

St. Gaspar's Letters

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1101

April 19, 1825
 Fr. Domenico Silvestri
 Missionario in
 Frosinone per Piperno per Sonnino¹

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

My dearest in the Lord

Wretched thing that I am, I shall not fail to continue to pray, wholeheartedly. God knows how greatly I am desirous of seeing you at peace. Also, make the adjustments in your promise to Maria SS.ma delle Canne, as you suggested to me, and let us be hopeful. Trust in Mary most holy and may there be peace in your heart.

After you have finished with the two small volumes written by the deceased Marquis Tani,² please do me the favor of returning them to me. Furthermore, have no doubt that, once the spring listing of Missions has been figured out, a companion will be coming there. In the meantime, prayers.

Likewise, I would like you to be assured of the will of God in regard to your vocation. Excessive fear causes agitation too, as one can readily imagine. Oh, my beloved friend, why become anxious as long as we are in the hands of God? Is he not a most loving Father? Does he not take care of us? Does he not dispose all things for our own good? He used Moses to humiliate Pharaoh and, in general, *infirmi eligit, ut fortia quaeque confundat*.³ When we use the 24 hours of the day for God, in the mystical bed of his will, we have done everything. This does not deny, however, the necessity of prayer and faith in God.⁴ Even St. Bernardine of Siena was cured of hoarseness and the same can be said of so many others.

In a short time I shall be going to Piperno for the Retreat to the Nuns, and at that time you can pay me a visit.⁵

Keep sending me the notifications of the Masses. Be careful about Antonino and take into account the clothing that he has already. I fear that he might be crafty in seeking something more. However, if you see an urgency for it, have some trousers made for him of black material and get it wherever you can.

May Jesus be with us. With all affection and esteem, and begging you for incessant prayers, I am and shall constantly be

Fr. Domenico, your
 Humble, devoted, obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo

¹ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Silvestri

² He is probably referring to one of the ascetical works composed by the Missionary Fr. Vincenzo Marchese Tani of Ferentino, concerning whom we have spoken in Lett. n. 256 of October 7, 1820.

³ He chose the weak in order to confound the strong.

⁴ In his deposition at the Ordinary Process in Albano, Fr. Silvestri cited the third paragraph of this letter as far as this point to demonstrate that the Saint "encouraged all to have faith in God in order to obtain graces": in his own specific case, to obtain the cure of his speech defect that was a source of distress for Silvestri.

⁵ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Silvestri

M. Ap.

Ferentino, while on the Missions, April 19, 1825

P. S. ask Sig. Bianchini if he has received everything that he asked me to get for the Oratory. He is in Roccagorga, the agent for Prince Doria. Tell him that I shall be in Piperno during the early part of May.

Offer suffrages according to the rule for the soul of our Fr. Luigi Achille, recently deceased, and inform the Bishop of Terracina likewise.

P. S. In order to have the faculties that you request, all you have to do is ask the Most Rev. Bishop for the faculties of the 13 cases of the Penitentiary, with a listing of those cases. You will have only the ones that are reserved on the list made by Msgr. Manassi; for anything more, from the Tridentine; you will have to send a petition for them.

1102

April 20, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶

Venerable Monsignor

At this point, after having undertaken several approaches, carried out in a prudent fashion and singularly blessed by God, I have solved the matter entrusted to me by the Holy Father with respect to Mr. Rosini. This fellow is only a very, very poor man, of mature age, burdened with a numerous offspring, and in such a state that I found it necessary to give him a bit of financial help for his subsistence. With candor he confessed having authored the anonymous writing, done however under the pressure of a desperate moment brought on by reason of the payments due for loans on his house. In his anguish, he gave in to the excessive fault of writing in a most improper and uncivil way. However, since he is a man of basically good character, he has already admitted his error, has admired the virtue of his Holiness, and through me, now offers him his most humble apology. We can be very sure of his repentance, and I have experienced consolation in seeing him immediately prompt and candid in his confession of the truth. He has already received the holy Sacraments and, because he was fearful of something else happening to him, I assured him of the Sovereign's word. With an abundance of tears, he left me, promising to pray always for the long preservation of his Holiness. This is all that I have to communicate to you, and, most reverend excellency, asking you for your prayers and with the usual esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 20, 1825

P. S. The exercises have not been able to be arranged, at least not for the time being, in behalf of the poor, most needy family. The objective, however, has been achieved. *Laus Deo.*⁷ Will I now be able to burn the papers?

⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

⁷ Praise God.

1103

April 21, 1825
To a Priest

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father⁸

I thank you wholeheartedly for your very dear letter. In reply, I say to you that you should depart quite soon in order to conduct the holy Retreat in Spigno and Castelonorato. I would say that you should pass through Terracina where, with the assistance of the bishop there, you will have them draw up your traveling papers for the Kingdom. You should get all of your faculties in Gaeta from the most reverend bishop to whom you will give the enclosed. Any other appointments that may be offered to you, you are to decline, saying in general that they should write to me to get workers and that you are occupied with other things in the line of the ministry. In my behalf, give my thanks to the most reverend Vicar. The income from the Lenten series in the respective locales is to be used to cover the expenses. You will be receiving that, and once the expenses are paid and you have also subtracted the traveling expenses, if there should be something left over, it should be given to the construction in Vallecorsa. Let us be united in prayer. You can be certain that we cannot overlook Spigno and Castelonorato since they did not have a Lenten series and the bishop is very eager to have this good work done there. So to speak, fly there so that you can divide the days between the two groups of people. Pray and have others pray for the one who now renews himself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Ferentino, April 21, 1825

1104

April 25, 1825
Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
Rome

The priest, Father Giuseppe Collalti⁹ of the church of S. Ippolito in the city of Ferentino asks the most illustrious and reverend Monsignor Muccioli, President of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood, to please select and appoint a priest in Rome to request aggregation for the Archconfraternity of the Pious Union, erected in S. Ippolito, *sub titulo Pretiosissimi Sanguinis Domini nostri Jesu Christi*.¹⁰ In faith, this day, April 25, 1825.

1105

April 26, 1825

⁸ Who this priest was is not known with precision. The letter is located among those addressed to Father Vincenzo Ceccacci from Guarcino and Father Pietro Fusari, pastor of Fumone. It seems more probable that this latter is the addressee, the priest for this assignment.

⁹ This request was written by St. Gaspar and authenticated on April 28 by the Vicar General Andrea Belli and by the episcopal Chancellor Can. Domenico Pace. The document granting aggregation was received on June 12, 1825 and the rite of aggregation took place on the following day.

¹⁰ Under the title of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus.

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Thank you for what you sent enclosed to me through the mails. Let me know what I owe you since I have read it but I cannot recognize the markings on the superscript. I could have Bartolomeo check it, but it is better for you to explain it to me.

I am edified by the most reverend bishop concerning the talk he will give for the foundation. Prayers, holy persistence, and, if you think it feasible, a selection of representatives.

The Retreat in Arpino is expected to begin on May 1st, because otherwise, since I am presently in Ferentino, I thought that I might be doubling my travels in view of the fact that I must go, if God gives me life, beyond Frosinone. Therefore, I have accordingly contacted the Vicar Forane and we are in full agreement, especially since Monsignor favored me with the liberty of selecting the time.

