

St. Gaspar's Letter

851- 900

Letter Number	Date	Page
851. Msgr. Gaetano Bonanni, Norcia,	<i>8 March 1824</i>	685
852. Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi, Sermoneta,	<i>8 March 1824</i>	685
853. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, Roma,	<i>middle of March 1824</i>	685
854. Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci, Offida,	<i>11 March 1824</i>	686
855. Fr. Pietro Butti, Alatri,	<i>14 March 1824</i>	687
856. Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi, Sermoneta,	<i>18 March 1824</i>	687
857. Msgr. Domenico Ricciardone, Penne,	<i>22 March 1824</i>	688
858. Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi, Sermoneta,	<i>28 March 1824</i>	689
859. Fr. Gaspere Carboneri, Sonnino,	<i>first part of April 1824</i>	689
860. Orario per le Missioni		692
861. Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci, Guarcino,	<i>2 April 1824</i>	693
862. Fr. Giacomo Giorgi, Bassiano,	<i>3 April 1824</i>	693
863. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, Roma,	<i>5 April 1824</i>	694
864. Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci, Guarcino,	<i>5 April 1824</i>	695
865. Fr. Filippo Bonderl, Morolo,	<i>5 April 1824</i>	695
866. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, Roma,	<i>9 April 1824</i>	696
867. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, Roma,	<i>9 April 1824</i>	697
868. Fr. Giacomo Giorgi, Bassiano,	<i>9 April 1824</i>	699
869. Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi, Sermoneta,	<i>9 April 1824</i>	699
870. Fr. Filippo Bonderl, Morolo,	<i>11 April 1824</i>	701
871. Fr. Ferdinando Angelici, Santanatolia,	<i>11 April 1824</i>	701
872. Mr. Giovanni Francesco Micheli, Offida,	<i>11 April 1824</i>	702
873. Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci, Offida,	<i>14 April 1824</i>	702
874. Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci, Guarcino,	<i>14 April 1824</i>	703
875. Msgr. Francesco Bonomo, Gaeta,	<i>14 April 1824</i>	703
876. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, Roma,	<i>24 April 1824</i>	704
877. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, Roma,	<i>24 April 1824</i>	705
878. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, Roma,	<i>24 April 1824</i>	707
879. Fr. Luigi Moscatelli, Albano,	<i>26 April 1824</i>	708
880. Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi, Sermoneta,	<i>26 April 1824</i>	708
881. Miss Luigia Del Bufalo, Roma,	<i>28 April 1824</i>	709
882. Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli, Roma,	<i>2 May 1824</i>	709
883. Msgr. Francesco Bonomo, Gaeta,	<i>8 May 1824</i>	710
884. Fr. Francesco Saverio Lanna, Sora,	<i>11 May 1824</i>	711
885. Msgr. Francesco Bonomo, Gaeta,	<i>11 May 1824</i>	711
886. Fr. Giacomo Giorgi, Alatri,	<i>May 1824</i>	711
887. Fr. Giacomo Giorgi, Alatri,	<i>12 May 1824</i>	712
888. Al Sindaco di Benevento, Benevento,	<i>12 May 1824</i>	712
889. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, Roma,	<i>12 May 1824</i>	713

890. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, Roma,	<i>12 May 1824</i>	714
891. Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci, Offida,	<i>13 May 1824</i>	714
892. Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi, Sermoneta,	<i>middle of May 1827</i>	714
893. Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi, Lenola,	<i>14 May 1824</i>	715
894. Fr. Pietro Butti, Alatri,	<i>14 May 1824</i>	715
895. Mr. Camillo Possenti, Fabriano,	<i>14 May 1824</i>	716
896. Fr. Pietro Butti, Alatri,	<i>15 May 1824</i>	716
897. Fr. Ferdinando Angelici, Santanatolia,	<i>15 May 1824</i>	716
898. Fr. Pietro Butti, Alatri,	<i>16 May 1824</i>	717
899. Msgr. Francesco Bonomo, Gaeta,	<i>16 May 1824</i>	718
900. Beginning of the Holy Mission		719

851

March 8, 1824
 Msgr. Gaetano Bonanni
 Bishop of Norcia
 Norcia

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Let us indeed be agreed for the 22nd of August, and let us include Cascia, as you mentioned to me. Recommend me frequently to God, and, kissing your hands, believe me to be with esteem, respect and affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Guarcino, March 8, 1824

852

March 8, 1824
 Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi
 Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

As an exercise in obedience, I have pointed out to you the themes which you will be able to follow. Take all of the materials from Segneri; as for the practical points, read the chapters on the lives of holy workers dealing with the fruits of missions, and extract from them the examples, making an alphabetical arrangement of them. Then, if you wish to have more suggestions from me, write to me in Frosinone.

I do not cease urging you to look after that foundation where, I understand, one is unable to enjoy the spirit of the Society in every area. But, at any rate, God's works mature very gradually and are the fruit of patience and prayer. I am infinitely indebted to you for the good work that is being promoted there, and I would be delighted to have you freely join the Institute.

Asking you for your prayers, believe me to be, with esteem,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Guarcino, March 8, 1824

There are three of us here on the Mission. Everything is going along well etc.

853

Middle of March, 1824
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Dear Monsignor¹

I hope that reading the enclosed will not annoy you. When I was in Teramo, I was approached by the good bishop of Penne, and I, in order not to discourage him, told him in general that if it were the will of God I would return there etc. Now I have received the enclosed. If I were to express my own opinion, I would say we should go along with this, because having good neighbors is something proper, in addition to the fact that the spread of religion should flow from Rome.

Our Society, at present, does not lack excellent workers. I would like to see the moment arrive when it will be firmly consolidated, and I know, with all certainty, that after God, you are our all. One cannot believe the huge number of requests that come in, nor how much good work is being done in every area. Praise to God for all of this.

So, I love to get your advice upon which I depend so greatly, considering my own, connatural apathy, so to speak, just as St. Francis Xavier depended on the directions of St. Ignatius. I would appreciate a prompt reply, if you can, so that I can properly reply to the bishop of Penne, and because *agitur de re maxima*² which, it seems to me, God is expecting of our Society.

G. C. del Bufalo

854

March 11, 1824

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
Offida

Hail to the most Precious Flood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

1. Assure Micheli that, as soon as possible, I shall see to returning the writings that came from Bologna or from Micheli himself, and give him my thanks.

2. I am still awaiting the letters of St. Francis Xavier, and soon.

3. I would like Quartaroli to send back to me the Ten Fridays if he no longer intends to print them.

4. I have received requests from Penne and Atri, and tomorrow I am expecting a reply from Rome with precise directives. Prayers. I will let you know more in another letter. I am pleased to learn that our devotion is liked in the Kingdom, as well as that of the Sorrowful Mother. Oh my dearest one, keep on doing all that good work. The master that we serve is deserving of everything. If you should need booklets to send to the good priest that you wrote about, just let me know.

5. With regard to our accounts, indicate whether I owe you anything. Recommend me in the prayers offered in common, but in particular, to Brother Luigi and companion, to Micheli, to your wife and children etc., etc., not forgetting the superior of Albano.

6. As for Tarulli, things are still doubtful. However, I think that he has accepted the chair of theology and consequently he is tied down again. Meanwhile, God is supplying the Society with other men. I regret that he has come to that decision. With respect to the month, keep in touch with Father Giovannelli, and then both of you can write to me.

7. I have offered prayers in behalf of the oratory. The situation is not going along well, and I

¹ This letter does not have a date. Certainly it belongs to the year 1824 and with all probability to the first half of March. (Cfr. the letter [n. 857] to the bishop of Penne, March 22, 1824)

² There is activity about every great affair.

am sorry about that. Within a short time I hope to be sending you the rescript for the organization. So, set up everything in S. Agostino and put the rules in operation. Once again I ask you for your prayers etc. so that I will be saved, *ne cum aliis praedicaverim ipse reprobus efficiar, etc.*³ I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Guarcino, March 11, 1824

P. S. Always address your letters: Rome.

Signor Palmucci (*justus ut palma, etc*)⁴.⁵

855

March 14, 1824

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

If you had spoken to me in Frosinone about Torre, I would not have involved all the companions with other appointments that arrived. So, during Lent, even including assistance to our Mission Houses, we cannot take on anything more. After Lent, we can consider the other things.

In the meantime, however, you are to go to Torre, and may Torre become a defense for the glory of God. Do not deprive yourself of gaining as many merits for Paradise as you surely will be able to acquire there. Establish the oratory, propagate our devotion, etc. After Guarcino, I shall be going to Sora, and at the conclusion of Lent, to Frosinone. *Ora pro me.*⁶ The Mission is going along well, and all is proceeding with great glory to God. Consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Guarcino, March 14

856

March 18, 1824

Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi

Sermoneta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I thank you wholeheartedly for your letter. *Dominus retribuet pro me, in benedictionibus dulcedinis.*⁷ With regard to any matters dealing with the House, write to me, addressing it to Frosinone for forwarding. Do not spare me from anything. I do not want you to be lacking in

³ Lest after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

⁴ The just one like a palm.

