

St. Gaspar's Letters

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August 22, 1824
 Cardinal Luigi Ercolani
 Rome
 Your Eminence

I am awaiting a reply to my last letter and now with even more concern since I received news concerning the incident that took place in the seminary of S. Salvatore at the hands of the brigands.

In virtue of the recent visitation, I was required to send your most reverend Eminence a few directive articles dealing with investiture, seeking to remove every abuse. Please examine them and after having them copied in a better form by your most reverend Eminence, please have them forwarded to the monastery of the nuns so that everything then can proceed with regularity also in this matter so important for the glory of God.

Enclosed likewise is the petition written by the secretary which is to be presented to the Holy Father as soon as your Eminence is in Rome. And since the documents in the Archives do not present a clear picture, and, as a practical matter, a review must be made there for mistakes made in good faith, especially after the recent death of their superior, it will be necessary for you to mention to His Holiness in person that he is to absolve and dispense them in every aspect from any responsibility of Masses and from any defect that may have occurred in the method of their celebration or in the fulfillment of the responsibilities incumbent upon the nuns in this monastery, up to the time of the recent visitation. Also, assure His Holiness that from this time on, everything will be carried out with due regularity. Necessary, likewise, will be a letter from your most reverend Eminence which can then be placed in the Archives and will remove all doubts, bringing peace to this religious family, with regard to this matter which is so important.

With regard to the dowries for the Benedini girl, and the one for the postulant Metilde, the nuns are content with having the document signed by your most reverend Eminence which assures them of the granting of the dowry to Maria Metilde and the two endowments for the Benedini girl (it seems to me, in fact, that two dowries were needed for her). Once they have received the document which bears the seal and the signature of your most reverend Eminence, the two novices will be at ease. I, too, add my own particular request to your Eminence in their behalf. As for other matters, I refer you to my preceding letter for which I am awaiting, please, an answer, especially with respect to the Retreat. While kissing the sacred purple and with esteem, respect and veneration, I have the honor to state again, most reverend Eminence, that I am

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, August 22, 1824

952

August 22, 1824
 Mr. Donato Quartaroli
 Teramo

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir¹

Oh! How happy I was to receive your letter! I give thanks to God for the zeal that he nourishes for doing good work and I would like to see it increased more and more. In the turmoil of this miserable life, let us raise our eyes to heaven, and let us be mindful that those people who are enjoying happiness up there have passed *per multas tribulationes*.² That is why God raises us above this wretched exile and leads us to have blessed thoughts of an eternal joy in heaven!

I would like you to send me the writing of the 10 Fridays in honor of Xavier which, in some way, it will be necessary to have them reprinted, since such booklets are no longer made sufficiently available. The means of sending it to me could be through Mr. Palmucci. in Offida or Father Giovannelli in Ascoli.

I thank God for the good work that is being done there, and you have every reason in the world to be consoled in the Lord. In this ordinary mail-delivery, I am writing to the bishop of Teramo even though I have not had the pleasure of meeting him in person. I have also written to the nuncio in Naples to have him encourage the new bishop there. In general, good works are displeasing to evil people and sometimes even to good people, not, I say, out of malice but because they allow themselves to be overwhelmed by error. So, prayers, patience and industrious action.

With regard to the printing of the booklet, in which I am very much interested, in case, I repeat, you may not manage, let me know how many copies you wish to have for yourself. As to when I will be making the trip to Atri and Penne depends upon a letter from the bishop, which I am presently awaiting. Possibly the people there might be able to get Father Giovannelli to return to give an encouraging discourse.

Oh! How I would love to have one of our foundations there! It all depends on the people of Teramo to get such a project underway.

Let us remain in the Heart of Jesus Christ, and with esteem and respect, asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, August 22, 1824

Give my best regards to Mr. Berardo Lupi and all the others etc. In particular, the priests in charge of the oratory etc. Recommend your mother to St. Xavier and with regard to your nephew, try to be zealous etc.

953

August 22, 1824

Fr. Giacomo Cocumelli

Ferentino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Father

¹ The name of the addressee does not appear on this letter. But it is derived not only from the content but also from the fact that this letter, similar to the one of June 29, 1823 addressed to Quartaroli, were submitted by Mrs. Splendor, widow of Gammelli in Teramo.

² Through many tribulations.

The most reverend bishop wrote and asked me to contact your most worthy person in order to work out the method to be followed in the Retreat for the clergy there. When the Retreat is held along with the Missions, the assembly is limited to one meeting per day. When they are held separately, some bishops like to have the assembly of the clergy in a religious house, dividing the clergy into two groups or two sessions of retreats. Others prefer to get them together in a place apart twice each day without being restricted to any locale. Please let me know what you judge to be feasible for Ferentino and let me know your thoughts on the matter. I have already discussed with the most reverend bishop that if I do not succeed in arranging this good work for the middle of November, it will be conducted at the time for the novena of all Saints, after the middle of October, just as is practiced by the Missionaries of St. Vincent de Paul in their Mission Houses. From this moment I implore your assiduous prayers so that the Lord will rule over my miserable being, and in expectation of your response, most venerable Father, I have the honor to affirm with esteem and respect, that I am

Your most humble and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, August 22, 1824

954

August 23, 1824

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Grutti

Hail to the most Precious Blood of .Jesus Christ

Dear Father

I am asking you to join the missionaries in Norcia, if you can, so that you can assist in the Mission there; but it is necessary that you go immediately as I ask you to do. With regard to our practices in the method of hearing confessions and other services, check with Canon Gonnelli who is there. I would like to have you preach the novena in honor of St. Felice in our shrine in October. Could you do this favor? With esteem and respect, Father, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P.S. Your traveling expenses will be reimbursed there, etc.

955

August 5, 1824

Mr. Vincenzo Ceccacci

Guarcino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Vicar

Because of the immense number of requests for Missions, I am here to beg you to use your particular zeal to have one of the confessors, from that area, come with me for a single Mission in the diocese of Sora, for which it will be necessary for him to get to Frosinone by noon next Friday. Check with Fr. Celestino or anyone else that you judge available, or ask that priest who usually

preaches the Lenten series. We already have five of our companions on the move. Let us try to be helpful in the Lord's cause. Dear Canon, with esteem and respect, along with greetings *ad omnes nominatim*,³ consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, August 25, 1824

He will be reimbursed for the coach etc. If necessary, I will take care of contacting the bishop. Have the subject come too. Oh what a consolation!⁴

956

August 25, 1824

Fr. Bartolomeo Mancini

Itri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Bartolomeo

With this letter, I am asking you urgently, upon having read this letter, to come to Frosinone by way of Vallecorsa, to be of assistance to me in a single Mission. I will contact the bishop myself. You come immediately and see that you get here to this city by next Friday evening. If you cannot make it to Frosinone by Friday, then let it before Saturday morning. With esteem, consider me to be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, August 25,⁵ 1824

957

August 25, 1824

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo⁶

I would like you to inform Ledi that if he likes Pievetorina, I will be equally content. But, I would like to know what his decision is. In a hurry, but asking you for your prayers, I shall remain constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

³ To all by name.