Please give my distinct regards to Father Francesco Saverio Lanna, Canon Baldassarri, and everyone etc. Particular greetings to the most reverend bishop and to Mrs. Carrara, to whom you will say that I have not lost my deep feelings of gratitude and that I have already written to Rome. With special esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Ferentino, April 26, 1825

1106

April 27, 1825

Cardinal Luigi Ercolani

Rome

Your Eminence

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I assure you that I shall not fail to be obedient to what you enjoin upon me with regard to the Monastery in Sezze. My ministerial appointments may perhaps cause a small variation in the time, but it will only be incidental. I place myself entirely in the help of your prayers so that I will be able to do a bit of good work in that place. Anyone else who might have been assigned by your most reverend Eminence, would have done even greater good work than I will do; at any rate, I shall be obedient. I want you to be very careful about your health which is of such great interest to me, and, while kissing the sacred purple, I have the honor to renew my esteem and respect for you, most reverend Eminence, as

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Ferentino, while giving a Mission, April 27, 1825

1107

April 27, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Amid the crowds of penitents and requests for the ministry, I find it necessary to send on to you the enclosed matter which was sent to me wrapped in an outer covering from a male religious in Romagna. I do not know its content. He asks only that it be placed on our Holy Father's desk, to whom you will recommend me in prayer. While kissing your hands, most reverend excellency, and asking you for incessant prayers, with esteem, respect and special affection, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

While giving a Mission, April 27, 1825

1108

April 27, 1825

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

I understand all that you mention in your letter concerning Gaeta and I realize that the difficulties that have arisen for the bishop of Gaeta are due to certain prescriptions in the Kingdom which I think are being interpreted too literally. I also recognize the force of your reasoning and I will regulate my actions accordingly. I am pleased that our Congregation nourishes such basic principles that make the propagation of our devotion easier.

I have received the printed page dealing with suffrages, unlike anything that I have in my house. That means that I shall have them signed and passed on to you or they may be lost. However, since this matter of suffrages is such a delicate thing, I therefore ask that you give me a better explanation as to what my inspection involves so that I can be at peace in my own mind. I do not have a clear recollection of it. From the exposition on the page, it seems to me that all has a relationship to the Archconfraternity. After another letter from you, clarifying the matter, we will have a more precise understanding .

You probably have taken care of the suffrages for our deceased very dear Achille.

The name of the Missionary who will handle the month is Father Innocenzo Betti.

Your humble servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 27, 1825

1109

April 28, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Father Giovanni Merlini, my dearest companion in the ministry, has an urgent need to speak with the Holy Father concerning a particular matter. I beg that you, in your charity, would find a moment when he can have access to our Holy Father at the soonest possible time, since he will have to be returning to the Province. Most reverend excellency, with distinct esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Ferentino, while giving a Mission, April 28, 1825

1110

April 28, 1825

Msgr. Carlo Manasse

Bishop of Terracina

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable and beloved Monsignor

With pleasure did I receive your most appreciated letter and in reply I say to you that the month of May is entirely taken up by appointments to the seminary of Sezze, to Maenza, to the nuns in Piperno, to the clergy in Arpino and by a trip that I will have to make to Sezze for a visitation of Cardinal Ercolani's monastery from which I am unable to be excused. Add to this the Missions to be conducted in the dioceses of Marsi, Sora, Todi, Rieti, and Norcia, along with the months of the most holy Mary in the respective Houses, and finally the sending of Canon Carboneri to Atri and Penne with Father Luigi Mosconi and Father Emidio Bellini who will complete the tour of that diocese. This listing will help the zealous pastor of Monticelli to realize that if he had written to me in time, I would have shown him preference since we favor those dioceses where we have foundations. So it is necessity, not my own free choice, that determines my writing to you in this way. But this can serve also as a reminder to your exercise of charity by offering prayers.

You could suggest a couple of plans. First, (and this could be taken care of absolutely) that you yourself go there with Canon Locatelli and restore the spirit of the last Mission; perhaps that is why providence has disposed that the request should be addressed to you. Second, that a different time be selected, excluding May and June. After our solemn observance of the months and the completion of spring Missions, two Missionaries will be available.

But why leave the souls in need when you, in a few days, can be influential in achieving a great good? With you going there, I personally would experience the deepest satisfaction. Recommend me often to God; take good care of your health, and do not overdo it. A forced good work can impede a greater good that is done with order, except when there is an extraordinary inspiration from God. In the meantime, most venerable Monsignor, with esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Ferentino, April 28, 1825

1111

May 2, 1825
Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri
Sora

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I ask you to please serve as mediator in bringing about a reconciliation between the Confraternity of the most Blessed Sacrament and that of the Sorrowful Mother. It seems to me quite incoherent that this Confraternity does not have the primacy, nor do I know whether the sacred privileges, which the King might have obtained from Rome, would extend so far; or, that there may have been an involuntary misunderstanding. At least at solemn observances of the most Blessed Sacrament, it seems to be quite clear that that Confraternity should handle the principal offices. I would suggest that they form a circle around the baldachin, at least for this year, until a rescript of derogation from the present King is petitioned. With esteem and respect, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

May 2, 1825

1112

May 5, 1825
Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I am obliged to recommend to you the enclosed memorandum. You, in your wisdom, will do what you judge to be expedient for the reconciliation of affairs. I take this opportunity also to recommend myself to your prayers and, with esteem and respect, to renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Arpino, May 5, 1825

1113

May 8, 1825
Fr. Angelo Primavera
Bolognola

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Angelo

From your letter I note that the month of May is occupied. So, I will be happy for you to direct the Mission in Visso which is to begin on Saturday, June 4th. You should be in Pievetorina on the preceding Friday. You look after the furnishing of the Crucifix etc. etc. starting now, in order to save on expenses. The permissions which, according to your direction are necessary for Visso alone,

are not needed; or, if you think that you need to have them for the sake of your own conscience, go ahead and get them and be sure to get them only for Visso. I would like to have a clear, prompt and decisive reply. Cast a glance at the wounds of Jesus Christ and you will hear a yes. He is our primary director. With that in mind, we shall certainly work things out. For my consolation, please send me your reply. I kiss your hands, dear Father Angelo, and with esteem, respect and affection, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone (for forwarding), May 8, 1825

1114

May 9, 1825

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I inconvenience you with this letter of mine in order to inform you that Father Vittorio Tagliaferri would like to have at once a dimissorial letter for receiving the diaconate on the feast of the most holy Trinity. I would condescend as far as the diaconate. But, for the priesthood, he should wait a bit longer. Try to console him. I know that your uncle is there with you. Give him my regards. May the painting of St. Xavier be close to your heart. Greet Canon dell'Uomo for me and anyone else who remembers me. Let us live united in the divine Heart, where I leave you, most venerable Canon, as I say that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 9, 1825

1115

May 9, 1825

Fr. Basilio Bonelli

Giuliano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I have received your most appreciated letter and in reply I say that as soon as I am able I shall come, or send someone, to see the two locales that have been offered, so that, after examining the situation, we can come to a common decision in establishing those resolutions that relate to the most important objective, the glory of the Lord. Recommend me often to God. With esteem and respect, believe me to be in Jesus Crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 9, 1825