⁵ These words were added at the bottom of the page.

⁶ Pray for me.

⁷ The Lord will repay you with sweet blessings.

anything. Please prepare a room for the Missionary who will be working there during holy Lent. He should arrive on Monday or Tuesday after the third Sunday.

I have understood everything that you told me concerning Father Pierantonj. I do not know why he has left the Society. Perhaps God wants him in other lines of work. Do not fail to watch over everything, to train the brothers in service as well as the young priests, in matters spiritual. If you would agree to it, I would like to write to Lenola that you will not be returning for Easter; in that way, I would have the chance to see you again. Fr. Biagio will be coming back for Easter; so you be patient. I advise that you continue likewise in governing that House, despite the fact that the Lenten preacher will be coming there. Take over the duties of Father Biagio. The Lenten preacher will look after his own duties. Let us be in agreement.

But, why do you not take the year off to deliberate? Do you not see the greater good involved? We are intending to send words of encouragement to Lenola. Be courageous. Let us join together for the divine glory. Give my greetings to all and urge all of them to seek the perfection of their lives.

Therefore, I repeat, write to me for whatever you may need. You know how much I love you in Jesus Christ and how greatly I esteem you. If anything should be needed for the Lenten preacher's room, in my name, see that it is provided for by the chief magistrate there. If the preacher prefers to move into the hospice, Antonino will help him. Has the material for Antonio arrived yet? Do I have more to take care of? You supply for this by sending me reminders. Send a reply that will be *juxta cor meum*. *Ora pro me assidue*. *Sum tuus ex corde*, in *Corde Jesu Christi qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*.⁸ Greetings to everyone, etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Guarcino, March 18 (a great and beautiful Mission. *Laus Deo*⁹).

Don Pietrantonio Canon Verardi, *Carissimo in Domino*^{10 11}

857

March 22, 1824

Msgr. Domenico Ricciardoni

Bishop of Penne and Atri

Penne

Most venerable Monsignor

I am late in sending you a reply to your most appreciated letter since I have been conducting a Mission in the diocese of Gaeta where we have activated a Mission and Retreat House. So, your letter must have been delayed. In short, however, I can say that once I had received your most appreciated letter, I set myself to handling the many tasks that have been contracted, and I am

⁸ Near my heart. Pray for me continuously. I am yours from the heart, in the heart of Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us by his blood.

⁹ Thanks be to God.

¹⁰ Most beloved one in the Lord.

¹¹ These words are written at the bottom of the second page, alongside St. Gaspar's signature.

awaiting the results from day to day. God knows the efforts that I am making to bring about a successful outcome.

So, this is all that I can say now, while reserving for myself the possibility of sending you another letter that will be more precise and detailed. I thought that I should inform you of this much for your own peace of mind. Most venerable Monsignor, pray incessantly for me, and, while kissing your hands. believe me to be with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sora, March 22, 1824

P. S. Address your letters to me: Rome

858

March 28, 1824

Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi

Sermoneta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

The bearer of this letter is a young man that I am sending to work in that House. For the first eight days, he will assist Fr. Gregorio *in spiritu fervoris*¹² and you are to cooperate in this. Then, assign him to the garden. The father will remain for one or two days, and no longer, so as to train his son better. Fr. Biagio will be arriving within days. I am in a hurry.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

March 28, 1824

Send your reply to Frosinone, and join our Society, etc. See that assistance to Fr. Gregorio is not lacking. Give my regards to all.

859

Beginning of April, 1824

Fr. Gaspare Carboneri

Sonnino

METHOD FOR A RETREAT GIVEN IN THE FORM OF A MISSION

in Roccasecca

1. Morning Mass with the Chaplet *juxta solitum*.¹³
2. After the Mass: Catechetics by Canon Carboneri.
3. After the Catechism: Mass with an exemplary lesson from the life of the most holy Mary, Canon Calamita; then the blessing with the relic.
4. After the noon meal: Public Christian Doctrine with the men separated from the women,

¹² In a spirit of fervor.

¹³ As usual.

and the preparation of the children for First Communion.

5. Only the sermon.

6. In the evening: Pep talks and the Oratory, Canon Calamita.

SERVICES

On Friday, the Sorrowful "Mother: penitential procession.

At the sermon on death: a skull is presented and the bell is tolled at night.

At the sermon on the Judgment: discipline used while on the platform.

At the sermon on Hell: the image of the most holy Mary is brought in.

Not to be omitted is the peace-service, consisting in offering the wounds of the Crucified Lord to be kissed by all of the clergy.

PRAYER SERVICES

At the sermon on Mortal Sin: the prayers for repentance.

The peace-service, consisting of having the wounds of Jesus kissed by the men.

The Way of the Cross, and the blessing with the wood of the Cross.

A prayer-service directed to the veneration of the mysteries of the Divine Blood, consisting in the recitation of the Seven Offerings and the singing of *Viva Viva Gesu etc.*

A prayer-service with the singing of the *Miserere* and the kissing of the ground several times in atonement for sins of blasphemy.

On one day, there should be a procession to the cross that was erected at the previous Mission, and, with the permission of the pastor, another might be put up. On their doorways, instead of the most holy names of Jesus and Mary, they should append a small wooden cross. It is recommended that they set up images of the most holy Mary along the roadways in order to drive away the powers of darkness, and, in order to promote devotion to the most holy Mary.

The First Communion for the children will be arranged for Holy Thursday. On Good Friday, in the evening, there will be the procession of the dead Christ, but with mourning. On that occasion, one could include the Prayer-service of the *Miserere* and the kissing of the ground. The discipline will not be necessary since the day itself moves one to sorrow, and even more so since Canon Carboneri will conduct the Three Hours of Agony, at least by a sedate reading. On Holy Saturday, since the services are begun rather early, the Communion for the women will be had after the solemn Mass. On Easter Sunday morning, communion for the men and, after the noon meal, the papal blessing. On Monday morning, the first day after the feast, communion should be brought to the sick and a blessing of the area with the Pyx should be done; by evening time, Canon Carboneri should be back in Sonnino.¹⁴

It is recommended that a half-hour before the noon meal, there be a period of meditation for the Missionaries, and then at table, reading by one of the clerics; purity of intention in doing God's work, and trust in the Divine Blood, *cui honor et gloria*.¹⁵

¹⁴ From the congressus book in the House of Sonnino, where Fr. Gaspare Carboneri was located as the economist, it is noted that he was absent "in order to conduct the retreat for the public in Roccasecca" dei Volsci, from the 7th to the 19th of April, 1824. On April 20th he resumed his tasks as economist. The dates coincide with what St. Gaspar says here: on Monday evening, that is the 19th of April, Fr. Carboneri would be back in Sonnino. So, the letter belongs to the first part of April.

¹⁵ To whom be honor and glory.

FACULTIES

1. The faculty of having the morning services one hour and a half before dawn, with illumination in the church.

2. The 13 cases from the Penitentiary, and all listed in the reserved sins to the bishop, also worthy of mention, *si opus sit*,¹⁶ reference is always made to what is contained in the listing.

3. The faculty of blessing rosaries, crucifixes and medals *in articulo mortis*,¹⁷ while wearing the surplice and stole, from the platform at the last blessing.

4. Faculty of blessing the Cross *si opus sit*.

5. Faculty of giving the Papal blessing.

6. Dispensation from reciting the Divine Office. As long as the whole time is spent in the ministry *prudenti et humano modo*.¹⁸ However, it is not permitted by one's own whim to listen to a sermon, for example, for in that case it would be necessary to recite the Office. So, also, if it is possible, one should say some part of it. While traveling, it is always said. Study is permitted only if it is indispensably necessary for the fulfillment of the ministry; finally, it is understood that one must have the necessary rest etc. For any other questions that may arise, write to me in Frosinone. More than this I cannot communicate *per modum habitus*¹⁹ in Roccasecca. With regard to denunciations, *saltem infra octo dies*²⁰ that may come up in Roccasecca, they are to be submitted to the Ordinary and if this is not possible, the Missionaries are to handle them *in actu confessionis et ante absolutionem. praevisio juramento de veritate dicenda, et secreto servando*.²¹ With everything carefully sealed, it should be sent by Canon Carboneri to Monsignor Manassi.

In case more confessors are needed, Canon Carboneri will be able to ask for help from Maenza, as long as it is with those who belong to the Sacra Lega del B. Leonardo.

Canon Carboneri will not omit giving three conferences to the clergy, having first had a meditation read aloud from some author. Then he will offer a brief spiritual allocution on some ascetical theme which is easily handled. If needed, the retreat can be extended even to 8 days, or the priests can be directed to consult appropriate books, *et satis provisum*.²²

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

PIOUS ORGANIZATIONS TO BE ESTABLISHED OR REVIVED

1. The nightly oratory *juxta regulas*.²³

2. The sisters of charity *juxta regulas*.

3. For the boys of St. Aloysius, a priest should call them to attend a general communion, have a spiritual reminder and a meditation. At least once a month.

