to present, if you will in my name personally, to Cardinal Galeffi in order to obtain the rescript; or, you might approach Monsignor Sala. However, Cardinal Galeffi or Menochio would be better for getting the rescript or the Brief. You make the decision. But, please, see that what is requested is obtained. It is not possible to describe the full extent of our occupations and the activity that they demand, as well as personal attention. Let us keep seeing each other in the Divine Heart, and, with the usual very special affection, though in a hurry, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Albano, the 31st of 1823

If necessary, prepare the petition according to regulations, and see that the enclosed is placed in the Archives.

682

February 6, 1823

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

⁴¹ The copy of this letter has the word "Quaresimali" here, but in the original, it surely must have been the word "Esercizi".

Dear Giovanni Francesco

The priest to whom you wrote, by the name of Pierantozzi, was aspiring to become a Missionary, but, it is understood that he would enter as a novice *pro interim*.⁴² However, it appears that nothing will be able to be concluded if the bishop is opposed, and I do not want to interfere. I told him that he should think about using another method. Pray for him.

With regard to the pep talks out on the streets, which have been suspended to my surprise, Father Giovanelli should see to it that they are resumed in Lent. That is what is done in Ascoli. One must not be frightened when occupied in doing good. Prayer and action. The pep talks are given in Rome, and they cannot be given in Offida. Even good people are misunderstood at times, though without malice.

As for the lesson concerning the Madonna, you could supply by reading aloud from a book that treats of the most holy Mary. Pray for me, a lot, and continuously. Let us make an agreement to share whatever good work that we do, and the first one to get into heaven will serve as an advocate for the other; likewise, he will solicit suffrages upon the receipt of the notice of the other's death. *Ora pro me. Sum tuus ex corde*.⁴³

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

February 6⁴⁴

683

February 8, 1823

Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

Your letter that reached me was most delightful and I thank you for it. You should begin the Chaplet to the Sacred Heart in the Oratory, just as you mentioned. The reasons that you offer persuade me that you should be separated from Piperno. The Oratory there is very close to my heart. Concerning this, God will assign a ministry to you for *in omnibus voluntas eius sit pro nobis lectulus floridus, etc.*⁴⁵ Give my best regards to Canon Trulli, Canon dell'Uomo and Mr. Cerica, and recommend me to their prayers. I need say nothing more to you. We are united in a special way *in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi*.⁴⁶ If I am unable to work things out otherwise, I shall call upon Canon Trulli, concerning whom you point out some difficulties. But, in any case, in a pinch it will be you or the Canon who will go. Prayers, and we shall see what the will of God is.

With respect to the triduum, namely the reflections for the preacher and the achieving of the greatest good, since it would be conducted during the daytime, it could be deferred until after Easter,

⁴² For the time being.

⁴³ Pray for me. I am yours from the heart.

⁴⁴ When comparing this letter to the one to Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli (No. 687) of February 16, 1823, in which he speaks of Pierantozzi, we conclude that this letter also is to be assigned to 1823.

⁴⁵ In all things may his will be for us a bed of flowers.

⁴⁶ In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

if you think it a good idea. What do you say? If you consider it best for during Lent, all you need do is say the word. You will see that God will provide some locale or other to be set up for the Oratory, etc. Such news would quiet even the present Rector L. I shall obtain for you the faculty of enrolling people in the Immacolata organization. Return my warm greetings to the most reverend bishop and to anyone else who has a remembrance of me, especially, however, to Father Serafino. Take care of yourself, pray for me and consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

February 8, 1823

P. S. It is understood that during Lent, one is likewise to preach in the square for the services in the Oratory. I shall not forget your brother.