1116

May 10, 1825
Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

The people of Isola would like to have holy Missions as you probably know, and by an agreement made with the most reverend bishop, to whom you will give my regards, that will take place at the middle of October since that is the most suitable time. Recommend me often to God, and, with esteem, respect and greetings etc. consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 10, 1825

1117

May 11, 1825
Fr. Giuseppe Stani
Penne

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Stani

I would like to know whether the painting of St. Xavier is finished and whether in the church there are other privileged altars and for how many times per week and whether *pro vivis et defunctis*.¹¹ Later you can let me know what you would like for the new altar. I shall await your response. Pray and have others pray for the one who now, with esteem and respect, renews himself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone (for forwarding letters or use the address in Rome) May 11, 1825

1118

May 11, 1825
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹²

Most venerable and beloved Monsignor

I have just returned from the Retreat to the clergy of Arpino after giving the Mission in Ferentino and I am writing this letter to find out news of your health which is so close to my heart, and also to find out whether you received my last letter fulfilling what you know about and is the

¹¹ For the living and the dead.

¹² Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

concern of His Holiness with regard to Mr. Rosini. I would have other things to tell you but I leave that for other occasions, since I do not know whether you are well or not. Recommend me a lot, a lot to God. Send your letters for forwarding to Frosinone. I kiss your hands, most reverend excellency, and I am and will constantly be with total respect and constant gratitude

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 11, 1825

P. S. As far as I know, I believe that with the death of Ferdinando, or perhaps because of some other eventuality that I do not know about, the matter of the chapels in the prisons has not been taken care of. The portable altar will serve adequately for the meantime.

1119

May 11, 1825

Fr. Vincenzo Martinez

Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Vincenzo

First of all, I am enclosing the reply from Monsignor Muccioli, bishop of Agatopoli, President of the Archconfraternity, so that you can note the practice observed by another curia of the Kingdom, which I approve, and that can be had also by the bishop of Gaeta. This includes the pious enrolments without the vesture of the Confraternity and those pious works that he promotes who blesses, for example, the rosary etc. See that you contact the reverend rector of the Seminary. As a last resort, each year you could send me, when convenient, a copy of the brothers and sisters enrolled. More than this I cannot say. God then, if the bishop does not object, will offer the opportunity for another greater development of things throughout the Kingdom. The substance of the matter is assured. The devotion is promoted, and do not forget the month of June, sanctified by the glories of the redemption. Pray and ask others to pray for the one who now, with esteem and respect, wholeheartedly renews himself as

Your humble and obliged

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 11, 1825

1120

May 12, 1825

Fr. Ferdinando Gigliozzi

Fontana

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I am sending you several booklets of our most important devotion which I highly recommend

to you. Also included is the document which entitles you to enrol the devotees.¹³ Feel free to write to me if you should have any doubts. Propagate the public recitation of the Chaplet. Pray for me *sine intermissione*,¹⁴ and, dear Canon, with particular esteem and reverence, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, May 12

1121

May 14, 1825

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am writing to you to find out what was worked out with the representatives concerning economic matters for the month so that I can regulate myself accordingly. I urge the following:

1. The Bedoni matter with Monsignor Santelli.
2. The biography of Albertini which is to be compiled, and anything else that is pertinent to the basic principles that we talked about in person.
3. In your behalf, I wrote to Cardinal Falzacappa.
4. I would like to have a copy of the Lovatti rescript, and a memorandum of the time from which it has been paid, and I ask that you insist on this now.
5. If I have forgotten anything, please let me know.

God is blessing our Missions, and the Society, by divine mercy, is doing great work. If the one chosen to preach the month should be unable to do so, which is something that I believe will not occur, Canon Betti, a man of gold, has already been selected and will certainly be coming. Let us remain *in Corde JesuChrist crucifixi*.¹⁵

Your humble servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, May 14¹⁶

Who will be handling the octave?

1122

May 15, 1825

Fr. Basilio Bonelli

Giuliano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

¹³ The document spoken of here bears the date May 12, 1825. Hence this letter belongs to 1825.

¹⁴ Without intermission.

¹⁵ In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

¹⁶ The year is 1825. Cfr. the letter to the same person sent on April 27, 1825.

Venerable Vicar

If it is not inconvenient for you, I would be greatly pleased if you would come to me in Piperno for a meeting concerning the foundation that is hoped for there. Otherwise, once the Marian month is completed by Missionary Father Giovanni Merlini in Frosinone, I will send him to meet with you. Mr. Marsi offers you the hospitality of his home in Piperno. Awaiting your response, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Piperno, May 15, 1825

P. S. If the necessity arises, come here this week.

1123

May 19, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Oh how delighted I was to receive the news concerning your health which I hope will prosper for many long years, full of merits for blessed eternity. Do not cease to preserve it by not overworking too much.

The paragraph in my recent letter, in which I did not express myself well, pertains to the chapels in the prisons in the Kingdom of Naples. It is a matter that has probably been overlooked due to the death of King Ferdinand. I suggested, therefore, that at least provisionally the portable altar could afford the opportunity for religious and christian services.

I must now ask you to petition his Holiness to be kind enough to grant to all of our Missionaries the faculty of being able to gain the jubilee indulgence by visiting our churches thirty times, since we cannot leave our Houses nor interrupt our Missions and Retreats as well as other things incumbent upon the Institute. Our Houses are open Missions; our workers have a choice in our ministry and hence are always busy. You, in your wisdom, know that it is to the greater glory of God to look after what I have referred to here; also, because we do not have a House in Rome, as do the other Institutes, where our men would be able to make a livelihood (in addition, in general, to covering the expenses incurred in traveling) etc. etc. I know that the Holy Father is quite wise and has granted this privilege to others for just reasons. It is enough for me that you express your sentiments, which you can then communicate to me, and we shall not fail to pray especially for his Beatitude and for your most reverend excellency, our most beloved father. In behalf of the Society, I ask that you please petition for the same privilege for the benefit of our Brothers-in-service in our Houses, for our students in Giano and Sermoneta, where in addition to their hospice they are also dwelling in the large convent formerly belonging to the Reformed, and the young men in that locale who are enjoying peace and quiet.

May Jesus be with us, and, most venerable Monsignor, with the fulness of esteem, respect and constant gratitude, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Piperno, May 19, 1825

P. S. Please bring to the attention of the Holy Father that the number of requests and the programs of our ministry are increasing each day.