¹⁶ If it should be necessary.

¹⁷ At the moment of death.

¹⁸ In a prudent and human way.

¹⁹ After the manner of a habit.

²⁰ At least within the eight days.

²¹ In the act of confession and before absolution, by a previous oath to tell the truth, and to keep the secret.

²² Provided for well enough.

²³ According to the rules.

The girls will receive communion along with the sisters of charity.

There is a plenary indulgence for those general communions, applicable to the holy souls in Purgatory, while praying, as usual, etc.

For attendance at any service during the Mission, they may gain a seven year indulgence.

Weapons are to be destroyed and with the remains a candle is to be purchased to honor the most holy Mary.

As for gifts, follow the usual procedure.

Do not omit the withdrawal of playing cards; forbidden books are to be burned at the papal blessing, unless they are books belonging to the sectarians, etc., for in that case, they are to be sealed up, and, after wrapping them, they are to be submitted to the Ordinary who will decide etc.

Canon Carboneri will make arrangements for the future follow-up sermons in Roccasecca, *ut fructus maneat*.²⁴

The monies collected during Lent are to be used for promoting the good work that is being done, and Canon Carboneri is to determine whether it is adequate or if there is more than enough.

Not having the usual reminders that are posted at the gateways against blasphemous speech, substitute a small leaflet containing the *Viva viva etc.*

At the papal blessing, a collection will be taken up in behalf of the House in Sonnino, the one that the Lenten preacher would have taken up. You could look into this etc.

On one day during the Mission, a sermon on Purgatory should be given so that the holy souls are not deprived of this good work. Another collection will be taken up for the Holy Places in Jerusalem. Check with the pastor.

860

HORARIUM FOR MISSIONS

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Horarium for holy Missions²⁵

Rising	9 ¼	hours
First Mass: the Chaplet	10	hours
Catechism	10 ½	hours
2nd Mass: the Rosary	11 ¼	hours
Meditation for Missionaries	17	hours
Noon meal	18	hours
	After the noon meal	
Ministry resumed	20	hours
Catechism	21	hours
Main sermon	22	hours
Pep talks	23 ¾	hours

²⁴ In order that the fruit remain.

²⁵ This horarium was probably sent to Missionary Father Gaspare Carboneri along with the previous material. To understand this horarium, one needs to know that the 24 hours of the day were calculated from about one-half hour after sunset. They were announced by the sounding of the *Ave Maria* hour. From that point in time, the computing of the 24 hours of the day began, according to the Italian way of calculating the hours of the day. Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Time

End of the Oratory
Supper

13 3/4 hours
2 hours
Hail to Jesus, Hail to Mary

861

April 2, 1824
Fr. Vincenzo Coccacci
Guarcino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Here are 15 crucifixes and 15 coats of arms. Momentarily, I am awaiting the red sashes. I would like to have the investiture Good Friday evening. Asking you for your prayers, and rejoicing wholeheartedly in the good work that is being done there, I repeat that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, April 2, 1824

P. S. I would be pleased if you would tell me whether one of you priests there would like to preach the month of Mary in Albano.

Before the distribution, I would await the red sashes and later the expenso could be divided.

The reply in regard to the Marian month is needed immediately for my own regulation of etc.²⁶

862

April 3, 1824
Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
Bassiano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father

Fr. Biagio will be coming to assist you and your aggregation to the Society and for the hospice there. I ask you to help him in whatever may be needed. As for the matter that you already know about, it is still pending in Rome and as soon as I get any results, I will inform you. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, April 3, 1824

863

April 5, 1824
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

²⁶ This paragraph was written on the outer covering.

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter, which I read as soon as I returned from the holy Missions, here is what I must tell you. On Sunday, *in Albis*. I shall begin the Mission in Alatri, and then on to Ferentino; I shall send another group of our men, at that time, to complete the work in the vast diocese of Gaeta, under whose jurisdiction Vallecorsa lies.

In the meantime, it is necessary that I remain in Frosinone to look after many matters that pertain to the Society, and to arrange for the course of retreats, especially for the leaders of the place. In June, I shall have to go to Benevento because of the need for bringing to conclusion the matters that relate to that foundation. From there, I am planning to go to Atri and Penne, and to satisfy the request made, at least for the two Cathedrals, while entrusting the remainder of the work to other companions. Then, by way of Ascoli, and passing through Pievevitorina and Giano, I shall proceed to Norcia, and there in the diocese to conduct the Missions requested by Monsignor Bonanni, to whom it is impossible to give a negative reply. This is my plan, if you approve of it. From Benevento, in two days one is able to get to Atri, since that trip is more convenient and economical for me. I will not leave this province until harvest time, the time for a bit of rest from the Missions and of greater attention to the Houses in behalf of the retreatants who, now, are already being admitted in some of the places. I repeat, after recommending myself to God, this is the plan that I have set up for myself, but always dependent on your advice which I cherish very highly.

Perhaps you may have overlooked speaking to the Holy Father concerning the following. At the point of death, a penitent of mine has charged me to have the Holy Father approached in order to have him grant the permission to be able to use around 50 *scudi* for the giving of holy Missions in a certain place where he himself had cheated the Commune. Anything that may be left over would be spent on pious causes and on the poor of that same Commune where he did the damage. Since this is an internal matter, all that is needed is a spoken word. Furthermore, the heirs know that this duty remains to be fulfilled, as I shall explain etc. I would appreciate the favor of your charitable intervention in sending me a prompt response. How has your health been?

Do not fail to pray, and a great deal, for me, a miserable thing. This year, for Lent, I have agreed to attend, so to speak, to half of the Province since there is a lack of Lenten preachers. *Laus Deo in omnibus*.²⁷ I hope that you will withdraw in retreat to the Cappellette di S. Luigi. There, in particular, when you are in that antechamber to Paradise, recommend me a great deal to the Lord. With esteem and respect, believe me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, April 5, 1824

P. S. I am awaiting your response to see your handwriting once again, for I love to receive your letters often.

April 5, 1824

Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci

²⁷ Praise be to God in all things.

Guarcino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Canon

Thank you for your letter and in reply to it I ask you to send me the courier by next Friday or Saturday, that is, when he returns to pick up the letters, for I hope to have the sashes from Rome. I am wholeheartedly consoled by the fine progress of the Oratory there.

Give my best regards to all the priests as well as to the others who are involved, in particular, with the Oratory. I ask all to include me in their prayers in common, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, April 5, 1824

865

April 5, 1824

Fr. Filippo Bonderl

Morolo

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Please do not forget the reimbursement for the habits to be provided for the organization etc. Give my regards to Nicola and to Canon Rossi.

Also, do not forget my missionary staff and my discipline, which have not been returned to me, despite the fact that you told me in your recent letter that you had done so, etc. I am relying on your assurances.

Then, too, tell me what you think should be spent for the chaplets and the certificates.

Furthermore, in order to maintain some sort of method in the matters of the Archives, it would be necessary, in the meantime, that in Anagni the canonical erection should be established in your church, and at that point the other priest whom you mentioned was authorized by Rome, would hand over the documents to you.

Finally, do not cease looking for an opportunity of setting up the Oratory in Anagni in conformity with the others. I would like that one to set the example. In Alatri, there is a minor clergy and yet it is held each night. St. Philip's principles are well-known to you, so even the clerics could take their turn, or the pastors, too, one for each evening. By using the special zeal so characteristic of you, it seems to me that everything could be worked out. When the opportunity arises, do not fail to encourage the Oratories in those places where you know they are erected. With esteem and affection for you, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, April 5, 1824

866

April 3, 1824

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Surrounded by those crosses which inevitably accompany the ministry, and especially the Missions, there is now added also the one of learning from your recent letter that I perhaps have given too much encouragement to the requests from the Kingdom. So, because of the respect and love that unites me to you, I am moved to supply you with information concerning everything (for, in some cases, I remain silent, offering it to God, and I keep moving forward).

Thus, it is good for you to know that the requests from the Kingdom have been, in general, turned down by me. I say in general because in the dioceses of Gaeta and Sora, neighboring on the province, I have sent our companions, since I was deeply concerned about the requests tendered by their bishops. So, if I went to Gaeta, that decision was made on the basis that Gaeta has accepted our foundation of Vallecorsa, and it seemed to me a harsh thing not to yield to the requests. God knows how heavily the Missions in Atri and Penne weigh down upon my human spirit. I shall go there out of obedience, not because of my own whim, nor by my own choice. I would like you to be completely certain of this true sentiment of mine. I shall take care only of the two co-cathedrals and then I shall leave behind some companions for the remainder of the two dioceses. I shall then return to the Province of Campagna to conduct the retreat for the priests of Ferentino.

In the meantime, I shall continue looking after the other matters in the Province, and I have already appointed those who would be presiding over the various Missions. I do not cease being grateful for your zeal toward the important work of our Society, and I understand well that your very thoughts are born from the love that you have for it. However, along with this, it seemed to me that the glory of God required me to inform you of all of the above so that the most holy will of the Lord would be made clearer to us.