⁴ These lines were written on the outer cover.

⁵ The copy of this letter has "April", but it should undoubtedly be August. Cfr. the similar request made to Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci in the preceding letter.

⁶ This letter does not have a date, but we derive it from the postal marking (Frosinone: August 25); the year is based upon a notation made by Possenti.

M. Ap.

958

August 27, 1824
Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Your most appreciated letter, while informing me of the impossibility of getting workers from that area, nevertheless brought me the consoling news of the holy oratory. *Laus Deo in omnibus.*⁷ I cannot tell you how pleased I was to receive your handwriting. Recommend me often to God and have others do so likewise. Dear Canon, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, August 27, 1824

959

August 27, 1824
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I ask you please to remind the one who is to make the design of St. Francis Xavier to do so as promptly as possible. Recommend me often to God. With esteem, respect and a very special affection, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, August 27, 1824

960

August 27, 1824
Fr. Giacomo Cocumelli
Ferentino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Father

Thank you for your letter. Within a few days, I will be able to tell you the exact time. Pray to God to give me the opportunity to arrange it according to what you were kind enough to indicate to me.

Together we will handle the renewal and meditation during the Retreat both in the morning as well as after the noon meal, being a bit lengthier in the renewal by keeping the meditation a bit shorter. Continue to recommend me incessantly to God, and with esteem and respect, dear Father, I

⁷ Praise be to God in all things.

remain

Your humble and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinons, August 27, 1824

961

August 29, 1824

Fr. Vincenzo Buzzolini

Pescosolido

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Archpriest

With this letter, I am informing you that tomorrow, around the 14th hour, the Retreat for the clergy in Campoli will begin. Perhaps someone from the neighboring towns would profit by it. So, I would consider it useful (as the celebrated missionary, Fr. Segneri, taught) to give a speech of encouragement to the people, but not after next Monday or Tuesday, allowing you time to send me your reply. With esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble and most obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Campoli, August 29, 1824

962

August 29-30, 1824

Fr. Vincenzo Buzzolini

Pescosolido

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable archpriest⁸

In reply to your letter, I inform you that next Tuesday at the 21½ hour (a slight variation which does not change much) the Missionary will be there to give a discourse of encouragement to your people, and thus we will be joined in spirit to promote the divine glory. Since I am to give the main sermon in Campoli, my companion will be coming there to do this good work. I will have the pleasure of meeting your people and speaking to them on the day that you decide to lead them in devout procession to Campoli for the sermon. In that case, please send me that information so that I will be ready to greet the people in Campoli. I have asked to have the Missionary's discourse scheduled for the hour 21½ so that my companion can be back by *Ave Maria* hour. He will leave Campoli at the 20th hour and, if it does not inconvenience you, you might be able to arrange two means of transportation, one for the Missionary and the other for an accompanying cleric. When the Missionary is approaching there, the people should go out joyously to greet him and then move on toward the church, while singing praises to God. A priest should present a crucifix to the Missionary as soon as the people encounter him. After the conclusion of the sermon, which can be delivered

⁸ This letter does not have a date, but it evidently comes after the letter of August 29th and previous to the one of August 30th, both addressed to the same person.

from the altar steps in order to avoid the trouble of setting up a special platform, he will give the benediction of the most blessed Sacrament. Shortly, I will be sending you some booklets to be used in promoting devotion to the Divine Blood. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

963

August 30, 1824

Fr. Vincenzo Buzzolini

Pescosolido

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear archpriest

Since my inability to come there would impede the achievement of a good work, we will do as follows. My companion will supply here in Campoli and I will come to Pescosolido. If it does not inconvenience you to send the two means of transportation, please see that they arrive here by noon. It will be necessary to move the time of the Sermon a bit earlier since it will be necessary for me to be back in Campoli for the evening. Full of esteem, I am

Your humble and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Campoli, August 30, 1824

P. S. Whether the people come to Campoli or not is *ad arbitrio*.⁹ That was merely a suggestion of mine.

964

August 31, 1824

Fr. Vincenzo Buzzolini

Pescosolido

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Archpriest

Thank you for your invitation, but I am not able to accept it since it is contrary to our rule. I shall come only to give an encouragement to your people and do a bit of good. I ask only that you have the bells rung in time to announce the sermon since I am required to be back by the *Ave Maria* hour. Dear Archpriest, recommend me to God, and I remain

Your humble and devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Campoli, August 31, 1824

965

⁹ To the function of an arbiter.

September 2, 1824
Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
Bassiano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giacomo

I need to have you come with us for a Mission and therefore I shall be awaiting you in Albano for the evening of the 13th of this month. I hope that you will not disappoint me. In case you are unable, please let me know immediately by way of a letter from you. I will be writing a similar letter in Rome, since I do not know where you will be staying. Be exact in fulfilling what I mention to you for the glory of God. With esteem and respect, and with the desire to embrace you again, I remain

Your humble servant

Gaspare del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

September 2, 1824

966

September 5, 1824
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

I shall be in Pievetorina, but just passing through, on the 17th of September or, at the latest, the 18th. I do not know whether we will be able to see each other again. However, I would like to have you arrange to have Cedi or Father Bufera, if possible, to meet me there so that they can accompany me on a Mission. Recommend me often to God; and, though in a hurry, with esteem I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

While on a Mission,¹⁰ September 5, 1824

967

September 6, 1824
Cardinal Luigi Ercolani
Rome
Your Eminence

While giving this Mission, I received your most appreciated letter, but with extreme sorrow I must inform you that, as the most reverend Treasurer knows, the Holy Father has ordered me to give some Missions which will occupy me for no little amount of time. Nevertheless, I shall do everything I can to keep my word to you, and if it were not for the spirit of obedience to the person who commands, I would not have had to write to you in these terms. Still, I have two suggestions to

¹⁰ In Campoli Appennino

submit to the judgment of your most reverend Eminence. First, that the Seminary's retreat be arranged for a time when I am free, and I shall do all I can to hasten that moment; or, if I should be unable to come personally to your seminary, I repeat, I could send another of our very capable men on November 11th for this appointment. To tell you frankly, as soon as I received that order, I was inclined to make known the appointment for November; but, then, after reflection on the situation which I indicated, and not really knowing what your most reverend Eminence might have thought, I remained in suspense.