684

February 13, 1823

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

It is necessary that I make use of your assistance or that of Canon Trulli in behalf of the nuns in Pigerno; and, in order to have the consolation of being together, this good work will be arranged for Lent at the same time that the Mission is to be conducted there, since the Lenten preaching will not be scheduled. Consider this letter as a confirmation of that, and along with the bishop, pray. The one who will be coming should prepare for himself the cincture and the Crucifix, and in the meantime I shall see that he is aggregated in Rome as a Missionary *in subsidium*.⁴⁷ If Canon Trulli concerns himself to take care of the Oratory, you come; if you are unable, then Canon Trulli should come. I shall give no further thought to this. I will be able later to designate the point of our reunion. In the meantime, stand by this direction and be prepared for any new information. Asking you for your prayers, with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, by way of Vallecorsa, February 13, 1823

685

February 13, 1823

Fr. Francesco De Luca

S. Lorenzo

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Francesco

Urgently, I am inconveniencing you now in behalf of the companion who, bearing this letter, will be going to Sonnino. I ask you to have him in for dinner, and I shall try to fulfill my obligations

⁴⁷ For support.

in some way, at least, without exempting myself from the obligations I profess toward you. Give my greetings to all of your people, pray for me, and though in a hurry, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Vallecorsa, February 13⁴⁸

686

Middle of February, 1823

Msgr. Francesco Bonomo

Bishop of Gaeta

Gaeta

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

Since I am in Vallecorsa, I hope to be able to come to see you to give you personally my best wishes, even though for only a few moments. In person, I shall be able to describe better the things that are being done by our Society for the greater honor and glory of God. I seize this opportunity, also, most reverend excellency, for renewing my esteem and veneration for you, and, kissing your hands and asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. Presently, the House in Benevento is being set up⁴⁹ and you will be able to have a closer communication with the one in Vallecorsa etc. and bring about great good. As I usually do, when I come, I shall inconvenience the Capuchin Fathers with no notable expense on their part.

687

February 16, 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Giomannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Giovannelli

Thank you for the efforts you made with regard to the baggage. *Dominus retribuet pro me.*⁵⁰ I also thank you for your concerns with respect to Father Luigi Marini. Patience. Pray a great deal for all the good work that is being done during Lent. With regard to the Retreat in June, I will think about the two members, but I will not send them unless the bishop writes to me first, or at least, that you will write to me as a commitment. Be assured, indeed, that I shall not cease doing all that I can

⁴⁸ This letter does not have the year indicated. It seems, however, that it should be assigned the year 1823, the year in which S. Gaspar was in Vallecorsa on the 13th of February, as is noted in both the preceding and following letters.

⁴⁹ The letter does not have a date, but from the reference to the upcoming foundation of the House in Benevento, whose rescript was issued February 24, 1823, this letter, without doubt, must be assigned to the year 1823, and with the greatest probability to the middle of February, rather than to the 16-17 of January, when St. Gaspar went, quite hurriedly, to Vallecorsa.

⁵⁰ The Lord will repay in my behalf.

for your Congregation which is very dear to me. But I am almost never in Rome; still, one is able to be of help with other ways of support. Who is the Cardinal Protector of Ascoli? They should prepare a petition for him and they should advise me or it presently. Let us not become discouraged.

As for the Church of S. Agostino, we would need a petition from the Ordinary or a project letter, so that I could show it to the Treasurer. One or the other should form the topic of another prompt reply to this letter. From Ascoli, you should cultivate the diocese of Teramo. In Giulia, they were, for a short time, desirous of activating an Oratory. You could write about it to Canon Forcina in Teramo. The brethren there could also do so on their own. It would take just a little effort to visit a Via Crucis, for example, etc., etc., etc. I am looking for good results from the Novena in March. You should preach for that.