Perhaps you can better explain whether the two hundred scudi, granted by the Holy Father, are to be used for the Missions in the Marche, for in that case they must then be used for that purpose and along those lines. Still, not lacking are the heavy expenses, the concerns and the needs in the House of Pievetorina. I do not wish to change anything. All I need is a word from you, and it will be fulfilled. You might indicate to me where the collection for the respective projects is to be done. In general, therefore, I wish to put myself out for the assigned Missions.

Furthermore, I ask you, as a distinct favor, out of love for the glory of God, to procure a passport made out for me, my companions and one brother in service which will be valid both for the State and for the Kingdom, along with a permission to pass, signed by the King's minister, through the customs of both the State and the Kingdom, assuring them that I have nothing else in view than the purposes of the ministry. I am asking this favor of you with all the urgency that I can muster.

In the meantime, I refer to the companions in general since, from time to time, in order to manage things, one may have to change one or the other and this could cause some difficulty. I await a reply at your earliest convenience. Furthermore, since in your letter you ask me to give you a prospectus of our Houses in the Province, I shall do so in a separate letter.²⁸ With regard to those 200 *scudi*, I would like that it be understood that at least the postal expenses be covered. Pray a lot, a

²⁸ See the following letter.

whole lot for me. In Jesus Crucified, with esteem, respect, gratitude and affection, most reverend excellency, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, April 9, 1824

P. S. Cardinal Ercolani absolutely wishes to have me come at the beginning of November for his seminary of S. Salvatore.

867

April 9, 1824

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Mission Houses in the Province of
Marittima and Campagna

1. The House in Albano is included in place of the one in Velletri. The latter had been given a subsidy, but then because of the difficulties that arose, which are known to your most reverend excellency, Monsignor Treasurer, it was supported in every way by the other Houses of that Province. There are still debts there and one or the other disheveled room etc.

2. The House in Frosinone: where, in order to make the single location livable, not a little has been paid out; so also, initially for the church building for which, through the concern of the most reverend Treasurer, a promise of a subsidy was made, but then the expenses of the State did not allow for that to be realized.

3. The House in Sermoneta: has the burden of maintaining the convent building, formerly belonging to the Franciscans, and also the hospice, formerly belonging to the Capuchins. The church is, ... unfurnished and most needful of sacred utensils, as has also occurred with the church of S. Agostino in Frosinone which is presently being directed by the Missionaries, and the convent is a lodging for the gendarmes.

4. The House in Sonnino: has the maintenance of the monastery, formerly belonging to the Cistercian nuns, as well as the hospice inside the city.

5. The House in Vallocorsa: construction is underway on the church; maintenance of the monastery, formerly belonging to the Viennese monks.

6. The retreat in Terracina: the building is being maintained, and last June the hospice that was set up in S. Francesco was closed because of the bad climate and because of the brigandry.

7. Finally, the hospice in Rome in *S. Maria del Buon Consiglio*: often it is necessary for the Province to pay out money either for the Missionaries who are passing through or for other good reasons. It would be desirable, in case the Holy Father does not provide a House in Rome, having discarded now the idea of S. Clemente, perhaps because of the unsanitary conditions there, that he should give us a more convenient hospice where we would not have to spend etc.

The allowances that the Province receives, in addition to taking care of the projects just referred to above, must also cover, in general, the travel expenses for the ministry in the Province etc.; then, too, there is daily food to be provided for everyone, the sacred cult, clothing for the Brothers in service; sometimes, sickness (right now I have one who has been diagnosed to have consumption); sacred furnishings, which gradually are being supplied; decent furniture, the

maintenance of beds, buildings etc., even linens for the church etc.

In regard to the safety of our workers, we point out that the Missionaries in Sermoneta live just a short distance from the town, because during this present season of the year, they would not be able to withstand living inside the city; but, the region where they are is not assailed by the brigands, and furthermore the Missionaries have encountered them a hundred thousand times, including myself, and they have left us in peace. Brigandry is born of the hatred between families as well as from other causes which it would be too long to describe here. I have always assigned the Missionaries in the Province of Campagna to go to Giano, to Pievetorina for these very same reasons; that system has brought about and still brings about reasons for a new form of economy, but it was inevitable. Here, I have always brought in outsiders. Substantially, therefore, there seems to be peace and quiet.

I pray to God that soon the temporal matters will be straightened out for these foundations, as I still nourish the desire to withdraw to become the sacristan in Giano, for God knows how sincerely I wish that. In a practical way, I recognize how desirable it would be not to have any problems. I have, indeed, said nothing about the costs for chains and other things etc. etc. If I am painting this picture for you, and I would not do so for anyone else, it is because I feel that it is my duty to inform you of everything; in fact, if I had means of my own, what a beautiful thing it would be to spend them all for the glory of God and for setting up such holy institutions that have not been made available as much as they should. Still, I am able to say that even with my limited means, when I die they will not find me with a single *paolo*.

With regard to brigandry, especially since during the beginning of this present pontificate, not a single benign order has been issued:

1. The system of protection in the churches and ecclesiastical asylum should be resumed, saying, for example, that this is applicable for anyone who may be straying about etc. and thus, *per indirectum*²⁹ influence would be exerted in lowering the number and even removing altogether the brigands themselves.

2. The so-called sacred forests should likewise be made places of asylum. Otherwise the best is contrary to the good.

3. As a matter of principle, no hearing should be given to anonymous memoranda.

I remain silent with regard to other things for it is sufficient that I preach and hear confessions, even though, nowadays, the voice of the one who has the practice of the ministry is not heeded. Therefore, I prefer to pray than to speak. Indeed, you are able to be my teacher and you have no need for these observations. In general, I tell you that things are not going along well. *Oremus etc.*³⁰ I am referring to the world in general, so that we will pray more and more for the conversion of sinners etc.

868

April 9, 1824
Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
Bassiso

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

²⁹ Indirectly.

³⁰ Let us pray, etc.

Dear Father Giacomo

You were asked to go to Albano since I note that there will be need of help because of Father Gonnelli's upcoming vacation. Let me know whether you can do me this favor or if you prefer to accompany me on the mission, for that is coming up very soon. In that case, I would try to supply other help for Albano. Make your decision, but quickly, and send your response in the current mail so that we can be in agreement. Pray for me; in a hurry, I remain

Humbly yours

G. Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, April 9³¹

869

April 9, 1824

Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi

Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

In reply to your letter, I say that my obligations to you are immense. And, it is necessary that our Society be fulfilled. You know that in May the projects of the ministry are attend by crowds of people, and that in June they rest a bit from their heavier work. So, it will be absolutely necessary that you, throughout all of May, should remain in Sermoneta to preach the Marian month, giving examples from the life of the most holy Mary, while continuing to carry out your duties as economist. At the beginning of June, you will return, unless you still wish to remain with the Society, and that is something I wholeheartedly wish for.

Therefore, I shall ask the Archpriest to remain in Lenola and in that way the good will be accomplished in a more orderly way. I shall send my word both to the archpriest and to the bishop. Have no doubt about this, otherwise I would not be writing as I do. Send me your reply quickly. In the meantime, do not fail to be vigilant for the proper functioning of that foundation. Pray a great deal for me and have others do so too.

With regard to the oratory, I am going to write to Archpriest Dicelli, so that he will take his turn with the other priests as they do in Lenola. On Fridays and Sundays, the Missionaries still there in the hospice will function. The services that are not to be omitted are the morning prayers in public even though they may be attended only by the community. I am referring here to the Chaplet etc. On Fridays, at the 21st hour, there is the Way of the Cross, and on Saturdays, at the 22nd hour, the sermon on the Madonna.

Since you will be starting the Marian month, the usual catechetical instructions will be postponed until June. I would like the members of the St. Xavier group, on feastdays after the noon meal, to recite the penitential psalms in the church of S. Francesco, in keeping with its regulations. I am going to write to the presiding officer of that group; if it is inconvenient for them to go to S. Francesco, they could recite them in the church of S. Giuseppe.

Furthermore, I would like Fr. Filippo, on the morning of feastdays, to go to the hospice and

³¹ Very probably the year is 1824. As a matter of fact, in 1824, St. Gaspar was in Frosinone and was getting ready, at the middle of April, to depart for the Mission in Alatri. also, cfr. the letter of April 3rd to this same person.

there direct the organization of S. Luigi Gonzaga for the young boys, following the method that he will learn from Canon Civetta and used by Fr. Francesco Pierantonj. The study conferences, concluded during Easter season, will be resumed without fail at the *Ave Maria* hour, if convenient for the community. Or, they could divide the study time, having part in the morning and part in the evening.