The Missions asked for resulted from a petition presented to the Holy Father by the bishop of Atri and Penne in the Kingdom of Naples - a person with whom I am, as a matter of fact, not acquainted. The Holy Father asked me to write to his Eminence Cardinal Galeffi to inform him that I would come. As I think about that trip, whose duration is uncertain, I see that, considering the distances between places, I will not be able to succeed in working my way free for November 11th to be able to handle the great work of giving the Retreat there at S. Salvatore. I simply cannot tell you how regretful I feel. The advice of your Eminence can bring me tranquility. Please send your reply to Frosinone and they will forward it to me.

With regard to the Monastery in Sezze, I have nothing more to add to what I have already stated to you in previous letters of mine. Inform the most reverend Treasurer of the acquisition of small tables to be used in the restoration of their parlor. Most reverend Eminence, I kiss the sacred purple and with particular esteem, respect and veneration, asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Campoli, September 6, 1824

968

September 7, 1824

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail etc.

Monsignor¹¹

I received your letter on the 3rd and I am in the process of giving a Mission without having the time even to breathe etc. Give a general outline of the Society. I add that a copy of the plan presented to the pope has also been given to Monsignor Marchetti. When the young men in the seminary complete their studies they will be admitted to our houses of study to be formed for one or the other ministry. The Society has spread to Malta; correspondence is underway for Corsica; Sardinia has accepted foundations; the Kingdom of Naples is nourishing the idea of having foundations and one or the other bishop is acting along that line. In the Papal States, I believe that we now have eleven Houses. I am still being asked for more, as is Monsignor Cristaldi. In time, we

¹¹ This letter does not bear a date. From the postal marking, it is evident that it came from "Frosinone" on "September 7". On that date, St. Gaspar was giving a Mission and the Houses established in the Papal States numbered eleven. Those were the actual conditions in 1824. Cfr. also the letter, addressed to the same person, on October 11, 1824, in which he speaks of the "outline" for the Archconfraternity and for the Society.

shall also consider giving help to Propaganda, etc.. So, a general outline etc. Workers are not lacking. I can say no more.

G. C. del Buf.

969

September 11, 1824

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri

Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

With this letter I wish to thank you for the many acts of kindness shown toward us in the course of the holy Mission. Extend these feelings of mine to the clergy, to the leaders in Campoli as well as to all the people, assuring them in my behalf that each individual, in particular the leaders, is held in my affection in Jesus Christ for that group of people. May the pious organizations be close to your heart, and in writing we shall, if necessary, continue to be concerned about them. For the priests there I left some information concerning the sharing in the indulgences for the two Congregations, but I neglected to communicate them to you personally. However, that in no way changes the principles involved.

Your nephew, with the designation of companion, is in our number and is eager to know the will of God, which all of us undoubtedly should seek to discover. Whatever item I may have overlooked while there in the ministry, you, with the zeal with which you are so fervently inspired, should supply. Do not forget to have an outside confessor for the monthly communion. Dear Canon, with esteem and respect, consider me to be in Jesus Christ

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, September 11, 1824

In Sora, Father Giuseppe Bruni has the faculty of enrolling people in the organization of the Immaculate Mary. In November, it will be requested also for Campoli.¹²

970

Middle of September, 1824

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Monsignor¹³

Returning from a Mission, I am writing you a couple of lines while I am moving on, getting ready for departure to Atri and Penne. The bishop of both of those dioceses has written some letters that arouse pity and he has not gone along with my suggestion of next Lent as the time. *Domini ergo*

¹² This postscript is found on the outer cover.

¹³ This letter does not have a date, but from the reference to the approaching departure for the Missions in Atri and Penne, it is to be given approximately the same time and place as the preceding letter, namely, the beginning of the second decade of September.

*voluntas fiat.*¹⁴

Keeping in mind a piece of your advice, I must inform you that I was able to give some data to the most reverend Delegate in the courtesy visits that I made for the welfare of this Province which is so close to my heart. Indeed, I add that we Missionaries, through the ministry that we exercise, look for nothing other than the purposes of the apostolate. If superiors in other fields were to be heeded, the ministry would be sacrificed; and in the variation of opinions, certain consequences that should be avoided would be noticed. I say this for my own peace of mind.

Furthermore, I would like to ask you to have the Holy Father remove the abuse of having heads cut off and the dismembering of the bodies of those who died after being condemned in justice. It is quite enough that the guilty one be justly judged; then, Christian burial should be allowed for anyone of them who, through the sacraments, has been reconciled to God. What is going on now is inhuman. In this Province, in certain locales, the skeletons appended to the gates are more numerous, so to speak, than the stones. Also, in this matter, the saying is verified: *ab assuetis non fit passio.*¹⁵ If one severs the head from a criminal, all the people go around, *nemine excepto,*¹⁶ in a sort of repulsive indifference; at least, they should go about praying. It is a great agony to find oneself continuously in the face of this practice, which I, in no way at all, can reconcile with the spirit of religious piety toward the deceased.

Not too long ago, the Cardinal of Benevento expressed himself as follows: "Even the most reverend Treasurer does not approve the stubbornness of the Missionaries with regard to this locale". However, I think that is a mistaken viewpoint, and only for the record, did I want to inform you of this, while mutually sharing the inevitable crosses that are met in doing good work. I know that soon a portion of the locale will be granted, but not everything. But to call it stubbornness in someone who is attempting to promote and activate what is necessary for the people and to do something that all ought to rejoice in, is a source of great confusion in God's eyes.

Finally, let us pray a great deal so that, once and for all, we think in the old way.

Word has spread around here that theatrical presentations will be given in Rome. If that is so, what shall we tell people when they are asked to follow the teachings of Blessed Leonard, among others, who protected those same people, newly converted, resembling tender plants, from those things that might be injurious and cause them to lose what they had gained.

So, I do not cease asking you for your prayers so that God will rule in the abyss of my wretchedness; and, let us remain united in the Divine Heart, the only place of sweet repose for us. Here, in the Province, I see that things are conducted as though I were present, and by means of a rigid correspondence, I likewise look after the affairs of the Society. I appoint the leading members to the government of the respective Houses, and I have increased the number of members in Albano because of the many requests for Missions that are sent to that city.

Please do not deprive me of a letter from you, addressing it to Ascoli where I shall have my mail picked up. I keep shortening the trip as much as I can, in fact, omitting Naples.

May our Society be evermore close to your heart, as I have no doubt that it is, and once again, I urge you to help in temporal matters. Prayers and have courage from God, as we hope to reach that beloved fatherland in heaven. Amen.

¹⁴ Therefore, may the will of the Lord be done.