Now, then, there is a certain Pierantozzi from Offida who is in contention with the bishop there. I do not wish to enter into the merits of the case since I do not wish to interfere. But, with the situation becoming even a bit more deplorable, all I can say is that even a Saul was a persecutor of the Church and then became an apostle. I am a lover of exactness, nor do I overlook the instructions for the clergy, but the one situation can be balanced out with the other, and, with the bishop having from time to time an indication of the man's moderation, why should they not be able to work out something, etc.? I am writing, in a confused manner, without really knowing all the details. I repeat that I hope they come to a prudential judgment because the poor Pierantozzi is in a desolate state, and, furthermore, Father Biagio Valentini assures me of the man's zealous conduct in Terracina. Kissing your hands and asking for your prayers, with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

February 15, 1823⁵¹

688

February 28, 1823

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

Please have his Eminence Galeffi affix his signature for the rescript to the enclosed petition, and I recommend it to your zeal. Pray a lot for me. Though in a hurry, most illustrious and reverend lordship, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, February 28, 1823

689

February 28, 1823

⁵¹ The letter was mailed from Frosinone, seen from the postal mark.

Mr. Giovanni Di Mattia
Vallecorsa

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Chief Magistrate

A couple of lines in a hurry. You will be taken care of completely; have no doubt about it; and I hope that everything turns out well. Let us recommend each other mutually to God. It is not necessary that I recommend to you the Lenten preacher. With esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, February 28, 1823⁵²

690

February-March 1823

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My most venerable Monsignor and dearest brother⁵³

I am enclosing the package for Monsignor Odescalchi, with whom, however, it will be necessary to have a personal meeting; see that you contact him when he goes to Mr. Roberti's for the Mission.

In short, in order to have him succeed with decorum from the rescript of endowments, I suggest that: *firma permanendo voluntate testatoris, mens ipsa adimpleatur unica mesuali visitatione pro infirmis etc. quae quidem visitatio a quocumque etiam Confessario deputato a Missionariis etc. adimpleri possit et non aliter, supplendo in reliquis etc.*⁵⁴ With this condition, we will be successful; and, in that way, the first document will be valid, and *unico actu*⁵⁵ a request for the arrear payments will be made to cover the debts etc. and the current maintenance etc. With regard to the matrimonial dispensations, I shall write later and I will give you a reply in due time. In the meanwhile, preserve the papers.

As for the ex-Vicar Gaspari, to whom you will extend a thousand greetings for me, tell him that he should get the bishop to send to him the petition in due curial form to the Treasurer, and he then will present it; or, if you wish to dispense from that, Monsignor Marchetti himself could present that petition directly to the Treasurer. Observing this procedure is commendable for our Institute, and that is how Cadolini has gone about it. Furthermore, it will be easier for the Treasurer to be of

⁵² The year appears to have been written with a different handwriting.

⁵³ This letter does not have a date. From the context, we conclude that it is certainly prior to March 10, 1823, the date on which Odescalchi and Falzacappa, referred here in this letter merely with the title of Monsignor, were made Cardinals. Furthermore, reference is made here to a "petition" to be sent to the General Treasurer Monsignor Cristaldi, namely, the permission for a Mission House in Cesena. According to Merlini Monsignor Cristaldi obtained the rescript on March 29, 1823. Therefore, this letter must be assigned to February-March of 1823.

⁵⁴ By adhering to the firm will of the testator, let the intent be fulfilled by one monthly visit to the sick; this visit could be made by anyone, even the confessor sent by the Missionaries, etc. and not otherwise by making good in the remainder, etc.

⁵⁵ By a single act.

help to the institution, for otherwise if we were to present it as coming from us with a burst of eagerness, it would appear as though we, on our own initiative, were interfering, which is something that *non expedit*,⁵⁶ in addition, we would prevent any later good from being done for the betterment of those places from a temporal point of view. The granting of 40 *scudi* is really nothing at all. Free-will offerings are uncertain. To be frank, (let this be between us), afflicted *undequaque*⁵⁷ by temporal matters, I would not wish to amplify the anguish unless it were very clearly and evidently the will of God.