You have our regulations, and also note that in the method of giving Missions and in establishing pious organizations, the book that you have there, there is an explanation of how the S. Luigi group is to be handled, at least in regard to what is to be done in the morning. The services for Holy Week are to be arranged in cooperation with the members of the organization of men there, and at a time that they deem appropriate. It seems that I have nothing else to add except to ask you to pray for me. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, April 9, 1824

P. S. Before you leave Sermoneta, I hope to see you again. The sung Masses during Holy week should be carried out in the best possible way, and with ecclesiastical dignity. Remind me of the books that you asked me to get. at night, see to it that the doors are securely locked, etc. *Ora pro me.*³² Whatever your needs may be, write to me always in Frosinone, etc. Take care of yourself, etc.³³

870

April 11, 1824

Fr. Filippo Bonderl

Morolo

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I am returning to you the enclosed document so that you can take care of the matter along with the bishop to whom you will give the following information: 1. that in the Missions are insist that the gifts remain as a perpetual reminder etc. as you yourself know very well; 2. that if he thinks it is a good idea, by granting the faculty, he should correspond with the wishes of the ladies' organization and should supply the pertinent document. You realize that with all of my occupations I would not be able to take care of this matter. Pray for me, dear Canon, and believe me to be with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, Apri 11,³⁴ 1824

³² Pray for me.

³³ A couple of lines follow, but they were crossed out.

³⁴ In the copy, the abbreviation for August appears, but this is certainly an oversight on the part of the copyist. Indeed, a Lenten series is surely not preached in August!

871

April 11, 1824
Fr. Ferdinando Angelici
Santanatolia

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

In reply to your letter, I begin by advising you of the non-substantiality of the principle concerning the conjugal state in comparison to celibacy. That calls to my mind an extensive doctrinal treatment which, at the moment, I do not have the time to reproduce. I realize that there must be some misunderstanding of the terms, but we shall omit that investigation.

Vicar Buscalfemi's project is not to be disdained, and they could activate an institute of adorers of the Divine Blood observing those regulations that might be revived so that the basic idea is not mistaken. Even in Offida, there are individuals who have joined together and have set up a certain type of foundation and taken on this title. The substantial notion for the institute is that of public education, for girls and women by means of retreats. But this good work could be initiated only gradually. Canon Tarulli is quite versed in that type of institute. If necessary, send your letters to me in Rome. I shall make every effort to be as helpful as I can. I am not, however, knowledgeable about the temporal bases, the hereditary rights. The reverend Vicar could advise about that subject. After a novena to St. Francis Xavier, he will be able to begin by giving impetus to this important program for the greater glory of God and tending toward the care for souls. Miserable thing that I am, I shall not cease praying and have others pray.

I am consoled to learn that you are already a subdeacon and I would love to have you join us as a worker in our Mission Houses. Prayers. Pray for me, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, April 11, 1824

872

April 11, 1824
Mr. Giovanni Francesco Micheli
Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

I have celebrated a Mass for Canon Schiassi in return for the book of letters of St. Xavier, in which, however, I did not find the little note that you mentioned to me; perhaps it fell out. However, I have offered the Mass both for Canon Schiassi and for you.

I shall return Doctor Vogli's writings through the courtesy of your son. Let me know whether I should send the other things using the same means or whether I should arrange otherwise. Will you say a prayer?

Tell Giovanni Francesco that he must have already received the authorization for burials in S. Agostino. In Rome, I paid the required fee for the decree and I voluntarily make this a gift in honor of St. Francis Xavier to whom you will have an Our Father said for me to our Saint, and also revive the oratory in accordance with the usual rules. Recommend me to the Lord, and with esteem, I

remain

Mission [and Retreat] House in Frosinone, April 11, 1824³⁵

873

April 14, 1824

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

I am writing on Wednesday of Holy Week ... what beautiful days these are ... I have received the letters of St. Xavier.

As for the rescript issued for the men's organization there, that you know about, all that need be done is say one My Jesus mercy. I want you to repay me in compensation for the expense, but do so by exerting greater activity in behalf of religion by means of the Oratory.

I have sent a reply to the priest in Cossignano. God is shedding immense blessings on the Missions.

I have already taken care of Fr. Gaudenzio Liberatori and I shall send him everything, have no doubt. I do not agree with the arguments submitted by Lanciano for not having a Mission. But, I excuse their intentions. The leading families should take care of providing the meals; and in regard to the lodging, I also reply *omitto!*³⁶ As for the traveling, alms should be taken up in the collections for the sermons. In short, *charitas omnia vincit;*³⁷ nor is it necessary that I should go there; it is sufficient that the good work be done. Otherwise, they might use up in a year the income from the period of Lent. It is up to you to bring this good work to fulfillment. In Lanciano, promote the observance of the month of June and inculcate the public recitation of the Chaplet.

As for the observance of the month in Offida, write to Canon Tarulli who is presently still working in Fabriano and Matelica. We hope to see an end to his indecisiveness. In everything, I adore the will of God. Leave the devotion of the month of June as an inheritance to your family. You are correct in not splitting with Ascoli. In a hurry, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, April 14, 1824

874

April 14, 1824

Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci

Guarcino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

³⁵ In the copy of this letter, the date is "August 11, 1827". But this is surely an error on the part of the copyist. Cfr. the letters to Palmucci dated April 14th and May 13th, 1824 in which he speaks about the letters of Xavier.

³⁶ I let go!

³⁷ Love conquers all things.

I have received the 15.28 *scudi*. In the next mail, I shall order the other things requested of me in behalf of the other twelve members of the men's organization; as soon as they have arrived from Rome, I shall not fail to consign them immediately into your hands.

Oh how consoled I am with the good work that is being promoted there! *Laus Deo in omnibus*.³⁸ I am truly edified. The piety that you people have shown there has caused me to foresee already what, in practice, has been observed for the greater glory of God. *Dominus erit nostra retributio in coelis*.³⁹ Recommend me often to God and have others do so too. Dear Canon, asking you to extend my usual good wishes to the priests etc. etc., consider me to be with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, April 14, 1824

875

April 14, 1824

Msgr. Francesco Bonomo

Bishop of Gaeta

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

For my own information, I would like to know if you are still inspired by the Lord to make use of my insufficiency for a Mission in Gaeta, which I will not be able to begin until near the end of May. I would appreciate your response. I never fail to remember you in my poor prayers. Recommend me to God, most illustrious and reverend lordship, and with esteem, I remain

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. Del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, April 14, 1824

876

April 24, 1824

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

When I returned from a trip to visit our Houses of foundation, I found a letter from you in Frosinone, and I thank you for it. For my own peace of mind, it is necessary that I make known to you what follows. I informed you and I also wrote to Fr. Pietro Pellegrini, the Vicar General in Sezze, that the pension that he enjoyed, granted by the Lotti, should be assigned to Canon Betti since the former, now removed from the Institute, no longer fulfilled the conditions laid down by our Holy

³⁸ Praise be to God in all things.

³⁹ The Lord will be our reward in heaven.

Father Pius VII, as your most reverend excellency can observe in the rescript held by the Marchese del Bufalo. He had sent a reply to me in the following words: "I want you to realize that some time ago I renounced my benefice, and for my patrimony I was assigned the now-known pension as was directed for me by the Pope himself, Leo XII". I added further that since he wished to be separated from the Institute he was first to obtain either a declaration of that position or to remain *ad tempus*⁴⁰ without patrimony, or even apply for another title. But how can he enjoy the benefits if he no longer fulfills the conditions laid down? I pointed out to him that by an involuntary error he may not have expressed matters clearly, and that he could at least present a rescript etc. I do not know how this whole thing is going to turn out. I am writing to you for no other reason than for my own peace of conscience. So, here we are with Canon Betti without a patrimony, and in addition, he has the rescript of subsidy directed for the support of his sisters, concerning which I have written to your reverend excellency on previous occasions.

Recently a Canon from Ariccia also renounced his position as Canon, taking advantage of the rescript to remain *ad tempus* without a patrimony. To tell the truth, I would like to see the papal dispositions to be reasonably balanced with the end in view, and not otherwise. So, what is to be done? Raise one's eyes heavenward and suffer with resignation. This does not detract from the esteem and affection for the person of Fr. Pietro Pellegrini. But, from some reports about this Fr. Pietro I have learned that when he presented himself to the Holy Father with the idea of taking up another career, he certainly must not have impressed favorably or given consolation to the soul of the Pontiff, but rather might have brought him new feelings of dejection. I myself know precisely nothing more. The only thing he told me was that he had met with the Pope and that possibly he was interested in discussing his future career. Still, despite the deep hurt that this is produced in me, it has not alienated me from doing the will of God which I shall always adore.

The Cross is the beautiful ladder to heaven and the works of the Lord are the fruit of tears, privations, disparagements and humiliations. However, we are consoled by the good work that is being accomplished. Here, in the Province, if you prescind from a few Capuchins and Passionists, one cannot come to satisfying all of the requests that are made. I mention this because the need is so great; and, abstracting from miracles, the work of reform is a matter of days and days. Recommend me always to God so that I will do his will and be able to meditate on the text: *fasciculus myrrhae dilectus meus*.⁴¹ Presently, here in Frosinone, I am very deeply distressed because of the changes that are being discussed. But it is none of my business to interfere. In my wretchedness, I am content only to pray. I have advised my fellow workers that they should be very careful. But there is nothing to be feared for us since brigandry is born from greed for money, from personal rivalries and vendettas between families.