¹⁵ Passion does not arise from the commonplace.

¹⁶ No one excepted.

With the fullness of esteem, gratitude and affection, in Jesus Christ Crucified, I remain
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.

971

October 5, 1824
 Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri
 Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most reverend Canon

In the act of the ministry and from a Mission that has been significantly blessed by God, I send a reply to your letter. I thank you wholeheartedly for the kindness that you have deigned to show evermore towards me, *et Dominus retribuet pro me.*¹⁷ I pray to God that the fervor in Campoli will increase *de die in diem*,¹⁸ and you, surely, are the principal instrument for that. Inform Mrs. Francesca Carrara that, as a distinct favor, after the Missions my baggage will arrive at her house where I shall send someone to pick it up.

Do not cease stimulating the pious organizations which are of such great importance.

With regard to your nephew, I say that if God is calling him to the ministry of giving Missions, we shall give thanks to Him and may He raise up even more workers for his vineyard. You should give him your prayerful support, to which I also recommend myself.

May the devotion to the Divine Blood be close to your heart, and, with particular esteem and reverence, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

City of Penne, October 5, 1824

972

October 11, 1824
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
 Bishop of Agatopoli
 in S. Nicola in Carcere
 Roma

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Monsignor and beloved brother

I have sent your letter to Canon Carboneri. Poverty is not a crime in the world. The Canon has renounced his Canonry, and is in the Society by way of a Rescript. He views its noble purpose; and by divine mercy gives evidence only of virtue. The gossip of Ariccia does not bother me. The only thing I can say is that charity is benign. I gave the Mission at that place and I heard nothing of what is being asserted. Even if it were so, you could give not only one, but a thousand answers to the

¹⁷ And the Lord will repay on my behalf.

¹⁸ From day to day.

contrary. In charity, let us forgive everyone and go forward. The Canon has suffered deportation, and he did so virtuously. He is mature for his years. In short, I have no regrets.

As for Agostino at the *Buon Consiglio*, I have had only vocal reports from Cencio, to which I did not fail to give a response. To put it in a couple of words: "The Hospice in Rome is not doing at all well". If God gives me life, I must put someone else at the head of the Institute who can act for it and promote its glory. I forgive everyone, I love everyone, and I would rather be the Sacristan of the Institute than its director. Let us do the will of God. So, despite the fact that all of our foundations need many temporalities, nevertheless, I have answered Cencio with regard to Agostino, and I repeat it for you: that Agostino should go to whatever Mission House he chooses. Charity will be rewarded.

As for the two Missions, you can surely accept them, provided however that the money be collected before each one, and not otherwise. They cannot be held in November since we too have our Retreat according to the Rule. In December they can be handled by two distinct groups. Within a reasonable time I would like to have the latest clarifications, decisions and local arrangements.

I thank God for the picture that you presented of the Archconfraternity and of the Society; likewise for the faculties obtained from the Holy Father. *Laus Deo*.¹⁹ I am wholeheartedly pleased.

As for Butirroni, I would prefer not to speak, *pro nunc*,²⁰ though he too has reasons for justifying his inability to offer himself, etc. But I assert strongly that I do not intend to burden myself with the employees at the Hospice. For me, it is quite a bit to pay the board for Missionaries elsewhere than at *Buon Consiglio*, things being what they are.

Stimulate Cardinal Falzacappa to present to the Holy Father the plan of the Monasteries.

Here, the good is immense, the Work we do for God is blessed, and the Institute is acclaimed. *Ora pro me, Sum tuus ex corde in Corde J.X. qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*.²¹

Humble servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

October 11, 1824²²

973

October 16, 1824

To a Bishop

(Nuncio in Naples ?)

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

¹⁹ Praise be to God.

²⁰ For now.

²¹ Pray for me. I am yours from the heart in the heart of Jesus Christ, who redeemed us by his blood.

²² The postal mark says: Ascoli - October 22. It is certain, however, that from the end of September to the end of November of 1824 the Saint was in Penne, in the Kingdom of Naples (now in the province of Pescara, Diocesan See, together with Atri) or in some little village nearby. In fact, after having preached the Mission at Penne, he preached at Loreto Aprutino, at Mesola (where he stayed a short while) at Civita S. Angelo and finally at Atri, ending up on November 14. Therefore, this letter was written from one of those localities, and very probably from Loreto Aprutino, where the Saint was located on October 16 (cfr. the letter for that date, from Loreto). The postal mark, therefore, can only mean that the letter was sent to Rome with the mail of Ascoli (belonging to the Papal State) where the Saint had it delivered by some friend of his or by one of the couriers who reached the neighboring cities (cfr. Letter 113, March 27, 1826).

Most venerable Monsignor

The precise necessity of having a pious establishment of a Mission and Retreat House in Abruzzo has stimulated the zeal of the very excellent bishop of Penne to urge me to send there a truly fervent priest for the good of souls, namely, a companion of our ministry, so that he can work things out with your most reverend excellency in bringing to fulfillment the holy desires that have been commonly expressed. I would be wronging your piety if I were to add further words of encouragement. I seize this very opportunity, most reverend excellency, to express my esteem and respect for you, while recommending to you the aforementioned priest who will be the bearer of this letter of mine.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Loreto,²³ October 16, 1824

974

Middle of October, 1824

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Father Giovannelli²⁴

I have particular necessity of your coming to spend what remains of this current month of October with me on these Missions. I hope that you will not refuse me this consolation. Bring along with you other workers, but *juxta cor Dei*,²⁵ capable and mature men. See that you look after this important effort. The bishop of Ascoli has written in a truly curious way about Bellini. Let this be between us, and let us be understanding towards this holy man. He judges *incognita causa*, and he has not checked out the *auditia*.²⁶ You might write to Bassotti to come, and also to Bruni in Montalto, or Braccetti in Offida, or wherever else you can. But let it be from places nearby so that they can come quickly to Loreto where I am presently located, just a short distance from Penne. But my real consolation will be to see you once again. I will have Fr. Berardo Lupi gather the letters to me; and, a package for me should be arriving there addressed to you, which is to be forwarded. All you need do is inform Fr. Berardo Lupi who will see that it arrives in Teramo; Lupi will also alert the customs. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Workers, please. We will be six in number but still not enough, for the needs are extreme. The mounts will be arranged for etc.

²³ This is Loreto Aprutino.

²⁴ This letter does not bear a date. St. Gaspar was located in Loreto Aprutino where he was conducting the Mission, shortly after October 3, 1824. So, we are, without doubt, somewhere in the first half of October.

²⁵ Near the heart of God.

²⁶ Hearing.