Keep addressing your most appreciated letters to the usual center. Suggest to the Holy Father to order the separation of beds for the soldiers so that each soldier will have his own little bed. It would be worthwhile to examine the system that is observed concerning this point in each of the branches of the military. As for the pictures, engravings, miniatures and other lascivious items, the Holy Father has probably provided for in his Encyclical to the bishops etc. As for any other of our problems, *ad alias*.¹⁷

P. S. A brief time ago, a Marchese dei Marzii came to me and urged me to recommend to your most reverend excellency a Major Clino Ferrari of Ceprano who has requested that he be the successor to his deceased father in the most honorable as well as lucrative position of Superintendent of the Customs. I very forcefully showed him that I did not wish to be involved in this, for I am quite aware of my nothingness, but then, seeing him distressed by my rejection, I felt that I should not deny him and so I promised him that I would recommend him, as I am presently doing, also because of the good reports that I have heard concerning him, to the consideration of your most reverend excellency, declaring always my incapability of doing anything. Offer suffrages for the soul of an excellent, young Brother of ours who has died. *Haec est magna cogitatio*.¹⁸

1124

May 20, 1825

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor and loving brother

With this letter I am asking you for your opinion, that is, whether you deem it expedient for me to send a letter to Mr. Lovatti, asking him not to delay making the payment, which you know about.

I hope that you have concluded the Bedoni affair, as far as the Hospital is concerned. With holy impatience I am awaiting the data on Msgr. Albertini, since I already have someone who will write the Life. You are too busy. I have already written with regard to the person who will conduct our Month. I am not thinking about the Octave; but, later on, for the decorum of the Society which redounds to the glory of God, we will have to reserve this, too, for a Missionary of ours. At any rate, this year I have fully aligned myself with your sentiments, and the purpose that you have in mind is a saintly one. I hope, however, that later the suggestion made above will not be displeasing to you. You will be able to think about it deeply at the foot of the Crucified.

Whenever you can get hold of any printed matter for the Missions, always do me the favor of passing them on to Severini, keeping in mind anything else that pertains to the good advancement of things.

¹⁷ For another time.

¹⁸ This is great thinking.

As for my doubts concerning the suffrages in behalf of contributors, whose number you will try to increase, since I have not gotten an answer to my questions, I am not doing anything further about it. To put it briefly, I have the matter before me in general, but I do not recall it in detail, nor would I want to overlook anything.

Given the chance, if you have a suggestion to make to me about some particular locale suitable for us, we will come to an understanding. Do not fail to write to me about it, for in the multitude of business matters which keep increasing, I find it urgently necessary to put someone in Rome who can be installed there for our group, and who will take care of the office of Procurator of our Houses. Little by little everything will be consolidated.

Fr. Giovanni Merlini tells me that you are displeased with me because I do not keep you informed of everything. I can assure you, not only do I want to keep you up to date on everything because I love and esteem you in Jesus Christ, but also I would like to add to your responsibilities the General Direction of the Institute, since I am a lover of obeying and not of presiding. You know that we are not destined to remain here on earth forever. Hence, others will follow us. That is why it is necessary now to set up the principles, worked out together, for the good government of the Society in general and of its various ramifications. I have been so busy with the work of the Institute that I have not been able to maintain the letter-writing in which I could make known (God willing) that more is accomplished by the work of others than by our own. So, I limit myself to a specific need. Besides, I prefer talking with God about the good than with men.

But then you will say: "I am the one that they question". Well, in that case you can answer that they should have recourse to me. Furthermore, it is always possible for them to write to me on occasion, requesting information on whatever could be needed for the greater glory of God. I cannot be aware of all that is demanded in Rome and of all the gossip that can arise. Nor can I refute them, if I do not know about them. So, unless I am given an extraordinary gift from God, I will not be able to prevent it.

In general, I tell you that the Society is going along very well, that the members are increasing in number and all is being carried out according to the principles of our Founder. Oh, how I would like to see someone produce a portrait of him.

Let us remain in the most holy wounds of Jesus Christ. Let us grow in fervor during the coming Month. Jesus be with us. And with the desire to embrace you once again before the end of the Holy Year, I am and will constantly be with fullness of esteem and constant special attachment of you, venerable Monsignor

Humble, devoted, obliged servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Piperno,¹⁹ May 20, 1825

The place to address your letters is Frosinone.

Enroll Canon Francesco Villa among the Aggregators in Isola, Diocese of Sora. I remind you about the printing of the certificates. Also, print a copy of the formula for blessing the votive garments, etc. You probably have the one that Msgr. Albertini used to use: in case not, it would be good to wait until I get to Rome, because I have one on file. For the time being, you can answer that it is not essential, and that later on they will have one.

¹⁹ Piperno cf. Geographical Data.

Let us always work together when questions such as these arise.

I heard about the procession of the Brothers and Sisters, something which I have been greatly pleased with. Give my greetings to his Eminence Falzacappa and recommend me also to his prayers. I have received the notice recently that our excellent Agostino, lay-worker at the Hospice, has passed on to eternity. As for the death of Fr. Luigi Achille, Missionary in Albano, I have already given you notice. *Gratia Dei nobiscum.*²⁰ The thought of eternity is a great thought.

1125

May 21, 1825

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri

Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Thank you for your letter. I have seen our Father Domenico and he is doing very well and is the apostle of Sonnino. Praise be to God and to you, consolation.

On my behalf, speak words of praise to the brethren of the most Blessed Sacrament there and congratulate them for the virtue they are demonstrating. I am extremely edified and I become more and more attracted to them for their most praiseworthy intentions. God will see to the restoration of order at a truly opportune time, and even as a reward for all these good acts.

Thanks be to God, I am feeling quite well. The minor inconveniences that I have are nothing more than a residue of the deportation which I experienced in times past.

Give my special greetings to our most worthy Monsignor, to Canon Baldassarri and, in general, to the very reverend Chapter and anyone else who has a remembrance of me.

The bishop of Gaeta, in Mola, during the King's passage through there, spoke to him in person and at length about our Houses, and he has let me know that he soon hopes to see his desires fulfilled. When the time comes, that information will be very useful. Everything is being prepared well, *et vis unita fortior.*²¹

As for the nuns' confessor, to whom I send my best wishes, tell him that soon he will be taken care of and that he should please excuse any involuntary delay.

Asking you for your incessant prayers and kissing your hands, I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Piperno, May 21, 1825

P. S. Send your letters for forwarding to: Frosinone. Father Pasquale Guadagni probably received one of my letters.

1126

May 21, 1825

Fr. Giovanni Mimmi

²⁰ The grace of God be with us.

²¹ And united in power is stronger.

Acquasparta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Prior

I do not know whether the Missionaries from Giano have arrived, or whether you have informed them. I would like to know something. I shall write nothing to Giano, since I am uncertain about things. In case the Mission is to be suspended, you should inform me of the time so that I will, at any rate, be coming and will do everything I can to be there. I had already applied for the faculties from the Holy Father for that Mission, and I had sent the page to Father Biagio Valentini. If a package for Father Biagio has arrived, hold on to it and send me by letter to Rome this information so that I can then give you instructions. I shall take care of all the other things that you mentioned in your most appreciated letter. Pray a lot for me. Give my best regards to our mutual friends and confreres. May Jesus unite us in his most blessed Kingdom. Dear Prior, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Piperno, May 21, 1825

Offer suffrages for a young, excellent Brother of ours who has died.