The foundations are getting along fine except for the question of beds in Sermoneta. However, everywhere there exist the problems of providing beds, food, clothing for the brothers in service, and the maintenance of properties etc. We are adding two buildings that have been made active centers; you can imagine the sea of difficulties that have to be taken into consideration. So, do not cease being of help as you have always done, and God knows how sincerely obliged I am to you.

Oh, would that with his Blood he would see to the firm establishment of this Society, a true miniature, may I express myself thus ... And, since our Society is one dedicated to the reform, it

⁴⁰ At the time.

⁴¹ A bundle of myrrh is my beloved.

therefore is not one wanted by the devil. In short, I would like the Holy Father to be a bit more decisive. But, perhaps, the condition of his health may be the reason. *Oremus itaque coram Domino.*⁴²

Do we have anything for Giano? I hope that you have led the Holy Father to reflect on the problem of the arrear payments which are our source of income in justice since we contracted to restore the locale etc., etc., which is something that we have carried out in good faith, and now nothing more is being asked for. I hope that the Holy Father, who must render justice towards all, will take under consideration our arguments.

My Monsignor, pray for me as I depart now for the Mission in Alatri. Continue sending your letters, however, to Frosinone. Perhaps you have received already a memorandum concerning Benevento. I would like you to know that the Delegate there is awaiting an order. Then, there is the Jesuit Collegio that is completely free. Since the judges of Benevento are not going there, *donec etc.*⁴³ why should we not be able to activate retreats according to the rule just as is done in the Cappelletta di S. Luigi? What are we to do? It is necessary to suffer.

As for the House in Sermoneta, a hospice is being set up in Bassiano to be used during the very hot months for anyone who is suffering in Sermoneta, just as we have Sonnino for those who are located in Terracina. For your information, there is a company of our workers going presently to the Missions in Romagna and another group to conclude those in the diocese of Gaeta, thus making better known our foundation in Vallecorsa. Take good care of yourself and do not work *ultra vires.*⁴⁴ Miserable thing that I am, I do nothing but pray according to your intentions which are all directed to the glory of God, the only center for our peace *in hac lacrymarum valle,*⁴⁵ and for our eternal joy in heaven. Most reverend excellency, with the fullness of esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, April 24, 1824

P. S. In Sora, all of the leading landowners are willing to give a piece of property and to activate a House similar to ours etc. After I completed this letter, they asked me to send you another which may have come to you already, or will come soon etc. etc.

877

April 24, 1824

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Memorandum

His Holiness, the now deceased Pontiff, Pius VII granted from the Cassa dei Lotti 50 *scudi* annually, through your charitable mediation, for three individuals, deprived of a sacred patrimony, while they continued to remain in the stable service of our Mission and Retreat Houses. With this grant from our Sovereign, they would be able to have some compensation for the salaries which they

⁴² Let us pray thus before the Lord.

⁴³ Until, etc.

⁴⁴ Beyond one's strength.

⁴⁵ In this valley of tears.

surrendered upon joining the Society. Presently, Canon Betti is without a patrimonial title and he remains in the Society with that qualification *ad triennium*,⁴⁶ which is going to expire within a short time. The opportunity for naming him for a grant is verified now that Fr. Pietro Pellegrini has become the Vicar General in Sezze and hence no longer fulfills the conditions laid down in the rescript. It seems only just that this grant be awarded to one who is still working for our Institute. I have already discussed this matter with the aforementioned, now that his own particular family needs have required him to seek another career. I shall send you the petition after having received your feelings on the matter.

Since you have assured Canon Betti, who is most needful of help, of a subsidy for his sisters, and if you were to find it impossible to bring this matter to fulfillment, I would try to arrange things with him so that he could be named then to the pension which, it seems to me, is authorized in the rescript held by the Marchese del Bufalo. So, by making it available for a three-year period, it would allow for the settlement of both problems, namely, alleviate the Canon's anguish and provide him furthermore with a patrimonial title. I open up my heart to you with that sincerity which is ever so necessary in matters such as these, but even more so since I know that there is no need for me to use words of encouragement to you to help in the good work of our Institute, etc.

I beg that you do not overlook providing, if possible, a bit of help for the building project in Frosinone. God is blessing our Society, etc.⁴⁷

878

April 24, 1824

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

In behalf of the House in Benevento

The Convent of S. Anna, assigned to the Missionaries in Benevento, has, in the main, been transferred as a consequence of recent negotiations. A very small part has been left free and there are four Missionaries there along with two brothers in service, one assigned to the kitchen, the other to the church. If one would wish to add another member, there would be no room available; if one would wish to take in a retreatant, that could not be done either. The rooms there were in a dilapidated state, and only after refurbishing them did the Missionaries take up their residence. So, how can we recognize the greater glory of God in the condescension regarding the rooms that have been requested, when, indeed, the greater progress has been retarded?

Is it possible that, among all the many buildings in Benevento and the presence of so many families of nobility, as well as the many other more ample locales belonging to the Regulars who do not have the same objectives as we, but other ones, though good and praiseworthy, but of lesser local extension, there should not be a place made available by the Chancery? I cannot have any doubts about that since I, during this past year while visiting in Benevento, with my own eyes have observed that it is not so, and even the most reverend Delegate was convinced of that. Nevertheless, I have written what I could to our companions there, with no other basis than that of authority, being unable to conceal what God wished to be made manifest. Archbishop Spinucci provided those rooms of the Chancery for us. Up to now, we have used prayer and petitions; presently they have been

⁴⁶ For three years.

⁴⁷ This last paragraph was written on the outer sheet.

renovated and not even your intervention is required. I conclude by saying that our good work is being opposed principally by evil people, but even by good people *putantes obsequium praestare Deo*.⁴⁸

I will be able to do nothing more than to continue to pray, and hope that you will support God's cause just as you never cease to do. The Jesuits' place is, as a matter of fact, vacant. Presently, the Jesuits are not going there. So, in the meantime, the judges are temporarily taking up residence there. I excuse everyone's intention, and may God free me from a lack of charity, but, oh! with just a bit of love for God in our hearts, what energetic and impressive achievements in the field of religion would be experienced in the world! Even in Giano, we have gone into debt in restoring the locale and providing everything that was needed to bring to reality our first foundation, and we are still awaiting the arrear payments of some 1000 *scudi*. I believe that that is approximately the sum involved. The people of Spoleto submitted their petition to the now-deceased Cardinal Consalvi and that is where the situation still stands etc. etc. With profound homage, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

879

April 26, 1824
Fr. Luigi Moscatelli
Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I do not understand how you could have yielded to the manner of being upset without cause. I realize that you refused the appointment to be President, and concerning that I would not know what to say. Canon Gonnelli will handle the two positions. Your frequent trips to Rome, your⁴⁹ health that requires close attention, have made you more fit for the position as President than for any other position, in addition to the fact that humility and indifference are the bases for the spiritual life. With regard to this matter, I beg you not to write further to me since I would only have to give you the same answer.

I assure you, however, that I have nothing against you, that I love and will always love you in Jesus Christ, that I wish only harmony and unity for all, and that in wanting to be President you would still be capable of carrying out that office. More than this I cannot say. If we wish to work otherwise, we will be responsible before God for the disturbance that is caused. With esteem, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, April 26⁵⁰

⁴⁸ Thinking that are giving deference to God.

⁴⁹ The word your is written twice.

⁵⁰ The year is 1824, when, according to the Congressus reports for the House in Albano, Moscatelli was still President; in November of that same year, that office was assigned to Fr. Luigi Gonnelli.

880

April 26, 1824
Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi
Sermoneta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Oh how clever the devil is. Courage. I have already written concerning the benefice for the year *ad deliberandum*,⁵¹ and you will become one of us. I have also contacted the archpriest concerning you with respect to your return. So, be at ease. Work *juxta vires*,⁵² and open up your soul to God. Jesus says: *Da mihi animas*.⁵³ Embrace all people with kindness and try to content them the best way you can. We know, indeed, that the fishers of souls are to work hard, *et cum infirmor, tunc potens sum*.⁵⁴

Meanwhile, to console you in the best way that I can, I say to you that after the Mission in Alatri, Fr. Biagio will be returning, that is to say, around May 15th. Will that be all right? More than this I am unable to do since I have sent out several groups for the Missions, and you are to share in the merits. Keep the people of Sermoneta calm since the Mission House will not be withdrawn, and build up support for it. Send your letters for me to Frosinone whenever you find need for it. You will undertake your journey in a couple of days. In this respect, not too much overexertion. Believe me to be, etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Butalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, April 26⁵⁵

Greetings to Fr. Filippo etc. Antonino's package, sent from here eight days ago, will be arriving in Piperno at Canon Giusti's place. You should write to him.