925

Middle of October, 1824
Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli
Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Father Giovannelli²⁷

It a package arrives for me, check it out with Lupi at the customs on the boundary of the Kingdom. In that way, you will make sure that everything gets to me safely and that nothing will be missing.

With regard to the assistance of workers, I realize that you were unable to work anything out. God will give us extra strength for the short time that we will be able to function in this area; I, too, will not be able to remain there for any length of time. Meanwhile, please send me your first accounting of expenses incurred and inform Pancrazio Palma in Teramo that if he has had any expenses, he should check with me for his reimbursement.

You probably are informed of all that has been going on with Bellini. I am sorry that the bishop supposes that I may have used gentle violence in persuading him to join in our Mission work. Tell him, in my behalf, that he should recall the sentiments that I expressed in writing to Bellini as well as to the bishop himself whom we are discussing here. He will notice that I do not have a petulant character. However, if God wishes to have him in our ministry, what can be done about that? If he were not working with me, he would go elsewhere. The bishop should allow the course of vocation to be free. I make no decision at all except at the foot of the Crucifix, as I sincerely believe that the bishop of Ascoli does. I would hope that he would not be quite so precipitous in his thoughts and judgments.

*Ora pro me.*²⁸ In a hurry, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

976

October 22, 1824
Marquis Tommaso De Felici
Pianella

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

With pleasure I received one of your appreciated letters to which I am sending an immediate response despite the pressing lack of time. Indeed, I thank you wholeheartedly for your very edifying concern and I ask you to imagine the deeper feeling that lies within my soul that I am unable to express to you in this letter of mine, which I must restrict because of the shortness of time. A thousand greetings to the Lord Deputies to whom I extend, as I am doing in a special way to you, most illustrious sir, my feelings of true esteem, respect and gratitude, as I declare that I am

²⁷ This letter, also, does not have a date. But, surely, it comes after the one written to the same person from Loreto Aprutino. Cfr. the preceding letter.

²⁸ Pray for me.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare Can. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Civita S. Angelo, October 22, 1824

977

October 23, 1824
 Fr. Giuseppe Stani
 Pianella

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Father Giuseppe

Here is the coach for you. It is necessary that you come immediately. If you should have to expedite matters, take a man along with you and it will be concluded here, or, before you leave, see that you have some lady take care of it, or work it out in some other prudent and gentle way. I remain

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 October 23, 1824

978

October 23, 1824
 Fr. Luigi Cocci
 Pianella

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Luigi

After the Mission in Catignano, which I recommend to you, instead of coming to Atri you will go for eight days to Moscufo where you will do whatever good work you can. This is a small town where you should give a catechism lesson in the morning and a sermon after the noon meal. The pastor will give the doctrinal teaching; the brethren will process with the crucifix, and the oratory should consist of the Way of the Cross and meditations; there should be a prayer-session directed by the pastor, who also will do good work. There will not be a shortage of confessors. You will find everything there already arranged and you will also be provided with a mount to get you to Catignano. After Moscufo, you will come to Atri from where our departure will follow. Moscufo is located close to Pianella. I hope to arrive on Sunday during the day, *ad otto*,²⁹ for the entrance. Let us be in agreement. With esteem and respect, while asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Civita S. Angelo, October 23, 1824

979

²⁹ At eight.

October 25, 1824
Fr. Pasquale De Nardis
Penne

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Pasquale

On the occasion when you will be departing for Popoli on the morning of the 28th, please pass through Catignano where I would like Fr. Vitale to give a single conference to the leaders and a single conference to the three priests resident there. Then, immediately, continua your trip *nulla interposita mora*.³⁰ Let us be in agreement. Seek nothing other than to be obedient. With esteem and respect, and particular affection, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Citta S. Angelo, October 25, 1824

980

End of October, 1824
Fr. Luigi Cocci
Catignano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Luigi³¹

I urge that the confessors be given those instructions which pertain to our ministry.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

981

October 27, 1824
Fr. Luigi Cocci
Missionary in Catignano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Luigi

On Monday morning, you will have the coach that will take you to Moscufo. Once your work in Moscufo is completed, you will leave immediately, without waiting for us. Get information concerning the shortest route whether coming to Atri or not, so that I can provide you with the means of travel as well as letters in accordance with what you tell me. In case you do not get information concerning the route, after Moscufo, where you will stay as long as you deem necessary, come to Atri and you will leave immediately from there. During this year you will be doing less retreat work, including the visit made to Loreto, and on days of travel, etc. nothing will happen. But, do not fail to write to me.

Tell the archpriest and the Deputies there, to whom I cannot write because of the shortness of

³⁰ No delay was interposed.

³¹ Fr. Luigi Cocci was preaching in Catignano at the end of October; probably, from the 24th to the 31st of October

time demanded by my ministry, and, as they will surely hear from De Victoriis himself, that I have done everything as best I could. I hope that Father Vitale might be able to come there for a day or so, but I am not at all sure about that. I, myself, am unable to move about because I have a sea of work here. It is not my heart that is wanting, but just time. As for the books that you should have on hand, I have already instructed you in person. In Moscufo, you will discover a few devotions. As for confessors, the pastor will take care of that. Do whatever good work you can. If possible, I hope to send a companion there who will assist you in Moscufo. We shall see. Otherwise, follow what I wrote in my last letter to you. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

October 27, 1824

982

October 28, 1824

Fr. Pasquale De Nardis

Penne

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Pasquale

Take all of your baggage and come immediately to Citta S. Angelo because I would like to have you with me as a novice missionary for the Mission in Atri. Bring along your crucifix. I advise you, however, that you will not be returning again to Penne. So, I shall await you. With esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

October 28, 1824

Pay whatever is necessary for the enclosed.

983

October 31, 1824

Fr. Pasquale De Nardis

Penne

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Pasquale

I received your letter and I have written to Father Vitale what I had to write on the matter. You plan on coming to Atri no later than the 13th of the coming month to join us on the trip, for I need to be shortly in the headquarters of the Society, and we will be able to make at least half of the trip together. You did well in writing to Benevento so that they would not be worried if the Missionaries were to be a bit late. Bring Father Nicola along with you to Atri for the date indicated, without either one of you having to return to Penne, and be sure to have your papers in order; let us be in agreement. I have already obtained the passport for Father Vitale. Send your stuff to Popoli when a safe opportunity arises. If packages or letters come for me, send them to Atri. Give my thanks to the reverend bishop for the postage. So, all substantial matters are hereby taken care of. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Citta S. Angelo, October 31, 1824

984

October 31, 1824
 Fr. Pasquale De Nardis
 Penne

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Pasquale

I already sent you a response to your letter. Concerning Father Toro, you know what I told you in person.