1127

May 22, 1825

To the archpriest of Roccasecca

I have learned that the sickness of the Missionary de Nardis has delayed the hearing of confessions there. You, therefore, might urge your parishioners to take advantage of the Retreat being given in the nearby Maenza which is beginning on this very day and will end on Trinity Sunday. Whoever wishes to go to an outside confessor can also go to Sermoneta where Missionaries are available. In short, it is necessary to do the best we can. When Monsignor informed me of these exercises in Roccasecca, Lent had already advanced and so we had to arrange things the best we could. I do not say that the Missionary was not capable, at least sufficiently, but if I had known beforehand and in time, I would have been able to provide in a better way. With particular esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Piperno, May 22, 1825

1128

May 24, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I inconvenience you with this most humble letter of mine to ask you for a bit of particular financial help of which, at the present time, I am extremely needful. The sickness and death of our excellent Father Luigi Achille, as well as that of our good, young Brother, together with postal

expenses that are increasing, devotional materials that, even with parsimony, are necessarily shared with my companions, not to mention a lot of other things, at the present time are causing me considerable anguish. My Monsignor, even though I could spare myself from writing to you, nevertheless I do so, and God knows how sorry I am to give you this trouble. I pray to the Lord that he grant me the favor to see well-established the Society which, through his divine mercy, is setting evermore deeper roots. For me, the expenses increase with the increase of membership, but you can be assured that we pay close attention to the strictest economy. Indeed, I think that sometimes God is working miracles since not even I know how we keep making progress. You do a great deal, a very great deal, but you can be assured that poor and abandoned churches have been located, countless needy people have been contacted, sacred functions have been maintained, food, clothing and beds provided, etc. etc. and this is a sea of activity. Among certain peoples, the poverty is such that, during the Missions it is up to us to provide for many things, otherwise we could not carry out the necessary education.

Presently, the heirs of Father Luigi Achille are repeating the donations that he himself had offered for the construction work in Giano, hopeful that those back-payments would be forthcoming. My Monsignor, that is a point of justice, not just a favor. If the Holy Father thinks that he should show favor to the schools, he should provide us with a compensation. In Albano, I am faced with the final payments of the debts incurred in the construction there and I do not know how I will be able to do that. Also, there, why doesn't the Datary give a compensation to the chapter and to the seminary, as well as to grant to us the goods assigned by Onorio? If brigandry is quieted down, could we not open Terracina (where each year I send extraordinary encouragements) to help run Albano?

In my own poor heart, I love the crosses upon which the works of God are brought forth; and, while they are consoling on the spiritual level, they open the way to the practice of special virtues on the temporal level. Without realizing it, I have already written too much. The King of Naples, after a meeting with the bishop of Gaeta, has shown a great interest in our Society etc. I foresee a great work that will be developing from this. If one were to see the beautiful regulations for our boarding schools, oh how much more would one see the designs of providence! My Monsignor, may the Lord fill you with every blessing. You are the instrument which God utilizes for governing our Institute. I am fearful that my own demerits impede even greater blessings. Pray a lot, a lot for me, as I remain constantly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Maenza, May 24, 1825

Send your most appreciated letters to: Frosinone

P. S. In Benevento, without an order from the Holy Father, as has also been declared by the most eminent archbishop, nothing will be concluded. The activation of retreatants will be hindered. I ask you not to lose the rescript of Pius VII relating to the endowments granted in the Province of Campagna. As for postage, couldn't the Holy Father exempt me? I write letters only for the sake of the apostolate and the glory of God. If you were to investigate it, you would see that there is a veritable flood of letters, even though I prudently try to cut down etc. If this letter in anyway should cause you the least alteration of peace in your spirit, be assured that I, because of the love and esteem that I have for you, would undergo the harshest sufferings. So, I pray that the Lord will grant you the grace of a proper interpretation.

As for other requests for foundations, I have replied that they should seek the wherewithal.

1129

May 27, 1825

Mother Maria Nazzarena de Castris

Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

Thank you for your most appreciated letter. With great delight did I learn of your holy and godly desires concerning the pursuit of perfection which, when cultivated gently in one's heart, they will eventually produce an ever greater increase in the sanctity of the soul.

I accept the sacred alliance of spirit in the Heart of Jesus Christ so that we can be of greater help to each other in our intimate union with the Highest Good; in this way, too, we shall mutually participate in this benefit. I, especially, am most needful of many, many prayers, so that in seeking the salvation of others, I myself may be saved. I beg you for this act of charity, even asking other souls to whom you will also recommend my beloved Institute.

Take care of yourself and consider me to be, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Maenza, May 27, 1825

1130

May 28, 1825

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I owe you a reply to your very dear letter. I will be very happy if you will write a letter of persuasion to the good Tagliaferri, and, in this regard, it would be sufficient for me if you would get in contact with Father Biagio Valentini as well as with Tagliaferri so that he does not get even the slightest notion to think, because we have kept him as a boarder for so long a time (despite the fact that you know how reasonable that charge is) that I am contrary or petty about it.

Return my respectful greetings to the excellent Canon dell'Uomo and recommend me to his prayers.

I would like you to send me the writing of Father Serafino, that you know about.

Thank you for your efforts in regard to the painting. *Laus Deo.*²²

Whenever you find that you have to write to me, send your letters to Frosinone for forwarding. There, Father Giovanni Merlini, well-known to you, is in residence at the present time (until Canon Betti preaches the month of June in Rome).

Recommend me, and have others do so too, very, very often to God. While asking you to spend the month of June in particular adoration of the mysteries of the Divine Blood, I remain in

²² Praise to God.

Jesus Christ

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Maenza, May 28, 1825

1131

May 29, 1825

Fr. Crescenzo Antenangelo

Arpino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

After reading your letter on May 29th, while conducting a Mission, with regret I must tell you that it will be impossible to send workers there for the first part of June since I have all of the members assigned even until harvest time. You should try to set another time and everything can then be worked out. I rejoice in learning of the good work that you are promoting there. And, if a Mission is conducted there, then all will be in order. Most venerable Canon, while awaiting another letter from you. to be sent for forwarding to Frosinone, believe me to be, with all esteem and affection, in Jesus Christ,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Maenza, in the act of ministry, May 28, 1825

1132

May 30, 1825

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Monsignor and beloved brother

Here is our Canon Betti, our Missionary who is coming to Rome to preach the month of the Divine Blood. I ask you to take him to the most eminent Cardinal Vicar. Most venerable Monsignor, with esteem and affection, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant and loving brother

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Sermoneta, May 30, 1825

1133

End of May, 1825

Missionary Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Frosinone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon²³

I am enclosing what I have been able to put together for the glories of the Divine Blood. You should please return to me all of the pages which you have gathered on your own, relative to our important objectives; since you do not ever seem to find time to write; they could supply a bit of inspiration for someone else. Let us agree on this: this is the will of God.

Merlini is presently checking the circular; then I will look it over.

With regard to Angelo, relative to clothing, I have authorized him in a recent letter of mine.

I knew nothing about Zapponi who may have been argumentative. With regard to this, for the time being, it would be more helpful, in my opinion, to be silent and ignore it. Only you, who know him, might tell him that he should instruct himself, inform himself and, in short, depend etc.

Also, on this question, let us be in agreement. I, however, theoretically speaking, do not approve such things except for our students in the gatherings etc.