881

April 28, 1824
Luigia del Bcrfalo
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Niece

In reply to your letter, I must tell you that I have already written for the five *scudi* and by this time you should have received them. I recommend that the handkerchief should be free of show, and I have no doubt about this since I am trustful of your good conduct which you will bring to greater and greater perfection by uniting yourself to God in the search for that very perfection to which,

⁵¹ To weigh carefully.

⁵² According to one's strength.

⁵³ Give me souls!

⁵⁴ And when I am weak, then I am strong.

⁵⁵ The year is certainly 1824, because of the reference to the Mission in Alatri.

according to each one's state and vocation, we must all respectively aspire. If your mother has need of anything, let me know. Pray a great deal for me. Give my best regards to everyone, and in particular to the excellent Fr. Giuseppe Mugnaj. In Jesus Christ, believe me to be

Your loving uncle

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Alatri, April 28, 1824

882

May 2, 1824

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

This year the month of June will be preached by Canon Raffaele Ribeca from Osimo, since he has renounced his canonry in order to join the Society. You will please prepare a place for him at *Buon Consiglio*. As for the octave, ask Canon Ferretti. Do we have any news of Lovatti?

Finally, I beg you to contact Duchess Caetani of Caserta, and ask her to please grant the use of a few rooms which she has available in Bassiano, a place near Sermoneta, as a convenience for the Missionaries of that foundation, to be used during the autumn months, if necessary. But, you must use a certain bit of care. During the upcoming month, let us pray that the Divine Blood will work miracles to bring about the desired reform. With esteem and affection, consider me to be

Your affectionate friend and servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

883

May 8, 1824

Msgr. Francesco Bonomo

Bishop of Gaeta

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Let us be agreed that our entry will take place on the morning of June 4th. I am intending to send word from Itri to set the appointed time for the entrance. When that message arrives, the bells should be rung and that will be a signal for the confraternity. The principal priest of the place should present the portable crucifix to indicate that he is also consigning the care of the souls. On Friday morning, June 4th, it will be necessary that there be someone at the two hospices who will prepare a bit of food. After that, there will be no need for any helper, since we will have our own assistants, one for each hospice. As for any other matters, I refer you to my recent letter.

With regard to any difficulty that may arise in renting vacant rooms, we will be satisfied to have three Missionaries in each hospice, along with one brother in service. Catechetical instructions will be given in the morning, the doctrinal sermons and the oratories will be arranged both for the

villages as well as the city. The catechetical instruction and the main sermon after the noon meal will be delivered in the square. More details when we meet in person.

The entrance is a very important part in Missions such as these. I cannot tell you how anxious I am to see you again. Recommend me often to God and, with the fullness of esteem and respect, while kissing your hands, consider me always as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, May 8, 1824

P. S. There will be six of us who will be coming. If more workers are needed, we will send for help. But, I hope that we will be sufficient.

884

May 11, 1824

Fr. Francesco Saverio Lanna

Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Francesco Saverio

In reply to your letter, I tell you that I am completely astonished by the opposition to your vocation. I excuse the intention of anyone who opposes it, but you should not give in. Read what I have written to a certain Father Silvestri. Asking you for your prayers, believe me to be with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 11, 1824

885

May 11, 1824

Msgr. Francesco Bonomo

Bishop of Gaeta

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I returned today from the Mission in Alatri and I received your most appreciated letter. However, do not be surprised if, at times, the delay calls for a repetition in our correspondence. If I were to express my feelings, I would confess that I would like to have a full Mission during the feast of Pentecost and I would consider it very useful to anticipate the entrance. But, if the 3rd is not a satisfactory date for you, it could be moved to the 4th. The sacred objectives which will be given attention after the feast of S. Erasmo will not be altered. I figured that the companions might come to a considerable number because of the difficulty in the two hospices. Let me know whether, after studying my plan, you are satisfied or not, and inform me likewise of anything else you deem necessary. I will serve you in whatever way you wish. I do not hesitate to renew my sentiments of esteem, respect and particular affection, most reverend lordship, and while wholeheartedly awaiting your response, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Frosinone, May 11, 1824

886

May 1824
 Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
 Missionary in Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giacomo⁵⁶

This is the will of God. It is inevitable that you should go to Sora as soon as you are finished there, so that you can join up with Merlini who will be awaiting you there. You can make the trip in one day. Tomorrow send someone here to me and I will prepare a detailed schedule for you, and you will do a great work along with the aforementioned Merlini. With the Lord's help, you will also increase your merits. Because of matters dealing with our Institute, I will have to remain here in Frosinone for a short while. I am etc.

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.

I ask that the person you send here should be from among those who already come to Frosinone. Otherwise, when Merlini returns after 15 days, if you do not wish to proceed with this plan, you will return to the House etc. But for now, etc. Furthermore, the heat has not been too oppressive.

887

May 12, 1824
 Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
 Missionary in Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giacomo

In reply to your letter, I say that since you do not wish to go to Sora, you could stay on there to gather in more souls for the Lord, if you see the urgency for it, as might well be the case. At any rate, you will not be able to leave except in the morning so that you can be in Piperno by evening; and to get to Piperno, ask Canon Domeniconi to provide a mount. I, however, will take care of getting you from Piperno to the House in Sermoneta which you are to name without mentioning Bassiano. Let it be understood that by May 28th you must be in Terracina to resume work in the Missions, and not to worry about that. Try, once, to free yourself of concerns for the House. You can stop off in Frosinone for a period of refreshment. Give my greetings to the most reverend bishop and to Canon Domeniconi, and believe me to be, with esteem and respect, etc.

Your humble servant

⁵⁶ This letter, written from Frosinone, immediately precedes the one written to the same person, dated May 12, 1824. So, very probably, the date is May 11th

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, May 12, 1824

P. S. ask Canon Domeniconi whether the most reverend bishop has sent to me the paten for the chalice which is to be consecrated, and that he should send it on to me.

888

May 12, 1824

To the Mayor of Benevento

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Marquis⁵⁷

In this same mail delivery, I am writing an urgent letter to the most reverend Delegate, so as to engage his zealous intervention in freeing the locale of S. Anna, where series of retreats are to be conducted, as well as to increase the number of individual Missionaries for the foundation, and also to promote holy Missions in the area of Benevento and its surroundings.

I do not intend to have our Institute lie dormant, and so I would like you to express your feelings, since I may, because of a common necessity, withdraw our workers there.

I am urging strenuously that the judicial assembly support the rights of the Institute; the power of the authority, which it may impose, does not seem to correspond with the affection and esteem which I nourish for that city and its representatives. Sir Marquis, I would like to see zeal, industrious charity and eagerness for the greater glory of God to be the bases for our work there.

Your good judgment and distinct piety are well-known to me, and I recognize likewise, and this is something I shall never forget, that you were the first promotor of this very beautiful installation. Let us not be stymied by the difficulties that arise. Let us put our trust in God and make every effort to overcome them. Have the Commune, or the leaders in that city, take care of this, so that the glory of God is in no way retarded. May all of this form the basis for your own sincere and zealous attention.

With particular esteem and homage, believe me to be

Your most devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Canonico del Bufalo

Missionary

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, May 12, 1824

889

May 12, 1824

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Monsignor

I call the enclosed to your attention. I am writing in a hurry. Do not cease insisting on the matters pertaining to Giano about which I have written to you. I do not wish to importune you, but

⁵⁷ This is the Marquis Salvatore Mosti.

rather I should multiply my prayers. Most reverend excellency, with esteem, respect and a very special affection, though in a hurry, consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, May 12

890

May 12, 1824

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Memorandum for his most reverend excellency

Monsignor Treasurer

N.N., recently deceased, has granted around 50 *scudi* to a Commune. He wanted them to be used (as he stated when dying) for a Mission as well as for other pious purposes. His heir, a son, has been informed of this etc.

891

May 13, 1824

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

I begin this letter by thanking more than ever Mr. Micheli for the letters of the great Xavier. With regard to the oratory, I rely upon your prudence, as proper to a Procurator General, in accordance with what you told me last year ... and oh! what beautiful days I spent in Offida, at no slight inconvenience to you. Offida is very dear to me: 1. because of the holy relic; 2. because of our close union in Jesus Christ. I thank you for the prayers that you are obtaining for me. I hope that Tarulli will be coming there, encouraged by you, and that he will do great good. Primicerio from Lanciano must have received everything: check with him. It would be a good thing that the ones whom you have informed about the burial in S. Agostino, should send in a document for the Archives. An affidavit will suffice, etc. I, however, want you to be perfectly happy in God. I do not want you to have any bad feelings. Are we not serving a very great master? Whom should we fear? Have the spirit of De Sales... understand? Notice how jumpy I am just like a sheep. A thousand heavenly greetings to Fr. Luigi *et sociis*.⁵⁸ Also to your wife and children, and have them pray for me, a miserable one. In the meantime, let us remain in the most lovable wounds of Jesus Christ, where I, though in a hurry, leave you.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 13, 1824

If Tarulli is unable, see what else you can do etc.