If Father Vincenzo di Nicola does not get rid of certain trifling attitudes, he will always remain in a state of perplexity. Whoever dedicates himself to the Society does not pay attention to the walls within which he is staying nor does he get upset if he is in this Mission House instead of another. The saints show us the way. God wishes to have our hearts to be generous, our minds to be submissive. I am not at all pleased to be flattered, and I write and speak with complete evangelical liberty. But that does not remove the esteem I hold for all; anyone who dedicates himself to the Society should see the need for having those sentiments. Again, I remind you of the appointment in Atri for the evening of the 13th both for you and for Father Nicola if you wish to come into the Institute. Otherwise, *quod Domino placet fiat*.³² The matter about the schooling was a discussion just between us. Hence, tell Father Vincenzo that he will be going where I shall, in person, appoint him, but not as a lesson. Let us not multiply crosses with the workings of our imaginations. I speak to you as a friend. I admire the virtue of Father Nicola, but it is necessary to stir him a bit.

Do not worry about the Mission in Atri. I wish to see an end of both the doubts and the perplexities. In a hurry, but with esteem and affection, consider me as

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Citta S. Angelo, October 31, 1824

985

End of October, 1824
 Fr. Luigi Cocci
 Catignano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Luigi³³

The coach intended for your use will be coming on the morning of all Saints Day so that after the noon meal you can be in Moscufo for the entrance. I have worked things out so that Father Pietro

³² Let there be what pleases the Lord.

³³ This letter does not have a date, but it surely must be assigned to the end of October, 1824 when Father Luigi Cocci was preaching the Mission in Catignano.

De Victoriis, to whom you will give my regards, will be with you for the Mission in Moscufo, and he will be able to remain in Moscufo even after your departure, if necessary. So, you will depart together from Catignano after the noon meal of all Saints Day, and the coaches will be there. In that way, the good work will be even more vigorous. Father Vitale will be going to Collectorvino with Father Emidio. Father Vitale, then, will remain in the diocese to continue the Missions along with Father Pietro De Victoriis and Father Emidio, and in that way the people should be satisfied. After Moscufo, Father Pietro will then have to get together with Father Vitale in Collectorvino. We have had to arrange things thus in keeping with the requests of the bishop. As for you, I refer you again to the letter I wrote you recently. Once you have arrived in Moscufo, send work to Atri and I will forward you some, but only a little, devotional material. The priests in Moscufo will be able to attend the retreat directed by Father Vitale in Collectorvino. Tell Father Pietro that he should explain, as I urge you to do also, that it is impossible for me to come there to Catignano. God knows how much I would have liked to do so.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Tell Father Pietro that, along with Father Vitale, they should consider whether they can handle the requests from Carpineto, Spoltore etc.

986

November 4, 1824

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Moscufo

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Luigi

Thank you for your letter. With regard to what I said about confessors, that was just a piece of advice so that you would not forget. You will not stay on beyond the eight days. afterwards the people of Moscufo will provide you with a means of travel to get you to S. Benedetto. De Victoriis can stay on a bit longer in Moscufo. From S. Benedetto, you will send back the mount, which will be at the expense of Moscufo, and I will take care of the rest of the way to your parish. In S. Benedetto, I will direct you to an acquaintance of mine so that you will have all the necessary assistance, and you will see that very quickly you will be on your way either with a seat on the mail-coach or with a mount, depending on what the circumstances will provide. With this in mind, therefore, it is not necessary for you to come to Atri, for if they see a Missionary, new requests for Missions will not be lacking. If you would prefer to leave with me on the 15th, you can decide that. I will be going to the Marche, but, in that case, it would be too late for you, and I would not be at ease. So, tomorrow, after you have concluded things, send me please, at the expense of Moscufo, whatever is needed for devotional materials, and then after I get that information, I will send you a bit of money as well as the materials requested. I conclude by saying that from Moscufo you should take the sea route, and very shortly you will be on your way to S. Benedetto. God knows how truly I would have liked to have you with me, but that is not possible. Here, in the episcopal quarters, if you were to come, you would have to sleep on a sofa with another of our men since there are no beds available here. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.
Atri, November 4, 1824

P. S. You can send me your decision concerning this mailing at my expense. But, tomorrow, you are to send the money. Is that understood?

As for Moscufo, tell the priest or archpriest there that he should get help from Father Celestine, the Conventual in Loreto, or Father Alessandro, also a Conventual in Loreto.

987

November 4, 1824
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am returning to you the letter sent by Father Pietro Baldassarri, with whom I am not acquainted, and I ask you to give him my best regards and my thanks. That the bishops are able to erect permanent chapels in the prisons has never been doubted by anyone and it was useless to write about it. But here there is question that there are places that are unfit for chapels, and, if we stop to consider temporal means, *hoc opus, hic labor*.³⁴ Perhaps his Holiness might at least provisionally grant permission etc., following the example of his predecessor. I realize that your absence has been the reason for the lack of clear understanding concerning the situation. Around the middle of November, I shall be in Frosinone on retreat during the novena in honor of St. Xavier, and then quickly thereafter to conduct the retreat for the clergy in Farentino. With regard to other matters, *ad alias*.³⁵ Recommend me often to God. Here, the work is immense and the needs extreme. Let us offer prayers. It appears to me that things are still not taking on that state of progress that is so deeply desired. Our sins are what delays the mercy of God. With full esteem and affection, I assure you that I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Atri, November 4, 1824

988

November 6, 1824
Fr. Luigi Cocci
Moscufo

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Luigi³⁶

Enclosed are five *scudi* which I hope will be sufficient for your return. You should give an account of your expenses to Canon Fontana in Giano. I am enclosing, also, the letter for Mr. Onelli in S. Benedetto who will be your guide for directions. Note that there is a very short route through

³⁴ This work, this labor.

³⁵ For another time.

³⁶ From what St. Gaspar says, this letter is to be given November 6, 1824 as its date.

the pass in Macerata, or any other that might be suggested to you. If this money is not adequate, you should have Achille pay for the last coach and then he will give an account to me. Pray for me; with gratitude, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Moscufo is to pay for the coach as far as S. Benedetto. I have enough expenses. Tell Father Pietro that the bishop prefers Farindola, and that he should have no doubts that he will do good work there. I would like you also to have Father Emidio tell Father Pietro that they should be of assistance to each other. If Father Emidio should agree to work in concert with De Victoriis in Civitaquarta, I am indifferent. Tell him that even though De Victoriis would have been warmly received here, greater good can be accomplished this way and the desired objective of having a change of outside Missionaries has urged me to come to these decisions. Ask him to remain in Moscufo to further cultivate that vineyard. Later, he can get in touch with Father Emidio. Now that everything is readied, to shift from Farindola, the bishop's choice, would only disturb the situation. Let us let things proceed as set up.