With respect to the question you asked concerning the letters of St. Paul which so frequently name Jesus, I can only say to you that often he uses *in nomine Jesu*²⁴ to indicate the hypostatic union etc. *In nomine* refers to the unity of the divine essence, for Jesus is the only Son of the divine Father, consubstantial to the Father etc. But taking into account the prodigy of love etc, etc. Jesus means *Redeemer* and herein lies the totality of the mysteries of grace. In the Church's exordiums (and we always must also point out the *why* we have been redeemed etc.) the apostle explains the efficacy of the name of Jesus and says: *in nomine Jesu omne genuflectatur caelestium, etc.*²⁵ But already in these words one can see by what means one can say *omne genuflectatur etc.* Scripture is to be taken in a comprehensive sense, otherwise how can one explain the text: *Non qui dixerit domine domine hic salvus erit?*²⁶ In the exordiums of the Church, one must make Jesus known but inseparably from his efficacy as Redeemer. Nowadays, when so many freethinkers have spoken of religion etc. have set up the crucifix and have said one must believe in Jesus etc. etc. while they still persecute him etc., one must rather be more insistent on the true and unmistakable application of redemption. So, therefore, it is not good simply to say I believe in Jesus; I have contaminated my heart etc.; in this application, one should more explicitly insist on merits since this has always been recognized as the means etc. etc.

In the exordiums of the Church, Jesus *erat Judeis scandalum. gentibus stultitiam, etc. etc.*²⁷ In our times, with manifest abuse, the name of Jesus is spoken, and meanwhile, etc. So, therefore, *si ego Dominus ubi est honor meus?*²⁸ Since Jesus loved to show mercy, he says, if by scandal so many souls have been contaminated, then grant, through the divine Blood, that they be won back etc.

Dear Canon, through study and prayer, you should refine the ideas which I do not know whether I have developed well or not. I conclude by saying the to utter the name Jesus is to make

²³ The letter does not have an addressee nor a date, but undoubtedly it is a question of a letter addressed to Missionary Father Innocenzo Betti, resident in Frosinone, and probably written toward the end of May, 1825. In fact, Betti, in June of 1825 preached the Month of the most Precious Blood in S. Nicola in Carcere in Rome. Cfr. the following letters: (n. 1121, n. 1132, n. 1130, n.1134) to Muccioli on May 14, 1825 and May 30, 1825; to Butti on May 28, 1825; to Cristaldi on May 30, 1825 etc.

²⁴ In the name of Jesus.

²⁵ At the name of Jesus let everything in heaven genuflect.

²⁶ Not the one who says Lord, Lord, shall be saved.

²⁷ He was a stumbling block to the Jews, foolishness to the gentiles, etc.

²⁸ If I am the Lord, where is my honor?

known the *dignitas Redemptoris*²⁹ ... by referring to the Blood of Jesus Christ is to make known the *dignitas Redemptionis...ad efficaciam Nominis et ad applicationem Redemptionis (fide jam dilatata) praecipue est insistendum hodierna die.*³⁰

I have seen Bartolomeo's picture, and he sends you his greetings. Take care of yourself. Pray, and have others pray for me. I shall arrange for your return to Rome and have you find there on the desk a packet of letters which you are to take care of in Rome, where you will be, at the latest, on June 1st. *Orate.*³¹

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

*Romae de me tace. De gloria Instituti fuisis verbis et in extensum loquere.*³²

1134

May 30, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Here is our very dear Canon Betti who is coming to Rome to preach the Month of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. I would like him to have an audience with the Holy Father.

Most venerable Monsignor, always filled with feelings of obligation, I am and will constantly be with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Sermoneta, May 30, 1825

1135

June 2, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Pacificans per Sanguinem Crucis eius sive quae in Caelis sive quae in terris sunt*³³

Venerable Monsignor

I can no better communicate to you my most sincere gratitude than by continuing to recommend you, and have others do so too, to the Lord in everything that relates to you. I am writing on a day when Jesus Christ reminds us of the tenderness of his love toward us.³⁴ Mindful of all the obligations that I have to you which I will acknowledge to my very last breath as well as for all eternity when we shall be together in the beatific vision, I celebrated holy Mass for you, being

²⁹ The dignity of the redeemer.

³⁰ The dignity of Redemption ... the efficacy of his Name and the application of the redemption (the faith already widespread) must be the principal insistence to day.

³¹ Pray.

³² Be quiet about me in Rome. Speak eloquently and at length about the glory of the Institute.

³³ Making peace through the blood of his cross whether for what is in heaven or on earth.

³⁴ On June 2, 1825, the feast of Corpus Christi was observed.

assured that I too will be held in the charity of your prayers. Send your most appreciated letters to: Frosinone. Most venerable Monsignor, I kiss your hands and with total homage, esteem and particular affection, I am and will constantly be in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Sezze, June 2, 1825

1136

June 4, 1825

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri

Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

I find it very urgent that the most reverend bishop of Pescina should get the enclosed matter and that you get a prompt reply to be sent to me by special delivery, if necessary, to Frosinone. You can learn from one of the diocesan priests, with whom you are acquainted where the aforementioned prelate can be found; I believe that he could be making a sacred visitation. Please use all your zeal, so characteristic of your heart, in taking care of the enclosed matter which will seal the Mission dates that are imminent. Inform me as to any expenses that you may incur and I will quickly reimburse you; it is necessary that you act immediately. I trust in your kind cooperation. Give my regards to all and recommend me to their prayers in common. I am enclosing one of my letters for Fr. Francesco Saverio Lanna whom you will inform that the expenses in Rome came to three *paoli*. And, for this small concern, I will be happy if he offers one Mass for the welfare of my soul. asking you for your prayers, with esteem I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 4, 1825

P. S. If you have a young man for the Brothers, of canonical age, capable for either kitchen-work or for outside labor, send him to me along with his papers in order. He should have proper clothing for a period of three months. If you do have someone, let me know immediately since through death we have recently lost one of our men, a native of Umbria.

1137

June 5, 1825

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest niece

Oh how sorry I am to hear of the misfortune which happened to our excellent Father Giuseppe Mugnai, to whom you will give my particular good wishes. I hope that he continues to get better, and tell him that he should bless himself with an image of St. Francis Xavier. All of this, however, must not deter you from the benefits of the sacraments for the sake of simple

reconciliation, while Father Giuseppe will still remain firmly as your director. Seek out Father Crescini in S. Maria in Campitelli who can be of help to you until Fr. Giuseppe recovers, or, if Canon Betti is confessing, have recourse to him.

See that you greet Father Castel a monte, who wishes to make my acquaintance, and tell him that when I come to Rome, I shall not fail to immediately pay him my respects. In the meantime, ask him to pray for me. I suppose that all of you at home have enrolled in the Immacolata, and tell Canon Betti that he, too, should fortify himself with this faculty and the many other privileges can be had. May Jesus be with us. Give my greetings to all as I give you my blessing, while urging all of you always to have love for Jesus. I am and will constantly be

Your loving uncle

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 5, 1825

Did you receive the 10 *scudi* from Castellini? I have received the brief. Ask Mugnaj, and have him contact other confessors, to find out if they have any Roman women for the Monastery in Sezze. Since they are Roman women, they will need to pay only half the dowry.