Now that Monsignor Gasparri is settled in Rome, I would like to see him declared in full assembly as the promotor of the good work of our Archconfraternity and be able to contact the various organizations so as to strengthen them and make them more authoritative. One is incapable of describing how involved this man is with the work of our Society. Extend to him my sincere gratitude and affection in Jesus Christ. Everything that I have said up to here, I submit to your consideration and to your good judgment. To Monsignor Odescalchi, I say that you will explain everything more clearly in person. I am convinced of your intelligence and *quasi aliud agens*⁵⁸ in your discussion, you will bring everything clearly to the aforementioned prelate. The same holds for Monsignor Falsacappa as well as Cristaldi. For others, however, *negative etiamsi adscripti*.⁵⁹ Presently I do not see that there are any reasons that have sufficient weight to be revealed to the aforementioned prelates. That is all for the time being. *De reliquis in posterum. Gratia Dei nobiscum. Sum tuus ex corde*.⁶⁰

G. C. d. B.

P. S. The lighting should be placed in the charge of the brethren or private individuals, since, as you know, the administration of the hospice is faced with quite a number of problems. Carlo, in Albano, is almost always sick. Patience. God will take care of things. Otherwise, let us be charged *uti singuli etc.*⁶¹

691

March 6, 1823
Msgr. Nicola Mattei
Archbishop of Camerina
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Fr. Martino Bartoccini has asked me to bring to your attention what is contained in the enclosed sheet which I have decided to send you. I take this opportunity also, most venerable Monsignor, (while asking for your prayers), to renew my esteem and respect for you.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

⁵⁶ It is not expedient.

⁵⁷ Whence whatsoever.

⁵⁸ As if doing something else.

⁵⁹ Even negatively reputed.

⁶⁰ About the rest in the future. The grace of God be with you. I am yours from the heart.

⁶¹ As individuals, etc.

Mis. Ap.
Piperno, March 6, 1823

692

March 6, 1823
Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

Your handwriting is likewise most pleasing for me to see, and I can say to you that my spiritual union with you looks forward to that inseparable union we will have in Paradise. May the Lord grant to us now those special graces that will assure us of the eternal possession of heaven.

Do not cease insisting on the *fervorinos*. This is really a great good for souls! I would be pleased to receive a copy of your meditations. Do not fail to include those inspirations which God will give you. You know that God *ubi vult spirat*.⁶² We are nothing, and yet God will make use of whomever he wishes.

With regard to your son, I will say nothing more to you than to point out what the mother of Tobias did, entrusting her son to a St. Rafael. You know the story well, and how she eagerly kept trace of him. I, in fact, am opposed to the idea of his being away from your watchful eyes as well as that of his excellent mother, whom you will ask to pray for me. Indeed, I am of the opinion, with regard to you, that you should make every effort to train him yourself, setting aside any idea of sending him to any Collegio. It is true that you speak to me of the Jesuits, but, without meaning to do harm to anyone at all, I feel inspired to say no to you, even though I may have said yes to someone else. That is my definite and resolute response. Alas, we are living in times when the castigations are not at an end and the destruction of the world is indescribable. Please adhere to my advice. Pray a lot for me and promote our devotion. *In corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit sanguine*,⁶³ consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.
Piperno, March 6, 1823

693

March 6, 1823
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ
and the Divine Heart that shed it

My dearest in the Lord

The news concerning the death of your beloved mother has filled my mind with those sacred thoughts that God gives us, joining our hearts together. Oh to how many ills here below has she

⁶² He blows where he wills.

⁶³ In the heart of Jesus Christ who has redeemed us in his blood.

closed her eyes, and in what a safe haven does she now find herself, never to lose the beloved treasure for which we all must hope in keeping with a life conducted etc. Oh! It is now up to us to prepare ourselves well for the eternal years! *Cogitanti vilescent omnia.*⁶⁴ Pray a lot so that God will grant to me, a miserable one, a happy departure; I shall not fail to do the same for you. More than this you can read in my heart.