See that your footman has a map. All you need to have is a document from the mayor which declares that you are a companion of mine and on return from this Mission. I will supply you also with a line or so from myself.³⁷

See that the footman, who is transporting the devotional materials, is paid. As for the coach for S. Benedetto, you might get a well-to-do person there to cover that. You speak to him yourself. Tell De Victoriis that I will send Bellini, who has forwarded devotional materials to me, for both Farindola and Collecervino; and more than this I cannot do.

989

November 6, 1824

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Moscufo

I, the undersigned, attest that the reverend Father Luigi Cocci, Missionary, having to prepare his return for the purpose of the ministry, is indeed a member of the Society of the Missions; and, since the others are remaining there, it is for that reason that the passport remains in the possession of the undersigned.

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Atri, November 6, 1824

990

November 14, 1824

To a Gentlaman of

Penne

Hail to the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

³⁷ Cfr. what is contained in the following letter

Most illustrious sir³⁸

Here I am sending you a reply to your most appreciated letters. Have no doubts, I shall take along with me the page of petitions to Rome. Enclosed, I am returning to you your two letters so that you can destroy them. Confessions always turn out well as long as they are carried out in good faith, and the only thing that still obliges is to supply what had been forgotten during the act of sacramental confession; that is something that you will be able to do yourself, in keeping with the regulations, with any confessor that you will select. So, it seems to me that there is no longer room for worry, keeping these basic things in mind. As reading material in your present state, you might choose the book entitled "*Exercises in Perfection*" by Father Rodriguez, selecting especially the treatise "*On the Joy of the Spirit*" as well as that "*On sadness*". Trust in God and in prayer.

Remember that God is a God of peace. Let anxieties be removed far from ourselves. I love perfection, but we should shun scrupulosity. In your reconciliation, say whatever has come to your mind and then leave your soul in tranquility. With esteem and affection, assuring you that I shall not forget you in my prayers, I remain

Your most devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Atri, November 14, 1824

P. S. If Father Pasquale has not left yet, please give him the enclosed. Otherwise, burn it.

In case you have to write to me, the reverend Archpriest del Nunzio knows my address. Serve God with joy.

991

Middle of November, 1824

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor³⁹

The present season which is going to make traveling more and more inopportune, as well as the contracts already made with the coachman for the sake of economy, both deprive me of the pleasure of seeing you again. However, God who brings the times to maturity, as De Sales would say, will offer me that consolation on another occasion. I do not cease recommending to you our foundation in Pievetorina. So that I will not fail in being insistent, be assured that very greatly useful would be a recommendation from you to the Holy Father. It seems to me that this would be most in keeping with the special zeal and affection that you have always shown toward our Society which continues promoting an apostolic life among the clergy and revives the priest-assemblies that were

³⁸ Just who this gentleman may be is not known. It is certain, however, that he is from Penne where Father Pasquale De Nardis was located, as is evident from the letter addressed to the latter on October 31, 1824.

³⁹ This xeroxed handwritten letter does not have a date. It certainly precedes the one written to the same person on December 1, 1824. On some of the replies to the bishop the date, November 24, is written. From the context, we deduce that the letter was written from Pievetorina where St. Gaspar went after the mission in Atri. So, we date the letter: Pievetorina, middle of November, 1824.

so well-known during the early ages of the Church. This is something that is beneficial for anyone who has not been called to take the solemn vows, but to live in holy community-life and thus become more closely united to God in the practice of prayer in particular as well as humility. If the works of God are born in thorns, that of holy does not frighten us, but rather brings us to recognize that patience, longsuffering and trust in the help of the Almighty are the very bases and foundation of all good works.

In the meantime, I shall await the copy of the decree of possession of that house which was something overlooked in the beginning because of the enthusiasm to look after the welfare of souls. You are well-acquainted with the history of the progress we have made. I have no doubt that the decree will be fashioned similar to the decree that Monsignor Marchetti, former Apostolic Administrator in Rimini, drew up at the time that he, so to speak, laid the first stone in that city for the installation of our Society there. This decree would indicate your own decisive attachment to the Society and will sing out the praises that the works of God merit, all to the glory of the Almighty himself. I am not in the least doubtful of similar and even greater fervent sentiments issuing from your heart. Little by little, things will continue to improve. In the beginning, it is necessary to declare, many Missionaries were assigned to that House, and now, for economical reasons, we have to be content, *ad tempus*,⁴⁰ to have two individuals capable of handling at least the more important projects of the Society. We also continue supplying, to the best of our ability, those who govern in the Society, so as not allow it to be overcome by the devil, the ever-present enemy of the good. The transferring of the members has taken place depending only on the circumstances. In the beginning, it was necessary to entrust the settling of the new foundations to those who were more experienced and more tolerant of certain temporal conditions that relate to the spirit. This could not have been handled very easily by new members. Add to that the call for Missions and the necessity of dividing this work among all the members in the Institute, along with the desire to keep providing a change of preachers, yet facing the limitation of having just a few individuals available. Even that, I repeat, is going to end within a short time. In the meanwhile, let us be consoled in God for the good work that has been accomplished up to now with the help of his divine grace. I add that temporarily and for whatever urgency that may arise in the diocese, I ask that you please write to me and I will quickly send you the help that is necessary for a particular need. You are not unaware of the esteem that I hold for your most worthy person.

Present in this House is last year's Lenten preacher, Father Camillo Rossi, one of the earliest members of our Society, a very worthy priest and truly furnished with the talent required by the ministry. Along with him is another companion of mine, 63 years old, a man, *omni exceptione maior*,⁴¹ and, you can be sure, he is so *coram Deo*.⁴² I enclose also the testimony of your episcopal curia so that you can note briefly his qualifications and will grant him the necessary faculties *tutissima conscientia*.⁴³ You can be certain that in admitting workers, we proceed very cautiously so that all proceeds calmly. The misunderstanding concerning the retreat was brought about, indeed through excessive humility, by Father Vitale who has been assigned a shift of retreats and missions in the Kingdom of Naples. The priest that I am leaving with you is presently preparing himself to

⁴⁰ At the time.

⁴¹ Greater by every exception.

⁴² Before God.