1138

June 5, 1825

Msgr. Ottavio Zolio

Bishop of Rimini

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³⁵

Venerable Monsignor

The bearer of this letter of mine is our excellent Canon Betti who is presently in Roma to preach the glories of the Divine Blood in S. Nicola in Carcere. I have asked him to visit you, most illustrious and reverend lordship, to greet you in my name, as well as to express to you the feelings of esteem, respect and veneration that I hold for you, most illustrious and reverend sir. Asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, June 5, 1825

1139

June 5, 1825

Fr. Giovanni Mimmi

Acquasparta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Prior

In reply to your recent letter in which you report to me your correspondence with our Father Biagio, I say to you that I have understood well everything that you were pleased to manifest to me

³⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

with respect to the mission. As soon as I am able to get to Giano, I shall come to visit you and you will then allow me to inconvenience you as I pass through Acquasparta. In the meantime, let us renew our most intimate union in Jesus Christ, the only delight of our hearts, as I state again with esteem that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 5, 1825

1140

June 6, 1825

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri

Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

At this point I have received your letter from Baucco along with the one from the most reverend bishop of Marsi. Presently, I am awaiting a reply to another letter of mine in which I sent a report likewise to the bishop of Pescina. I am very anxious that it arrive soon, indeed, quickly and safely. Once again I am relying on your well-known zeal.

I give thanks to God for the reconciliation of the confraternities. In my behalf, share my joy with the members. Our Father Domenico is very well. I saw him in Piperno a short while ago. I shall send him your letter immediately. With regard to the Missions in Isola, scheduled for the middle of October, the pastor told me that the curia has been informed. I would not know what else to add. The one in S. Donato, it seems to me, was requested for the first part of November. You can check better with the pastor and then you yourself can arrange a time for Gallinaro, always of course in consultation with the curia, and then send me a response so that, in that way, I can be more secure in setting up the appointments. With your help and kindness, no mixup will occur. As far as I am concerned, I am indifferent as to the time arranged.

It seems that I have nothing more to tell you now except that you keep praying a lot for me. I kiss your hands and, while I assure you of the good health that the Lord preserves in me so that I may gain spirit and holiness, with particular esteem, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 6, 1825

1141

June 6, 1825

Fr. Andrea Antenangelo

Arpino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

As soon as I receive a reply from Rome, you will be sent their responses, and I shall use the method pointed out to me. You can be at ease that I will look after this charge.

I regret that Emidio has left. Still, I objected to accepting him as a student. Patience.

I shall have someone pick up the Chaplet booklets here in Frosinone around the 20th of this month.

I shall try to get the faculties for the uniforms of the Concezione. Try to stimulate interest in the oratory, as they do in Sora. Let us do great work, and let us become saints. Give my regards to anyone who remembers me, and, with particular esteem and respect, dearest Canon, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 6, 1825

1142

June 8, 1825

Cardinal Luigi Ercolani

Rome

Your Eminence

There are several things that I must report to you concerning the Monastery of the Sacred Family in Sezze³⁶ and of these I will gradually make them known to you. However, in the meantime, these are the most urgent.

A temporary confessor has been located in the person of a certain Canon Sari, a worker in the nightly oratory, erected for the men in Sezze on the occasion of the recent Mission there. He is a middle-aged man and appears to me to be happy with this, as you will probably learn also from the archdeacon who told me that he would be coming to Rome within a short time. As extraordinary director, in addition to the ones already approved by your most reverend Eminence, Canon Biagio la Penna, the rector of the seminary in Sezze, has been approved. He is a very pious man and, I am told, he is 38 years of age.

With regard to Masses and pious legacies, following my last visitation, I thought that everything had been settled, but perhaps because of the absence of your Eminence from Rome during the past year, the letters may have been lost. Whatever course the situation may have taken, now it is necessary to review the matter itself - which is very important in every detail.

The Monastery has several obligations of Masses, in addition to one or two daily Mass chaplaincies. This is something that Archdeacon la Galla will be able to explain better to you. With regard to the booking of Masses, I have found only one, as far as I can recall at present. Surely, the older ones will not be found and, I believe, they were lost during the recent upheavals. A few rescripts of sanation and composition are found. Furthermore, in view of the death of the recent superior, who was well-informed about all this, one can scarcely discover any order in things helpful for a definitive examination of the problem. The Archives are being put in order since last year, but since the archivist became ill, the work has been delayed. Therefore, in my subjective opinion, your Eminence, either in person or by written petition, should ask his Holiness to grant a general relief to these poor religious women and do so in the broadest terms, covering any obligation incumbent, even for temporary Masses, on any altar even a privileged one, or any set date, and even in any church. Thus the nuns will be at peace concerning everything. The investigation that one would like

³⁶ Where St. Gaspar made the sacred visitation.

to undertake is, under the circumstances, not manageable.

For the future, then, your most reverend Eminence might petition that the one daily Mass should comprehensively cover the entire situation, at least for a period of three years, in harmony with the nuns' desire to be occupied entirely in their work, to gradually set the monastery in order so that, with every obligation lifted, they can return gradually to the pursuit of their life of perfection in common. The good work that this Institute promotes is inexpressible. The very labors that they undergo for the glory of God should encourage the Holy Father to condescend to grant what is being requested. The zeal of your most reverend Eminence will also be joined with all your other special merits. For now, I shall not say anything further concerning the visitation.

With regard to your seminary in S. Salvator Maggiore, God knows what disappointment I experienced during the past year. This year, however, I hope that new problems will not arise. I assure you that, except for a sickness that may arise or because of a Mission which the Holy Father asks me to handle, I shall go there. And if one or the other impediment should occur, I promise you that I will send one of my companions, capable and experienced in that line of work in other seminaries, with the Lord accompanying them with his special blessings. In this way, your most reverend Eminence, in every respect, can remain at ease. However, I would like the young men to be informed that the retreat will begin between the 9th or, at the latest, the 10th of November.

Canon Giusti of Piperno, from whom I sent you a memorandum, is, as I have learned, a co-visitor for the bishop of Terracina who is presently in Rome, and, with the restoration of the Succolletoria, has assisted the present subcollector.

I would like to have news concerning your health which is so very close to my heart and for which I do not cease praying. Also, if you so wish it, I myself will include a petition to the Holy Father with regard to the Mass situation in your monastery, at only a word from you, and then your Eminence would do the favor of presenting it to the Holy Father, hopeful of a successful result.

I kiss the sacred purple. Pray especially for me who has the honor, most reverend Eminence, of declaring again with profound homage and esteem that I am

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, June 8, 1825

1143

June 8, 1825

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

In checking over my accounts, it seems to me that in the account for the present trimester for Father Vittorio Tagliaferri, 19 *paoli* are involved. It seems to me that the trimester ends with the termination of this month. I would like you, *ut ex se*,³⁷ to write an ascetical letter to him on developing equilibrium of character and an uninterrupted pursuit of humility, the basis for the priesthood. The information that I have is that basically he is a good man, but that he is variable *ut*

³⁷ As from itself.

luna.³⁸ This does not surprise me. We are in this world to acquire virtue. Keep all of this between us. We are in the great month; pray a lot for me, and, with esteem and respect, dear Canon, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 8 (the great month)³⁹

1144

June 8, 1825

Mr. Egidio Catucci

Atri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Your matter in behalf of the confraternity will be delayed for a while because of the change of Generals for the Conventual Fathers. His consent must be given. Let this be for your peace of mind, and let us pray for a favorable outcome. The Jesuit Father, Master of novices, in Naples writes the following to me: "It is now six months since a young man of Atri wrote concerning our school in Atri; then, nothing more was heard from him".