I have already requested the relic of Xavier in Rome. I shall remind Fr. Biagio about the formula. Support the Oratory with your prayers, and quickly carry out your duties, *opus enim maximum habes etc.*⁶⁵ It is true that I shall be going to Veroli. Gladly do I look forward to seeing you again, *et os ad os loquemur. Saluta amicos nominatim.*⁶⁶ Keep in mind the *nolite contristari etc.*⁶⁷ A thousand heavenly best wishes to Father Serafino. *Sum tuus ex corde in Jesus Christi Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit Sanguine.*⁶⁸

G. C. d. B.

Piperno, March 6

You would do me a favor by taking care of the Three Hours Service in Piperno, in the name of our Society; it is understood that the travel expenses will be covered by us. Later, I shall have you enrolled *in subsidium etc.*⁶⁹ Please say yes.⁷⁰

694

March 20, 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Bellenghi

Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Vincenzo

With regard to the two Missionaries, you will be obeyed. I would like to know, at the earliest possible time, if the first 15 days will be in Offida or in Ascoli. The Missionaries will inform you in person about the method to be used, and they will also bring along the booklets. Everything will be arranged according to what is judged to be expedient for the glory of the Lord.

A thousand heavenly greetings to Father Giovannelli; tell him that the cost for the booklets will be an *Ave Maria* for me.

With regard to your affairs, more information is needed. If it is a matter of justice, be assured that the Treasurer is ready to supply for any mistake. If as a favor, it is useless to give him the inconvenience. Do not prescind from the general procedure. At least it is certain that it would not be achievable by me; you might try another approach.

With the bishop wanting the church of S. Agostino, send the petition quickly, using your representative in Rome, for I am almost never in Rome. However, it is a good idea for you to address your letters to me to Rome. For that reason, tell Father Giovannelli that in behalf of the Filippini

⁶⁴ To the thinking person all things become worthless.

⁶⁵ For you have a very large work, etc.

⁶⁶ And we shall speak face to face. Greetings to the friends by name.

⁶⁷ Do not be sad, etc.

⁶⁸ I am yours from the heart in Jesus Christ crucified who has redeemed us in his blood.

⁶⁹ For support.

⁷⁰ This postscript was written on the outer covering, near the address.

Fathers, he should have Canon de Angelis, if I am not mistaken, to act for them. You know that for matters such as these one should have a person who gets around. I could scarcely give you a yes or a no, even though I would love to have the clarity and the simplicity of De Sales in all things.

With regard to S. Agostino, I am enclosing the response obtained from Father Sansori in Rome by means of a priest-friend of mine.

I have not located the letter concerning the books ordered by Mr. Palmucci; so, try to get that information to me. Do not ever say again that your most beloved letters are an inconvenience to me. You always do me a favor by writing to me. Take care of yourself and pray a lot for me so that I will belong entirely to Jesus. I repeat my thousand greetings to my most beloved Father Giovannelli *vir vere juxta cor Dei*.⁷¹ If the Missionaries are to conduct the Retreat for the clergy and the one for the nobility, in addition to the general public, please send me word for my own information. I am hopeful that they will do good work. Tell our Father Emidio Bellini that I have received his letter and that I shall be sending him a response. In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Veroli, March 20, 1823

695

March 29, 1523

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Monsignor and brother

I shall send a reply about everything to the most reverend bishop of Cesena. But, not in this ordinary mail delivery. You can anticipate this to him, suggesting that he occupy himself in obtaining a local that is free as well as the compensations.

As for the rest, I repeat, I shall send him a letter. It is not necessary to communicate to the Treasurer the information concerning the 100 *scudi* of income, and you yourself recognize the reasonableness of this. In general, I assure you that I shall not fail to cooperate in bringing about this good work. Prayers. I mentioned that it is not necessary to communicate this to the Treasurer since he already asserts that he will not designate anything, so, it will be proper to consider other means.

I would like to have a bit of explanation concerning the difficulties involved in the petitions to his Eminence Galeffi, since delaying them is detrimental. Have no doubt, we shall straighten out those difficulties, and, I hope that my replies will be clearer than my own voice. This is not in reference to the regulations that are presented by the *prima primaria*.⁷² That matters little. The book will be changed, seeing that a copy is provided from the ones that Monsignor Caprano has, for he is the head of the *prima primaria*. This has to do with the method; for me it is sufficient that they add this expression: most Precious Blood, and that the members be authorized in the best way possible from the beginning. Later, we will proceed further. Then, too, there are other tasks that prevent us

⁷¹ A man truly according to the heart of God.