⁴³ A very safe conscience.

handle the clergy since he is apt in that line of work. All that is required yet is a couple of months in which he can learn the pertinent texts well. You should send the enclosed document to Father Camillo Rossi, the Missionary Superior. Please dispense the new worker, because of his age, from coming to see you personally. Recommend me often to God. Let us maintain our holy union in the Divine Heart, and, as I kiss your hands, believe me to be with esteem, respect and a very special affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

992

November 19, 1824

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Grutti

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Luigi

With this letter, I am asking you not to forget the Retreat, called for by the rule, to be held in S. Felice in Giano, at least for those days that you are able to be there, and, also, learning your discourse on Xavier during that time. Perhaps you might be called to supply for the sermons in case the one assigned should not arrive. Please try to do me this favor, and I shall be most obliged to you. No priest should be denied a few days of retreat. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Fuligno, while traveling, November 19, 1824

993

November 23, 1824

Msgr. Giuseppe Lais

Bishop of Ferentino

Ferentino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

While passing through Ferentino on my return to Frosinone I leave you this letter in order to inform you that on the day immediately after the feast of St. Francis Xavier the holy Retreat could be begun right after the noon meal. I await your response. Recommend me to God as I myself begin my retreat during the novena in honor of Xavier. Most venerable Monsignor, while kissing your hand, I am and will always remain with the fulness of esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

(while traveling) Valmontone, November 23, 1824

994

November 28, 1824
 Msgr. Francesco Bonomo
 Bishop of Gaeta
 Gaeta

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴⁴

Venerable Monsignor

With this letter, I wish to reaffirm my feelings of esteem and veneration of you. You probably have received one of my letters through the Naples postal service in which I asked you for a clarification concerning Lenten preachers. With this letter I am now stating that we are not able to accept Lenten assignments except in those places where we have a foundation. So, it would be better for you to provide otherwise for Lenten preachers for your people. But, if you would like to arrange for public Missions or Retreats, in place of a Lenten series, which would take approximately 20 days, then you would be able to have our men at your disposal. Please do me the favor of informing me beforehand and in sufficient time so that I can regulate things.

With regard to Vallecorsa, in place of a Lenten series, they would prefer to have a holy Mission. You make the decision and it will be obeyed as you deliberate. Blessed Cigneri, as you well know, advised having holy Missions every three years, and also, to be taken into consideration is the circumstance that it will be the Holy Year.

Finally, do not cease recommending me often to God, and, with the usual feelings of esteem and respect, I remain

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, November 28, 1824

995

November 29, 1824
 Fr. Giacomo Cocumelli
 Ferentino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Father Giacomo

Have no doubts, I shall be in Ferentino next Saturday, approximately around noon time. Everything that you mentioned is going along fine. Recommend me often to God, and, with esteem and respect, though in a hurry, believe me to be

Your humble, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, November 29, 1824

Please note that even though there was a letter of mine, addressed to the most reverend bishop, pertaining to the 6th of the upcoming month, he should pay no attention to that one; the appointment should be set for the 4th.

⁴⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

996

November 29, 1824
Fr. Vincenzo Martinez
Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Father

I thank you wholeheartedly for your letter. With regard to enrolment, you have been doing very well. Only as long as the pious works continue to be developed more gloriously there will it be necessary for you to send a copy of those enrolled each year to Father Giovanni Merlini, Missionary President in Vallecorsa and the Secretary General of our Mission and Retreat Houses. Once you have done that, everything will be in order. *Laus Deo in omnibus*.⁴⁵ May the Lord increase evermore your zeal for his divine glory, and may he grant us to be, one day, in that dear fatherland of heaven.

With pleasure, I learned of the careful vigilance over the gifts given during the holy Mission. Give my best regards to Vincenzo Aversano and in a special way to the new Rector of the seminary. Father Vincenzo, recommend me in the prayers offered in common. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, November 29, 1824

P.S. I thank you also for returning the letters that were sent to you by mistake.

997

November 30, 1824
Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci
Guarcino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Vicar

Enclosed are a few objects received from Rome; I am filled with exultation in observing the great good work that is being accomplished there. Asking you for your prayers, with esteem I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, November 30, 1824

P. S. I am writing, in behalf of Father Biagio, that the cost is 9.65 *scudi*, which you should forward to Canon Betti, Missionary President in Frosinone.

998

November 30, 1824
Fr. Placido Paparello
Itri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

⁴⁵ Praise to God in all things.

Dear Father Placido

I have already attended to the most reverend bishop in Terracina. With pleasure did I receive your handwriting. Let us do every bit of good work possible for the glory of God, and let us become saints. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, November 30, 1824

999

End of November 1824

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

I am sending along also this letter⁴⁶ for some useful reflection. The words used by the Canon Penitentiary who is writing from Atri are indeed intended for praising and blessing the mercies of God. As far as I am concerned, I say this with that liberty of spirit which we have with each other, that I would like to do much good work, but not to be named in person. So, you would be doing me a favor and a charitable act by saying, in general, that a priest representing the Holy Father etc. Ultimately, I am hopeful of completing my days in Giano, that most beloved place of solitude etc.

1000

November 1824

Pope Leo XII

Most Blessed Father⁴⁷

The Carmelites in the Convent of Civita di Penne in the Kingdom of Naples, as a result of the holy Missions and because of the great devotion shown toward the glorious apostle of the Indies, St. Francis Xavier, Protector of the holy Missions, have erected an altar in their church in honor of this saint whose protection we so direly need in our times. Now, in order to stimulate even more devotion to this great saint, those religious are having recourse to your Holiness to deign to declare, as a special favor, that that altar be a privileged altar *pro vivis et defunctis in perpetuo*.⁴⁸ In that church there is only one altar dedicated to the most holy Mary of Mount Carmel that is privileged *in perpetuo pro defunctis*.⁴⁹ This favor will be a motivating force for the entire city which is presently also putting forth efforts for the foundation of a Mission and Retreat House *sub titulo Pretiosissimi Sanguinis Domini nostri Jesu Christi et invocatione divi Francisci Xaverii*⁵⁰ so that the people will

⁴⁶ St. Gaspar writes this note on the fourth facing of the letter from Canon Francesco Sorricchio, mailed from Atri on November 25, 1824. Therefore, St. Gaspar's letter is dated around the end of November 1824. Sorricchio is recommending two petitions to St. Gaspar; who, in turn, is now presenting them to Cristaldi along with Sorricchio's letter in which he praises the good work done by the Saint in Atri.

⁴⁷ This petition does not have a date. In the volume which contains the letters to Cristaldi, it is placed at the end of 1824. Certainly, it should be assigned to a time after the Mission in Penne, preached in September of 1824, and very probably after the return of St. Gaspar to Rome (end of November).

⁴⁸ For the living and dead forever.

⁴⁹ Forever for the dead.

⁵⁰ Under the title of the most precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the invocation of Saint Francis

be constantly reminded of the great price at which they were redeemed *et justificati in Sanguine salvi simus ab ira*:⁵¹ that etc.

In behalf of the Carmelites of Civita di Penne in the Kingdom of Naples.

Xavier.

⁵¹ And justified in blood we have been saved from wrath.