This too is for your information. In matters such as these, one needs, in addition to prayer, untiring concern and care. With particular esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 8, 1825

1145

June 9, 1825

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon

Oh how sorry I am to hear that you are indisposed. God loves you and his will is the most comfortable bed upon which we can rest. I would like to have further news of you, and may it be more favorable.

I repeat that I am most content with Father Vittorio. Only for the sake of greater good did I speak to you about him so that you, too, could agree to assist him with your prayers. We know that there are degrees in virtue and one must not demand of a younger person that which is more proper to souls which are further advanced in sanctity.

With respect to the boarding cost, do not give the least worry to the family. This is something that is always a matter of time. I wrote to you about it only because I happened to be looking over my accounts, which I do whenever possible.

³⁸ As the moon.

³⁹ The year is 1825. Cfr. also the letter written to this same person on June 9, 1825.

I shall not fail to pray for the person mentioned, who, standing beneath the Cross, stands with Jesus.

Pray a lot, a lot for me to the Lord so that I may become a saint, and with all my affection, I remain wholeheartedly

Affectionately yours in the Divine Heart

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, June 9, 1825

If you should have a young man for the brotherhood, send him to me, and if you have a young lady to be a nun in Piperno possessing a dowry of 40 *scudi*, write and let me know. Even though you may be sick, look after the oratory etc.

1146

June 9, 1825

Fr. Basilio Bonelli

Giuliano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Vicar

For your peace of mind, I inform you with this most humble letter of mine that, once this month consecrated to the glories of the Divine Blood is terminated, I shall come to Giuliano for the well-known matter of the glory of God and the welfare of souls. In case, however, that there is some sort of impediment, Missionary Father Giovanni Merlini will come in my place. Recommend me often especially in the holy sacrifice of the Mass, and, most venerable Vicar, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 9, 1825

1147

June 9, 1825

Fr. Crescenzo Antenangelo

Arpino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

I hope that you have received my other letter. Now, I am sending this letter in order to let you know that you should first arrange everything well with the brethren in the Curia and in keeping with their regulations. As for Rome, I will look after anything that you mention. Recommend me often to St. Xavier and try to gather together all the prodigious acts of our Saint. If God is calling you to join us, do not resist the divine call. Your uncle can substitute for you in your apostolate there. Do not cease promoting the holy Missions. Dear Canon, with esteem and respect, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 9, 1825

P. S. The banner is not required; sufficient is a beautiful crucifix. I hope to obtain soon your certification for the Immacolata. The ritual to be observed in the erection of the Pious Union of the Divine Blood is known by Archpriest Fortuna, the chancellor in Sora. If you wish to have detailed instructions from me, write to me and you will be immediately obeyed. Let us do great good.

1148

June 10, 1825

Mr. Domenico Antonio Gagliardi
Castelforte

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Domenico Antonio

As a safeguard I inform you that the painting of St. Xavier is already in the Mission House in Frosinone. Now it is necessary that the brethren see to its transportation. I have written to the Rector of the seminary in the event that the most reverend bishop might be interested in its being moved, since he himself is deeply devoted to the Saint. This is for your information, if necessary. The 10 ducats should be deposited with the Rector of the seminary, Father Luigi Grossi, in Gaeta, and I have already sent him word. Any further amount, I shall contribute myself.

I have already sent a reply with regard to the Masses forwarded to me by Father Filippo Cinquanta.

I renew my gratitude to you and once again I point out that what I made known concerning the works of Metastasio referred certainly to the love-poems etc. which he himself later would have liked to retract. One notes that he acted with little sagacity. There are, however, the sacred writings which the author put out in compensation for the profane ones. It would be a better idea if you were to consult with a person who is knowledgeable and versed in this matter if you need to have further counsel.

Finally, do not cease praying for me who, with esteem and respect, remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 10, 1825

1149

June 10, 1825

Msgr. Beilisario Cristaldi
Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴⁰

Venerable Monsignor

The Rector of the seminary in Gaeta, a very pious priest, has sent me the enclosed matter which I thought you should read. The other half-sheet is missing because I removed it since it came delivered to me by hand and they made it quite unrepresentable. Four more bishops in the Kingdom

⁴⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

have made the same request. If you think it is a good idea to make this known to his Holiness, you make that decision. Furthermore, I know that when the King of Naples was passing through Mola di Gaeta, the bishop met with him, purposely having an interesting discussion with him on this matter, and, we hope that it was a fruitful one.

I am also enclosing a memorandum which, it seems to me, might meet with your kind treatment. The most eminent Cardinal Ercolani is the Protector of the Monastery sending this request. However, his health has prevented him from being of assistance to them as he would like to do and he has entrusted their care to my insufficiency. It is an institute that takes care of schools, education, first communions, retreats for women. It is very involved in giving glory to God.

I kiss your hands. May Jesus be our love, and, most reverend excellency, in him and through him I remain with esteem and homage

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

June 10, 1825

1150

June 10, 1825

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

Piperno per Sonnino⁴¹

Hail to the Precious Blood of J. C.

Fr. Domenico, dearest in Domino

Canon Aloysi is still on the Missions; I hope that he will return soon.

Since the time that we got together in Piperno; I have not had any message by mail from you. act accordingly.

When I learned that you were not pleased with Paolo from Sermoneta as a Brother, I decided to send you one who is altogether new. You will train him *iuxta regulas*.⁴² I am awaiting his arrival any one of these days; and I shall send him on immediately.

As a reward for Sig. Antonio, whom I revere, tell him that I have already written to Rome to locate another painting of St. Xavier. In that way they can send back the one that was in the chapel of the Pellegrini house, which was my own property. Also, thank him for me for the assistance that he is giving you at the present time.

In reference to the hay crop, tell the Brothers that each one of them is to be ready to make sacrifices for the time being. With an eager charity one can do twice as much.

Enclosed is the Jubilee Indulgence.⁴³ It was granted secretly by His Holiness, so that you, as well as the other Missionaries *residenti tantum*,⁴⁴ and permanently in the House of Studies, can gain them. You are to visit our church 30 times, praying for His Holiness and for Msgr Cristaldi, who obtained this favor for us. You will gain the Indulgences of Rome, without prejudice for the Indulgences of 1826. All right? On those visits, also pray a great deal for me.

⁴¹ On the fourth page above the address, Fr. Silvestri wrote: "Giubileo", to remind himself of the most important part of this letter.

⁴² According to the rules.

⁴³ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Jubilee Indulgence of 1825.

⁴⁴ Only for one in residence.

With esteem, respect and attachment, I am in J.C.
House in Frosinone, June 10, 1825⁴⁵

⁴⁵ The part of this page on which the signature of the Saint was placed was removed by Silvestri himself, or perhaps someone else, very probably out of devotion.