⁵⁸ And companions.

892

Around the middle of May
Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi
Sermoneta

Hail etc.

Dear Canon⁵⁹

Next Thursday morning you should be ready to depart. Fr. Biagio will be arriving on Wednesday and you will leave using the same mount etc.

G. C. d. B.

I shall write to you in Lenola, because of the school etc.

893

May 14, 1824
Fr. Pietrantonio Verardi
Lenola

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I thank you for your stay in Sermoneta. I beg you, however, not to show such bewilderment, for that is the work of the devil. Be more courageous. You already know that the good is accomplished only with suffering. Recommend me frequently to God, and, with esteem and respect, while extending my greeting to the archpriest, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 14, 1824

I shall send whatever devotional materials that I can. Pray for me etc.

894

May 14, 1824
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

With this letter, I am urgently begging you to take care of the reconciliation of things, and, together with Canon Tarulli to bring them to a conclusion. I am speaking of the matter pending with the Canon Penitentiary with whom I agreed to write to you also about this. Recommend me to God. You have no need of encouragement to work zealously for so holy a project such as the one that I am

⁵⁹ This letter bears the postal mark of Frosinone. It was probably written after the Mission in Alatri which concluded on May 9, 1824. The Wednesday and Thursday mentioned in the letter must correspond respectively with the 12th and 13th of May. Cfr. the following letter to the same person.

referring to. With esteem and respect, consider me as
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 House in Frosinone, May 24, 1824

895

May 14, 1824
 Mr. Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

How do we stand in our accounts? Please send me the 1000 chaplets still with the printer, and let me know what the cost is, *et satis pro nunc*.⁶⁰ What a great devotion this is! Tell Mr. M. Rodrico Benigni that the matters that he entrusted to me are being taken care of, and that I am impressed with his zeal. May he always continue so. If they now wish to have the faculty for burying, they should send the petition in detail. Have I forgotten anything? Keep insisting on the pious organizations. Pray and have others pray for the one who has the honor of being

Affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

May 14⁶¹

896

May 15, 1824
 Fr. Pietro Butti
 Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Read the enclosed, and after having studied well the status of things, burn that letter, and then try to do whatever good you can. I received that letter recently from Alatri. I have advised Carrozzi that I entrusted this matter to you. With esteem and affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, May 15, 1824

897

May 15, 1824
 Fr. Ferdinando Angelici

⁶⁰ And enough for now.

⁶¹ As is evident from the postal marking, this letter was sent from Frosinone. From an annotation made by Possenti himself, the year is 1824.

Santanatolia

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Father Ferdinando

In reply to your letter, I assure you that I, a miserable thing, shall not fail to pray for the well-known matter, and you can be certain that God will not be wanting in giving his illuminations. Just when I shall be able to be in Pievetorina, I cannot say at this present moment.

With regard to the Way of the Cross, you are quite aware that it is a Franciscan privilege. The Holy Father has granted a remission to their request, but the Vicar General did not consider it a good idea to grant it. You know very well that the minds of people do not all think along the same lines, and I understand that as long as he is Vicar General, such permissions will not be granted.

It would be a good idea to have Vicar Buscalfemi review again the Novena in honor of St. Xavier and then have it reprinted. I would be very happy to receive a copy at your leisure.

Continue to ground yourself in prayer, humility and study. Later on, God will manifest his divine will to you. Pray for me, who, with esteem, remains

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 15⁶²

898

May 16, 1824

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

You will be receiving 15 Crucifixes, 15 St. Francis Xavier coats-of-arms and 15 red sashes, and I will have them prepare the Chaplets in Guaricino. Here is the cost that must be reimbursed to me:

Crucifixes	15	4.12 <i>scudi</i>
Sashes	15	8.10 <i>scudi</i>
Coats-of-arms	15	2.10 <i>scudi</i>
		14.32 <i>scudi</i>

I am awaiting five more Crucifixes etc. to complete the number needed for the 20 members. Let me know whether all of this is sufficient without putting in a further order. I would advise Canon Cerica to go in for the examination for hearing confessions, and you should give him a bit of training etc. It seems to me that he would be able to do a lot more good work.

Please ask Fr. Livio Gorirossi from Alatri to remit around six *scudi* for a certain penitent. Look into this. If he should not wish to go along with this, then, tell him that I shall give a reply to another confessor and I will thus be freed of any further interference. But ask him etc. since the penitent, because of the many circumstances, is deserving of this compassion. I am

Your humble servant

⁶² The year is not found on this letter, but it appears that it should be assigned to 1824. Furthermore, the letter is quite similar to the one written to the same person on April 11, 1824.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, May 16, 1824

P. S. The letter for Canon Gorirossi is for that young Canon in the cathedral.

899

May 16, 1824

Msgr. Francesco Bonomo

Bishop of Gaeta

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

It is quite true that after Canon Betti wrote to you, I received one of your letters to which I sent a response. Now, I am replying, in the name of the aforementioned Canon Betti, to whom you were also kind enough to send an answer. Those repetitions of letters were caused by necessity and the mutual desire that, through divine mercy, the good deed would be directed to the greater glory of God himself.

With regard to the entrance for the holy Mission, I would like to have it take place on the morning of June 4th, a Friday, since there will be outsiders in attendance and they could conveniently return to their homes. If you agree, the external preparations could also remain. Right now, all that would be needed would be a large platform for the introductory services and the place that you deem best. In person, we can work out whatever else will be needed for good order.

Likewise, if you please, the two hospices should be readied, in accordance with what I expressed in another letter. If, because of the lack of places available, ten Missionaries would be too many, we will be content to bring eight: four assigned to each hospice, along with one brother-in-service in each hospice, as I pointed out previously. I ask you to send me a line or so with regard to this matter. I am enclosing a printed form describing our entry services.⁶³ What is mentioned concerning the Magistrate need not be taken into consideration since, perhaps, it does not apply to Gaeta. The solemnity of the entry is intended to solemnly proclaim the divine mercy and the acceptance of the consignment of souls. It is a preparation for the benediction with the most blessed Sacrament which will be given after the introductory functions. This is all that, for now, seems to be necessary to point out.

I would like the Collect, to be added at the Mass, to be the one found at the end of the Missal along with all the other Collect: *pro petitione lacrymarum*.⁶⁴ Also, after Vesper prayers, we would like to add the Litany of Loreto, and one Our Father in honor of St. Xavier, our protector. This has been our practice in other communities too. Following the manner that you judge to be best, you should direct the closing of all taverns during the time of the preaching so that everyone will be led to a contemplation of God. More when we see each other in person. As we draw nearer to Gaeta for the time indicated, awaiting now your approval of it, I will contact you again. I kiss your hands, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

⁶³ Cfr. the following.

⁶⁴ For a request of tears.

G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 House in Frosinone, May 16, 1824

900

No date

Entrance for the Holy Mission

There is no one who does not know that a Mission is one of those extraordinary means of God's providence whereby our most loving Father seeks to call people back to repentance and to a sincere renewal. Such a period of time is referred to as the acceptable time during which the Divine Lord, in a special and most abundant way, pours out upon souls his heavenly blessings. And oh! happy are those people who, animated by these principles, become fully cognizant of its value!

The devil, the ever present enemy of good, does not cease, however, depicting that holy ministry as something exceedingly terrible and repulsive. From the reports given at Missions, one sees how great his efforts are. So, to escape the diabolical lies, one must prepare that first entry for the Mission in such a way that the people should realize that they are always to have their hearts filled with joy, for the merciful acts of the great God will be made manifest. How is it possible not to externalize in the most glorious and, at the same time, most moving way, that internal joy which is the fruit of religion and faith?

For that reason, at the gates of the city, and at the designated time which is set beforehand, the bishop, or his representative, should be there along with the clergy and the various confraternities in their uniforms. Perhaps, too, the Magistrate should participate in the function so that he can further encourage the people to learn just what a Mission means.

With the solemn ringing of the bells at that time, the gospel preachers will meet the people. They will immediately prostrate themselves before the bishop, or his representative, to receive the consignment of souls as the Director of the Mission accepts the Crucifix. after the Missionaries have then asked for a blessing at that moment, the Psalm *Laudate pueri Dorninum* is intoned and the people are to repeat after each verse: May the name of Jesus and Mary be ever praised, and the procession to the church selected for the Mission will begin. There, after a short adoration of the most Blessed Sacrament and a short prayer, the assistance of the Holy Spirit is invoked and the *Veni Creator* is sung. The Director of the Mission, having recited the prayer: *Deus qui corda Fidelium etc.*, will then pay a short visit to the relic of the most holy Madonna which has at that time been placed on exposition, so as to entrust to the maternal heart of the most holy Mother, this apostolic ministry. After all this has been done, they proceed to the platform. The Director of the Mission will, in person, announce what will follow after the entrance.

Praised be Jesus, praised be Mary!