⁷² The best things first.

from these reflections. I am referring to the ones already entrusted to your zeal. Be assured that in all of this you will merit a great deal in the eyes of God.

Within a few days, we shall have the opening of the House in Benevento. In my name, please give this information to their Eminences, Pacca and Pedicini, whenever you have the opportunity of seeing them. It is not possible to describe the merits that our Canon Betti has achieved in this work. When you can, contact also the Archbishop of Camerino, giving him my very, very best wishes, and tell him that *raucae factae sunt fauces meae*,⁷³ recommending to the Treasurer the House in Pievetorina. He, too, should continue being insistent. We are hopeful that the Treasurer will explain himself, but *dubito valde*.⁷⁴ Tell the same Archbishop that I shall not write to him in order to spare him postal charges and that I have nothing more to say to him except that he should pray for me.

As for the *Buon Consiglio* locale, I shall write in another ordinary mail delivery. With esteem and the most sincere affection, I am wholeheartedly

Your devoted and fraternal friend

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Terracina, March 29

Tell his Eminence Galeffi, to whom you will give my good wishes, that in Albano, without doing wrong to the others, an excellent Superior will soon be appointed in the person of Canon Gonnelli.

696

April 1, 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Bonacci

Piglio

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Thank you for your letter. I do not know how to express the true delight that I experienced in learning of the good that is being promoted there. *Laus Deo in omnibus*,⁷⁵ and what a reason for comfort for the good Evangelical Workers!

Do they ever recite at any time during the year the Office of the most Precious Blood? This information is necessary. The next time I go to Rome, I shall occupy myself in this very important good work.

As for you, the Lord will reward you for your good intentions! *Quod Domino placet fiat. Ora pro me*.⁷⁶ And with the usual esteem and affection, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Terracina april 1, 1823

⁷³ My throat has become hoarse.

⁷⁴ I strongly doubt.

⁷⁵ Praise to God in all things.

⁷⁶ Let there be what pleases the Lord. Pray for me.

Prepare a solemn month of observance for the most Precious Blood!

697

April 1, 1823
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
 Bishop of Agatopoli
 S. Nicola in Carcere
 Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Msgr. and beloved brother

I would approve the renting of *Buon Consiglio* only for six months, with the clause that, if after the fourth month the lease is not renewed, the contract will be voided. That is exactly how I feel about this matter.

I am writing in a hurry. Pray much for me. Try to increase the number of our contributors. The Society has so much to offer. Prayers.

In regard to preaching the month of the Precious Blood for the Archconfraternity, I would suggest that we make this a regular thing for our Society, to avoid further misunderstandings in the matter. To determine who will do the preaching, one year at a time, you make your suggestion half-a-year ahead, and that way it will be taken care of peacefully. I am saying this, or rather, I am suggesting this because of the discussions of last year. I leave the whole thing to your wisdom.

In case you have to write: Frosinone.

*Sum tuus ex corde in Corde J.X. Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit Sanguine.*⁷⁷

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Terracina, April 1, 1823

698

April 11, 1823
 Fr. Francesco Maria Pierantonj
 Sezze per Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francesco

Tell Pacifico that his package is prepared. Try to contact someone who is coming to Frosinone, and it will be delivered. I wish that you would let me know what kind of inconvenience has occurred to the Archpriest of that Cathedral because of the transfer to Piperno of Fr. Bertoni. I am asking this for my own reasons, not wanting him to have to bear the expenses.

I thank God that you are at ease with the new man who has come. He will conduct the Month in Rome; then, he will have to go to his home town for personal affairs; but, he will return. See if you can use him as a third man. In this period of time, I shall be attempting to get another companion. But, you are to offer prayers. I consider it very proper for the Gonfalonier, etc. to encourage the aforementioned Fr. Bertoni. Assist him with the generosity that is so characteristic of

⁷⁷ I am yours from the heart in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified who has redeemed us in his blood.

you; encourage him to join the Society; and never show discouragement, etc.

With reference to the Brothers, I shall not change them, you can be sure. I would like you to think of two things: 1) that I would like Br. Paolo to make the Retreat called for by the rule, the best way possible; and I ask you to give it, and give me an answer on it; 2) I would not want a third brother to be superfluous. At any rate, I leave it up to you: your will is my will. Insist on the observance of the rule. Subtract the mailing cost to Albano from the Mass stipends.

It would be a good idea for you to make preparations to preach the Month of June. Please, do not give up preaching. Send Canon Bertoni to give the visitant sermons if you think it best. He would get a better idea of the good work that can be done, etc.

May Jesus and Mary be with us, and I am in his most loving Heart

your

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, April 11, 1823

P. S. When you have extra Masses, send them to me, but not so much of a limitation on the time element. If it should so happen that you get some stipends of a couple of paoli, give some also to Canon Bertoni. Provide him with paper, etc; anticipate in this manner every desire of his, *iuxta regulas*,⁷⁸ however. Since he is older, he requires these attentions from us. He is very happy being with you.

699

April 12, 1823

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My Venerable Msgr. and brother etc.

You have probably made arrangements already for May 3rd. If not, I think that Canon La Monaca would be available and, in case he cannot, Father Gianfrancesco of the Polveriera section, to whom I would like you to give the job of preaching the Octave, after our Month. The Preacher in charge of the Month is Canon Fr. Gaetano Bertoni, one of our Missionaries. I would like to know the date on which this great work will begin.

Nothing else comes to mind except to remind you in general of all the things entrusted to your zeal, concerning which I pray for the most energetic activity possible. On the occasion when they move the remains of our mutual Father in Terracina, the Bishop who succeeded him will give the Homily, so he would like an abstract of the life of Albertini. Take it upon yourself, therefore, to do this task. Join to it the information that you can get from the newly-purpled one. Then, send the sheet to me, for I will add to it subsequently whatever comes to my mind. Let us at least produce whatever is available. You take care of it.

The time of my return and limited stay in Rome will depend on a letter. At this moment I cannot indicate to you the exact date. At that time we will have a meeting for the purpose of a

⁷⁸ According to the rules.

review. I would like you to postpone the matter of the leasing of *Buon Consiglio* until my return, if that can be done.

Pray a lot for me, and with the fullness of affection and esteem in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I am

your

Humble, devoted, obliged Serv. and brother

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, April 12, 1823

Do not forget the suffrages required for the contributors, etc., whose number I pray will grow, etc.

700

August 12, (1823)

Sante Angelini⁷⁹

S Felice di Giano

[fragment]

A thousand greetings of heaven to Giosafat.

Frosinone, August 12⁸⁰

⁷⁹ Of this letter and of the other two letters that follow (Letters n. 125 and n. 126; November 10, 1823 and August 31, 1823), Merlini, in an annotation placed in his own handwriting in the volume of the originals, says: "Three fragments of letters written by the deceased Can. Fr. Gasp. del Bufalo at S. Felice of Giano to Brother Sante Angelini, and sent to me through the mails by the latter. Giov. Merlini Mis."

⁸⁰ In what year was this letter written, of which there remains only a few words? Not before 1822, because the House at Frosinone was opened in March of that year (and it does not appear that the Saint was there for a ministry or anything else, in the preceding years, starting from the year 1819 when Sante entered his period of Probation); nor after 1823, because Giosafat Petrocchi died on December 20 of that same year. All that is left are the years 1822 and 1823. In August of 1822, we find the Saint giving a Mission in Forlimpopoli. Therefore, only 1823 remains. The biographers do not record this stay of the Saint in Frosinone; but it cannot be doubted, since the Saint himself, in writing to Cristaldi on July 29, 1823, says: "I will see your handwriting in Frosinone, where I ask you to write a few lines to me".